Preserving the Voice of Spiro T. Agnew: Vice Presidential Papers at the University of Maryland

By Eric Stoykovich

Among the hundreds of archival boxes which comprise the papers of Spiro T. Agnew, preserved and made available by the University of Maryland Libraries’ Special Collections, are 1,300 analog audio reels, vinyl discs, cassettes, and films. Constituting one of the largest collections of political recordings in the state of Maryland, and covering Agnew’s political career as governor of Maryland and then United States Vice President, these items have recently been inventoried, with the anticipation that a subset of about ten percent be digitized this year in order to ensure their long-term preservation. Following the Library of Congress’ National Recording Preservation Plan of 2012, which argued that “many pre-1972 sound recordings will deteriorate long before 2067,” the preservation of unique audiovisual recordings is a major responsibility for archivists and curators. The chosen process of analog-to-digital digitization will also begin to allow the approximately 843 magnetic tapes, 262 sound cassettes, 83 sound discs, and 33 film reels in the Agnew papers—some over fifty years old—to be made available more easily to researchers.

Many of the Agnew recordings are rich in historical content. Equivalent records created since 1981 by Vice Presidents (as well as Presidents) while in office have been considered permanent federal records preserved by the National Archives and Records Administration. For example, the Nixon Library preserves and makes available the White House Communications Agency Sound Recordings: Series B: Vice-Presidential Recordings, which includes masters of eighty-four of the vice-presidential recordings found in the Spiro T. Agnew papers.

But many of the Agnew tapes at the University of Maryland are potentially unique, because they See “Spiro T. Agnew” cont’d on page 3
Welcome to the spring issue of The Federalist! As the days start getting noticeably longer and the trees and plants begin blooming, the Society is preparing some exciting events!

January 4–7 of this year, Society members attended the AHA conference in Denver. Members took part in a variety of panels, and two panels focused specifically on federal historians: History in the Federal Government: Careers Serving the Policymakers and the Public, and Federal Government Historians and Historical Perspectives in Governance and Policy. The conference was expansive, and provided an excellent opportunity for federal historