PLENARY SESSIONS ON NEW PROGRAMS, IMPACT OF KATRINA HIGHLIGHT 2006 SHFG CONFERENCE

Nearly 120 federal historians, archivists, educators, editors, curators, and others, gathered at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC, on March 2, to attend the Annual Conference of the Society for History in the Federal Government. The conference featured two plenary sessions, four concurrent sessions, a business meeting, and the annual awards luncheon.

OPENING PLENARY SESSION: “NEW AND RE-ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS IN FEDERAL HISTORY”
(Chair: Donald P. Steury)

The morning plenary session focused on recently opened history offices in the House of Representatives and the Department of Homeland Security, and the initial efforts to design and collect materials for the recently approved National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall.

Fred W. Beuttler, representing the Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives, traced the background leading to the opening of the office. The Senate established a history office in 1975, but efforts to create one in the House failed until Ray Smock headed a temporary office for about 12 years. It had responsibilities that included preparation of Bicentennial literature. In 1994 speaker Newt Gingrich wanted a more proactive office, but it was not until spring 2005 that Speaker Dennis Hastert successfully established a permanent office. The office collects oral histories and works on education and outreach, including tours and the visitors’ center. Professor Robert V. Remini heads the office, and, at the time of the conference, he was completing his history of the House (Editor’s Note: the volume was released in May 2006).

John W. Franklin spoke on efforts to collect materials for the National Museum of African American History and Culture and also discussed the museum’s outreach programs. Franklin outlined some of the themes that the museum will explore, and also invited suggestions and assistance with other aspects of the African American story—rural, urban, poor, rich, eastern, and western. The museum will feature portraits from the National Gallery, and is reviewing tapes from the Library of Congress’ Folkways Archives. It will participate in the Folkways Festival, and will be part of UNESCO’s slavery committee.

See “SHFG Conference” continued on page 6
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Donald P. Steury

With this issue of The Federalist we wrap up the SHFG “year.” The annual meeting is now behind us, the election of new officers has taken place, the school year is over, and summer vacations are about to begin. Appropriately enough, this issue presents a summary of the annual meeting, supplemented by articles on NSA’s Center for Cryptologic History and the Carter Presidential Library.

In my first column for this journal, I noted what seemed to me to be something of a paradox: SHFG is blessed with a richly diverse, highly talented membership, but one that has remained static or even declined over the past decade. The reason is not difficult to discern: most of our membership is reaching or past the age of retirement. Their numbers are not being replenished by younger, newly recruited historians.

Not much has changed over the past year. SHFG still represents but a tiny fraction of the professionals engaged in federal history. Its membership remains concentrated inside the beltway. As it turns out, our membership is even more limited than we thought. A thorough updating and scrub of our membership database has revealed that our numbers have declined by more than 30 percent over the last few years: rather than the more than 300 dues-paying members we formerly could boast, we now have only about 200. Clearly, we need to do a better job of reaching out to the numerous scholars in this country who are part of or have an interest in federal history programs.

We have recruited new members. They have made their presence felt in this newsletter, on committees, on the council, and by their participation in the annual meeting. Their enthusiasm and willingness to give of themselves has been both refreshing and inspiring. Last September, our new members function brought in about a dozen new members from federal programs and graduate schools in the area. We have opened communications with the local programs in history and public history. SHFG otherwise has been out in the scholarly community, making itself known. In January, SHFG presented a panel on federal history programs at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Philadelphia. Similarly, the Society was represented at the Washington meeting of the Organization of American Historians in April.

Nevertheless, the task of building up the Society’s membership base is one that will be with us for some time to come. We need to continue these efforts. We need to continue to draw in archivists, historians, curators, and museum personnel from federal history programs, most of which remain seriously underrepresented in this organization.

As demonstrated by this journal and the other events of the SHFG year, this organization thrives on the contributions of its members. The SHFG web site offers multiple opportunities to serve on committees, all of which are looking for new members. The prize committees especially provide volunteers an opportunity to learn something, read some good history, and support SHFG as you do so. It also is not too soon to begin thinking about next year’s annual meeting. Ideas for papers can be posted to our new President, John W. Roberts, at john_w_roberts@nps.gov, or our new Vice President, Bill Williams, at wjwill2@nsa.gov.
The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum is proud to host the exhibit “From Apartheid to Democracy: The Freedom Struggle in South Africa and the American South,” from June 24 through July 31. Created by the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, South Africa, and adapted by the Levine Museum of the New South (Charlotte, NC), this dramatic exhibition explores the parallel struggles for freedom and equality in South Africa and the United States. The exhibition, along with a special evening conversation with two of Bishop Desmond Tutu’s daughters on July 19, is being held in partnership with the National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta from July 14 to July 23.

The National Black Arts Festival organizers and Carter Library Director Dr. Jay Hakes believed the library was a perfect fit for this year’s South African-themed festival events. Early in his administration, President Carter directed that the U.S. policy “promote the progressive transformation of South African society.” In the years that followed, President Carter and his U.N. Ambassador, Andrew Young, actively pushed for civil rights and human rights throughout South Africa. Dr. Hakes noted that “it is important to be reminded of the struggle that so many faced for freedom in South Africa and the American South.” And there are other connections: President Carter, like South Africa’s Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu, is a Nobel Prize recipient. Mandela’s granddaughter, Zaziwe Diamini Manaway, is a frequent visitor to Carter Library events.

“From Apartheid to Democracy” examines that transformation by telling the story of the first 10 years of South Africa as a democracy. Similarities between the South African experience and the civil rights movement in the in the American South are explored in displays created by the Levine Museum. Additionally, the Carter Library has added materials dealing with President Carter’s role in helping pressure South Africa toward democracy.

The exhibit opens with the story of the dramatic transformation of South Africa from the ugly racial violence to “The Rainbow Nation.” From the 1940s to the 1990s, South Africa’s policy of extreme segregation—“Apartheid”—meant cruel mistreatment of all people of color. South Africa seemed ready to destroy itself in a racial civil war. Today, the world looks with wonder at South Africa—a race relations success story. In 1994, led by black Nelson Mandela and white F.W. de Klerk, South Africa held its first-ever democratic elections in which everyone—black and white—could vote. More than 10 years later, that democracy still thrives.

The exhibit is divided into several topical sections. The first section, “Comparing South Africa and the U.S. South,” notes that the former is nearly as large as the latter, with fewer people, but with more social and cultural diversity. Other sections examine the similarities between Apartheid and “Jim Crow,” and the non-violent protest movement in both nations, beginning in the 1950s (including the African National Congress and the “Defiance Campaign”). There are also sections on the U.S. Black Power movement, the role of unions in the U.S., the increased force of international anti-Apartheid efforts in the 1970s and 1980s, and the pivotal struggle for voting rights in both countries.

Mandela is compared to U.S. civil rights activists in another section. His early campaign against segregation resembles that of American Thurgood Marshall, counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and future Supreme Court Associate Justice, whose lawsuits attacking “Jim Crow” in schools led to the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education, which declared segregation unconstitutional. Mandela’s later eloquence recalls America’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Both men excelled at showing the moral wrong of segregation—and both won the Nobel Peace Prize.

The exhibit highlights successes of the civil rights movement with the theme of “Truth and Reconciliation: Forgiveness, Not Hate.” In one example, a 1979 clash in Greensboro, NC, between the Ku Klux Klan and anti-Klan protesters left five people dead. Today, a “Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission” is gathering stories of all involved, seeking understanding and forgiveness. The exhibit ends with the theme “Triumphs and Challenges,” showing the “Rainbow Nation” in action.

Tony Clark is Director of Public Affairs at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, Atlanta, GA.
NSA's Center for Cryptologic History (CCH), created in 1990, has an active and prolific publication program. CCH’s cadre of historians conducts research and writes classified and unclassified monographs, brochures, and articles. The Center’s classified works are distributed throughout the Intelligence Community, and its unclassified studies (currently 28 monographs and brochures) are available to the general public at the National Cryptologic Museum (on the NSA campus at Fort Meade, Maryland) and, by request, through the mail.

The subject matter of CCH’s unclassified publications covers a broad range of topics, such as Coast Guard operations against rum-runners during Prohibition, cryptography’s important roles in World War II and the Korean War, the Venona project (which exposed Communist spies in the United States), the impact of signals intelligence during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the lectures of William Friedman (the “father” of American Cryptology).

Two recent monographs produced by CCH have proven extremely popular: “Eavesdropping on Hell: Historical Guide to Western Communications Intelligence and the Holocaust, 1939-1945” and “The Quest for Cryptologic Centralization and the Establishment of NSA” (both published in 2005). The former explains how the Western communications intelligence system operated during World War II, and also describes how the wartime records of the Signals Intelligence Service in the United States and the Government Code and Cipher School in Great Britain are organized in the U.S. and U.K. national archives. The book additionally summarizes what information is available in these records about the Holocaust. “The Quest for Cryptologic Centralization” deals with the postwar era and tells the contentious story of the interservice and interagency bureaucratic struggles that eventually led to the creation of NSA in 1952.

For a list of CCH publications available to the public—as well as ordering information—please access the NSA web page at www.nsa.gov and go to “Historical Publications.” Interested readers may also obtain a list of publications and order directly from the Center for Cryptologic History by calling CCH at 301-688-2338, or writing to:

Center for Cryptologic History
National Security Agency, Suite 6886
9800 Savage Road
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6886

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PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM OF THE CENTER FOR CRYPTOLOGIC HISTORY

HISTORY ASSOCIATES INCORPORATED CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Rockville, Maryland-based History Associates Incorporated (HAI) marked its 25th anniversary on April 1, 2006, with a gala celebration at the Rockville Civic Center.

Four historians founded HAI in 1981, convinced that history could be valuable in the market. Since then, dozens of historians and archivists have joined the firm. Having served hundreds of clients worldwide, HAI has developed a continuum of services: from discovering the past, to preserving the past, to putting the past to work.

Today, HAI employs 62 professionals working from offices located in Rockville, Maryland; Brea, California; Berlin, Germany; and several client sites. While still providing its traditional historical services—writing histories, conducting oral histories, managing records, and performing historical research to support litigation—HAI has branched into new lines of business, such as developing museum content, creating virtual exhibits, and even storing and processing historical records in its own environmentally controlled archival facility.

Further information about HAI is available by calling (301) 279-9697, or visiting www.historyassociates.com.
SHFG ANNOUNCES 2006 PRIZE WINNERS

The Society for History in the Federal Government announced the winners of its 2006 prizes for books, articles, and historic preservation on March 2, during the annual Awards Luncheon at the 2006 SHFG Conference. The following honorees were recognized:

HENRY ADAMS PRIZE (BOOK)
Alice Kaplan, *The Interpreter* (Free Press, 2005)

GEORGE PENDLETON PRIZE (BOOK)

JAMES MADISON PRIZE (ARTICLE OR ESSAY)

CHARLES THOMSON PRIZE (ARTICLE OR ESSAY)

JOHN WESLEY POWELL PRIZE (HISTORIC PRESERVATION)
The HARTRAMPF Team and the National Park Service (Southeast Region) for the Preservation and Rehabilitation of Moton Field and the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site.

THOMAS JEFFERSON PRIZE
No prize awarded this year

Randy Popadopolous (R) presents Thomson Prize to Timothy K. Nenninger.

Christopher P. Loss (L) accepts Madison Prize from Larry DeWitt.

Alice Kaplan, recipient of Adams Prize, flanked by Rich Boylan (L) and George Chalou.

Robert J. Schneller, Jr., winner of the Pendleton Prize.

Left to Right: Don Brown, David Waltrop, Lee Doherty, Jackie Renell, Robert Bass, Patricia Hooks, Katherine Light, Veronica Jackson, and Bill Holton, accept the Powell Prize, on behalf of the HARTRAMPF Team and the Southeast Region of the National Park Service.
to explore the end of the transatlantic slave trade.

Priscilla Jones spoke on her efforts to establish the history office in the Department of Homeland Security in 2003. The original bill that created the new cabinet agency in 2002 did not provide for a history office; a separate law, however, did provide a legislative mandate for the office. Major challenges have included recording the agency’s roots, establishing records preservation guidelines, conducting an oral history program, and staffing the office. Dr. Jones acknowledged the support of Secretary Tom Ridge and other senior officials in setting up the office. The office’s initial emphasis involved preparation of classified monographs. Another important project has been to preserve the papers of exiting officials. Thus far, 61 oral histories have been completed, including subject interviews of the transportation group involved in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Current efforts are focusing on expanding the oral history program, documenting headquarters’ response to Katrina and major national security challenges, and to preparing materials for the agency’s congressional testimony.

**Morning Concurrent Session A: “State Department History Office: New Initiatives and New Audiences”**
*(Chair: Kristin L. Ahlberg)*

Ted Keefer, editor of the State Department’s “Foreign Relation of the United States” (FRUS) series spoke about the history of the series and its current projects. The series may be the only government collection mandated by law. The first volume appeared in 1861. With the hiring of Ph.D.s in 1924, the publication was able to achieve high professional standards. It is required to be a thorough documentary record of events. The office is now completing volumes of the Nixon-Ford years, and has begun publication of some as electronic volumes. While this new “e-volume” format does not allow as much documentation, it includes more supportive documents, is downloadable, is word-searchable, and is available worldwide. David Herschler, Deputy Historian of the State Department, demonstrated the program’s efforts to make the FRUS series more useful in curriculum. The office has produced three videos on the following topics: terrorism, history of American diplomacy, and sports and diplomacy (which was shown to the audience). Each has a curriculum guide, is matched to NCSS standards, and has web links and glossaries. The sports video started with the sports diplomacy of the ancient Greeks and included the Cold War tensions and their impact on the Olympics in the 1970s and 1980s. Kristin Ahlberg of the State Department’s Outreach Program noted the efforts to participate in relevant symposia and work within history associations and offices, such as the Organization of American Historians and the various Presidential Libraries, to publicize the State Department’s efforts. Peter Kraemer, also with the State Department, discussed the need to partner with academia, and the Department’s goal of serving on committees and in the governance of organizations such as the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (an organization which, he pointed out, includes some of the most useful critics of the FRUS series). He downplayed the division between government and academic historians, but questions pointed to the need for compromises in the life of the government historian.

**Morning Concurrent Session B: “Agency as Educator: Online, Through Exhibits, and in Learning Centers”**
*(Chair: Lee Anne Potter)*

Lee Ann Potter of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) chaired this lively and informative session, ably assisted by Beth Boland of the National Park Service (NPS) and L.J. Krizner of the State Department.

Potter began with a summary of the many changes underway in NARA’s education program, including the new Learning Center and the Teaching with Documents online initiative. The Learning Center, to be housed in the old 5W stack area, is being designed for school groups and visitors alike. Using document facsimiles along with audio and video clips, the Center will enable students and visitors to become “archival explorers,” taking on the role of an archivist researching primary source-type records to answer questions or solve puzzles. Well suited for family
groups, the various tasks will provide a role for both parent and child. NARA’s online initiatives build upon the agency’s “Teaching with Documents” education program, which dates to 1977, providing access to a variety of archival records to students in an engaging and interactive setting. For more information, see: www.archives.gov/education/exhibit/.

Beth Boland, National Park Service, summarized the various educational programs established by the NPS, including the “Teaching with Historic Places” initiative, which includes lesson plans, guidance for teachers, and information to encourage educators, historians, preservationists, site interpreters, and others to work together effectively. NPS also offers professional development publications and training courses. The program’s web site includes “Putting It Together” exercises, lesson plans, and images of original documents and historic places to aid teachers and students. For more information, see: www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/.

L.J. Krizner of the State Department is a museum professional who is now undertaking the task of educating the public about the State Department and its important role in the federal government. Working within the Bureau of Public Affairs at the State Department, her goals are to expand the exhibit hall to provide more educational and archival material, and to better serve students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. As part of her presentation, Krizner revealed the blueprints for the Department’s new public exhibit hall—the Visitors Center and the National Museum of American Diplomacy—to be housed in the Harry S. Truman Building. Themes of the exhibit will include the “Power of Peace,” “Diplomacy 101” (training diplomats to go abroad), and “The Diplomatic Family” (a look at the extended communities surrounding American ambassadors abroad).

**Afternoon Concurrent Session A: “Perspectives on Records Management and Electronic Records”**
(Chair: E. Brooke Fox)

This informative and useful session, led by E. Brooke Fox of the National Institutes of Health, included presentations by Fynette Eaton and Laurence Brewer of the National Archives (NARA), and Michael Grimes of the National Park Service (NPS). Eaton brought attendees up to date on the newest efforts at NARA to capture and preserve the vast amounts of electronic records being created by government agencies. Brewer, who is director of the Life Cycle Management Division, outlined goals and strategies for collecting and managing electronic records.

Fynette Eaton spoke on electronic records at the “Perspectives on Records Management” session.

Grimes, speaking as “Another Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness” about the challenges of running an agency records management program, completed the session with an overview of the electronic records preservation program underway at NPS.

**Afternoon Concurrent Session B: History of the Intelligence Community**
(Chair: Donald P. Steury)

Sharon Manecki of the National Security Agency opened with a fascinating account of an intelligence failure during the Vietnam War in connection with the Sontay Raid. The 1970 raid was an attempt to rescue 630 American prisoners of war held in North Vietnam on a branch of the Red River, 23 miles from Hanoi. In August and September of that year, the plans were highly secret and known only to a few officials at NSA. During the raid on November 21, there was a complete breakdown of the North Vietnamese air defense command and control system, and American forces were able to enter the prison, only to find it empty. The seven months of planning, involving aerial photo missions, did not detect removal of the prisoners in July to Dong Hoi. Manecki speculated that compartmentation of the intelligence effort may have been the reason for the failure. In light of this problem, Manecki asked “if analysts had known the purpose of their work, could they have detected more” and been more attuned to the significance of their observations?

David Waltrop, deputy historian at the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), addressed historical trends in intelligence office organization. In 1961, the NRO was created, but had no history office. In 1992, the joint NRO office involved intelligence cooperation between the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Department of Defense. Now the NRO office has three functions: the
first is research and analysis, the second promotes recognition through exhibits, and the third involves historical work. The NRO also has a journal. Historically, the NRO evolved in 1961 from the National Security Agency (established, 1952). The CIA and Air Force managed NRO, with the former managing intelligence flights and the latter supervising satellite intelligence. The need for such joint operations was highlighted by the failure at Pearl Harbor, and again in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Waltrop noted that such consolidation is essential, but that objectivity in researching these efforts depends on availability of evidence.

Don Steury, of the Center for Study of Intelligence, focused on the development of technical capabilities in intelligence gathering. He noted that President Eisenhower valued intelligence, but that the Soviet Union was a “closed book” in the 1950s, difficult to penetrate. Incidents in Germany between 1949 and 1956 highlighted the need for intelligence, and aerial reconnaissance was increased. Construction of a tunnel to the Soviet side in Berlin in 1954–55 enabled some tapping of their military communications. It was 1,500 feet long, and it operated for 11 months. The 24 overflights in Russia in 1956 produced information on the Soviet bomber program, air defenses, and targets, and thus ended the “dark era” of lack of information on the Soviet Union.

**Afternoon Plenary Session: “Disasters of Historic Proportions: The Impact of Recent Hurricanes on Museums, Archival Facilities, and Historic Sites”**  
(Chair: John W. Roberts)

The afternoon plenary session provided perspectives on the challenges museums, archival institutions, and historic buildings faced in the aftermath of recent hurricanes. Pam West, Regional Curator for the National Capitol Region of the National Park Service, and head of the NPS museum disaster response team, showed images of the challenging work in rescuing documents and museum artifacts, and highlighted the difficult physical and emotional problems involved. Her teams included NPS curators, as well as volunteers, contractors, and students. In one case, they had to move and preserve one million items in a week, and saved 95 percent of the collection.

Howard Lowell, Deputy Assistant Archivist in the Records Services Program at the National Archives, spoke of NARA’s recent efforts in Biloxi, MS, and other locations. He stressed that there was no common consensus on whether historical records were “in bounds or out of bounds,” but that now records need to be made part of the plan. Most importantly, he noted, records loss means loss
hundred of personal identities and governmental ability to provide services. The recent catastrophe revealed to him the lack of information at all levels, lack of coordination, and an inadequate conceptual framework for disaster planning. There were positives, including new connections between NARA, the Department of Homeland Security (including the Federal Emergency Management Administration [FEMA]), and state agencies. Moreover, NARA has taken on a responsibility as “First Preserver” of documents. Other positive results included efforts to get records recognized as a national asset in a national recovery plan, work with North Carolina’s council of state archivists to promote planning in each state, and reevaluation of NARA’s disaster recovery plans.

John H. Sprinkle, a former consultant with FEMA, who now specializes in historic preservation as a Supervisory Historian with the National Park Service, presented images of the devastation from recent hurricanes and discussed the subsequent relief efforts. Sprinkle was detailed from NPS to FEMA in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to provide expertise in identifying historic properties. He noted that the priorities were housing and removal of debris. In addition, he focused on the devastation to historic sites and what we can learn from the differing conditions and facilities to protect such sites in the future.

THE SHFG NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF THE 2006 ELECTIONS. THE FOLLOWING NEW OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL TAKE OFFICE IN JULY 2006:

**PRESIDENT:**
**JOHN W. ROBERTS**

**VICE PRESIDENT:**
**WILLIAM J. WILLIAMS**

**TREASURER:**
**PETER KRAEMER**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:**
**BETH BOLAND AND RICHARD PEUSER**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**
**SARA AMY LEACH AND DAVID WALTROP**

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**MAKING HISTORY**

**SPRING 2006**

**AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**


**ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**


**ASSOCIATION FOR DOCUMENTARY EDITING**

On its web site, the Association urges the historical community and others to campaign for increased funds for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). They have provided a letter that can be signed and e-mailed or faxed to legislators (at www.etext.virginia.edu/ade/news/). They urge legislators to “sign onto a ‘Dear Colleague’ letter now being circulated by Rep. Jim Leach (R-IA) and Rep. David Price (D-NC), requesting $156 million for the NEH in FY 2007, an increase of $15 million above the FY 2006–enacted level and the President’s FY 2007 request.”

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**


**JUDGE ADVOCATES GENERAL CORPS (JAG)–U.S. ARMY**

Fred L. Borch has been appointed as the first historian and archivist of the JAG Corps, U.S. Army. He is based in Charlottesville. He will work on establishing an ongoing program to document the history of the regiment. JAG Corps members of all ranks with historically valuable materials can contact him at fred.borch@hqda.army.mil or 434-971-3249.
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress has announced the publication of a report that assesses current standards and best practices in capturing sound from analog discs and tapes. Commissioned by the Library of Congress and prepared by the Council on Library and Information Resources, this new report summarizes discussions among audio preservation engineers on how to achieve the best possible audio transfer from historical recordings. “Capturing Analog Sound for Digital Preservation” is available free of charge at www.clir.org/pubs/abstract/pub137abst.html. Print copies can be ordered through the web site.

The American Civil War: 365 Days by Margaret E. Wagner will be available this spring. It will be published by the Library in association with Harry N. Abrams, Inc. It includes photographs by Mathew Brady, lithographs, battlefield drawings, political cartoons and music covers; recruitment, political and theatrical posters; an image of the contents of Lincoln’s pockets on the night he was assassinated at Ford’s Theatre; illustrated letters; and Lincoln’s handwritten Gettysburg Address. Some of the 12 broad themes include “Gathering Momentum,” “War in the East,” “Wartime Politics,” “War on the Water,” “Fighting for Freedom,” “Turning Points,” and “Army Life.” The main text and images within each month pertain to the theme introduced on the first day of the month. The 365 daily entries at the bottom of each left-hand page comprise a separate running diary of noteworthy Civil War-related events. The price is $29.95 in bookstores nationwide and in the Library of Congress Sales Shop, Washington, DC 20540-4985.

MARINE CORPS HISTORY OFFICE

The History Office has started its search for a new director. Responsibilities include “planning, programming, execution of Marine Corps Historical Program,” oversight of preparation and maintenance of “thorough, objective histories of the Marine Corps, and representation of the Corps in historical matters “with the other armed services, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, and the historical activities of other U.S. Government agencies.” Send resumes to Marine Corps University, Attn: Darrell Browning, 2076 South Street, Quantico, VA 22134. Deadline: July 31, 2006.

NASA

NASA has been working with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), through NARA’s Targeted Assistance (TA) Program, to solve agency records storage problems and questions about records retention by tracking records from the time they are created. One example of cooperation is between the Glenn Research Center and NARA’s Great Lakes regional facility. They have assessed hundreds of noncurrent program and project record boxes that include those relating to the rocket Engine Test Facility, the Plum Brook Reactor Facility, and Space Station Freedom. Also included are several thousand 16mm films.

“Aeronautics and Space Report of the President: Fiscal Year 2004 Activities” has been published. It summarizes the Government’s aerospace activities across 11 federal agencies. It is also available at www.history.nasa.gov/presrep.htm.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

On April 10, Archivist Allen Weinstein announced the appointment of Presidential historian Timothy Naftali as the first director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, CA. Professor Naftali is currently Associate Professor and Director of the Presidential Recordings Program at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center of Public Affairs. He will assume his new duties on October 16.

On March 6, the Archivist hosted a meeting with federal agency officials to discuss issues related to the withdrawal of documents from the open shelves at the National Archives and Records Administration through agreements with several government agencies, such as the CIA. The Archivist had placed a moratorium on further reclassifications of previously declassified documents pending more study. Present was J. William Leonard, Director of the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO). He and Weinstein proposed to create a National Declassification Initiative that would replace an agency-centric approach to declassification. The issue is under continued scrutiny. The House Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations conducted a hearing that included Archivist Weinstein, ISOO Director William Leonard, and other witnesses, including historians. ISOO has released its study of the extent of the reclassification.

The spring issue of Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration is available. It features articles using the agency’s records. The spring issue contains articles on the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, baseball-related records in the Archives, Ernest Hemingway on war, founding father Elbridge Gerry, and 50 years of German-U.S. archival cooperation. View the latest contents and selected articles at www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/.

The Customer Services Division hosted its second annual Genealogy Fair on Wednesday, April 19. This year’s theme, “Washington, DC: Our Capital Heritage,” focused on federal records relating to the people and community of the nation’s capital. Sessions offered guidance in the use of Senate nomination files; Washington, DC, building permits; DC court records; DC claims from Congressional Committees; Freedmen’s Bureau records; and Freedman’s Savings and Trust records.

On Feb. 24, Archivist Allen Weinstein and Google Co-Founder and President of Technology Sergey Brin announced the launch of a pilot program to make holdings of the National Archives available online, free-of-charge. This non-exclusive agreement will enable researchers and the general public to access a diverse collection of historic movies, documentaries, and other films from the National Archives via Google Video (video.google.com/nara.html) as well as the National Archives web site (www.archives.gov). The earliest film preserved in the National Archives holdings is by Thomas Armat, “Carmencita–Spanish Dance,” featuring the famous Spanish Gypsy dancer, 1894. The National Archives and Google are exploring the possibilities of expanding the on-line film collection and making the Archives extensive textual holdings available via the Internet.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library is hosting a series of forums. Among recent forums: May 1, a discussion with Kennedy administration staff members Charles Daly, Richard Donahue, and Jack McNally; May 8, “Poverty and the American Dream”; and May 15, James Carroll discusses his book, The Pentagon and the Presidency.
On March 22, 2006, NARA released for online access an unusual and significant collection of diplomatic records: more than 400,000 State Department telegrams and other records from a collection titled “Central Foreign Policy Files, 1973–1974.” The Central Foreign Policy files consist of State Department telegrams determined to have permanent historical value from the years 1973–74, index references to paper documents created in 1974, and withdrawal notices for permanently valuable telegrams and index references that could not be released for national security or other reasons.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum announced that it has processed and made available for research the personal papers of William H. Tucker, former Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The papers, a collection of approximately 64 cubic feet, primarily contain case files from Tucker’s service on the United States Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC). The collection also contains manuscript material from his autobiographical book Parachute Soldier. The collection spans the period 1958–94.

NARA, in cooperation with the Library of Congress, presented a session of the Modern Archives Institute, June 5–16. The program’s purpose is to introduce participants to archival theory and practice and the responsibilities of archival work. The two-week program provides an introduction to archival principles and techniques for individuals who work with personal papers, as well as those who work with the records of public and private institutions and organizations. It is intended to help archivists acquire basic knowledge about caring for archival materials and making them available. The fee is $675.

The fourth volume of the Public Papers of President George W. Bush, 2002 is now available for sale. The 1190-page hardcover volume was compiled by the Office of the Federal Register and covers the period July 1 to December 31, 2002.

The Motion Picture Preservation Lab (NWTS) preserved two films for presentation at the Fifth Orphan Film Symposium held at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, March 22–25. The two films are “An American in the Making,” the oldest Federal agency film in NARA’s holdings—made in 1913 by the U.S. Steel Corporation for the Bureau of Mines —and “They Do Come Back,” a film about tuberculosis prevention, one of seven films donated to NARA by the National Tuberculosis Association in the 1940s.

National Library of Medicine

“Visible Proofs: Forensic Views of the Body,” a major new exhibition at the National Library of Medicine, opened on February 16, 2006. Curated by medical historian Michael Sappol, it provides a history of forensic medicine, examining how physicians, surgeons, and scientists developed scientific methods that translated views of bodies and body parts into “visible proofs,” persuasive to judges, juries, and the public.

“Visible Proofs” is located on the first floor of the National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. The exhibition is open to the public during the Library’s main reading room hours through February 16, 2008. Admission is free, and a docent-led tour is available upon request. There is an online exhibit at www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/visibleproofs. Contact information and directions also reside there.

National Museum of American History

The Museum announced a major renovation on April 12. It will begin closing some exhibitions in the spring and summer, and will fully close for renovation on September 5. The work will focus on three areas: architectural enhancements to the museum’s interior, constructing a state-of-the-art gallery for the Star-Spangled Banner, and updating the 42-year-old building’s infrastructure. Architects will remove marble panels at the third floor to allow for a new central core atrium and skylight. Also, elevators will be replaced, new restrooms added, and fire and alarm and electrical systems will be upgraded. The work will be financed by both federal and private funds.

National Museum of the American Indian

The Museum exhibit “Listening to Our Ancestors: The Art of Native Life Along the North Pacific Coast” runs through January 2, 2007. For more information on related events and exhibits, visit the calendar at www.nmai.si.edu/calendar/index.asp.

National Park Service

On April 8, 2006, the first Public History Field School began at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site in Oregon. The three-month school is a partnership between Portland State University and the National Park Service (NPS), though the park’s Northwest Cultural Resources Institute. Graduate students in public history will earn credit by applying knowledge gained through group exercises, peer review, and class instruction to crafting programs for the public. The “final exam” will be an interpretive talk presented June 17 at the park’s annual Brigade Encampment special event.

The NPS “Teaching With Historic Places” program has posted two new online lesson plans. “Minuteman Missile National Historic Site: Protecting a Legacy of the Cold War” examines how the escalation of the Cold War led to the development and deployment of the Minuteman missile system and investigates the role of missileers as America’s “peacekeepers.” “The Spanish Treasure Fleets of 1715 and 1733: Disasters Strike at Sea” looks at how Spain established an empire in the Western Hemisphere, based on collecting precious metals and goods from the Americas. These new additions bring to 129 the total number of lesson plans available through the program, at www.cr.nps.gov/nr/thwp/.

A two-year project at Vicksburg National Military Park to replace a dozen original cannon carriages from the Civil War Union ironclad gunboat U.S.S. Cairo with reproductions has been completed. One of the original carriages will be exhibited in the park’s museum; the other 11 will be conserved and stored. The NPS Historic Preservation Training Center in Frederick, MD, created the reproductions and worked with park staff on installation. The U.S.S. Cairo was one of seven Civil War ironclads named for cities along the upper Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. These formidable vessels were designed and built specifically for river navigation. Commissioned in January 1862, the U.S.S. Cairo was sunk on December 12, 1862, in the Yazoo River—the first vessel in history to be sunk by an electrically detonated mine. In 1956, former NPS Chief Historian Ed Bearss, along with Warren Grabau and Don Jacks, discovered the underwater location of the U.S.S. Cairo. The gunboat was recovered in 1965, deeded to NPS in 1977, and put on exhibit (following rebuilding) in 1984.
National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will be appointing its first historian shortly. The vacancy announcement for the position closed on June 5, 2006. The historian will work in the Foundation’s Office of Legislative Affairs in Arlington, VA. The duties will include research, writing, and preparation of a scholarly, administrative, legislative, and institutional history of the NSF. The historian will also serve as the primary preservation officer. SHFG had urged creation of this position at its annual meeting at the Library of Congress in 2003.

Oral History Association

The Oral History Association has completed accepting submissions for three awards. The Elizabeth B. Mason Project Award for 2006 will recognize two oral history projects: one with a budget under $6,000 and one with a budget over that amount. The Article Award 2006 will recognize a published essay or article that uses oral history to make a significant contribution to contemporary scholarship. The Post Secondary Teaching Award 2006 recognizes a distinguished postsecondary educator involved in undergraduate, graduate, continuing, or professional education who has incorporated the practice of oral history in the classroom in an exemplary way. Visit www.dickinson.edu/oha/ for addresses and more information.

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

The 2006 annual meeting of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) took place in Lawrence, Kansas, June 23–25. Conference participants had the opportunity to visit the Truman Library on June 23.

Society of American Archivists

The Society of American Archivists will hold its next annual meeting on August 2–6, 2006, jointly with the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA) and the Council of State Archivists (COSA), at the Hilton Washington in Washington, DC. The conference schedule has been posted at www.archivists.org/conference/dc2006/index.asp.

Society for Military History

The Society has issued a call for papers for its 2007 annual meeting scheduled for April 19–22, 2007, in Frederick, Maryland. The theme will be “Crossroads of War,” and the program committee “seeks papers and panels that address those intersections during the war-time experience between the military and other sectors of society, including, but not limited to, the home-front, the economy, politics and constitutionalism, as well as culture.” See www.smh-hq.org.

U.S Holocaust Memorial Museum

The spring 2006 text of the journal Holocaust Genocide Studies has been posted at http://hgs.oxfordjournals.org/content/vol20/issue1/index.dtl?etoc. Listed are the articles, review essay, book reviews, a list of recently published works in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and biographies of contributors. Researchers can access free abstracts or pay to view an article or review.

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The spring 2006 text of the journal Holocaust Genocide Studies has been posted at http://hgs.oxfordjournals.org/content/vol20/issue1/index.dtl?etoc. Listed are the articles, review essay, book reviews, a list of recently published works in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and biographies of contributors. Researchers can access free abstracts or pay to view an article or review.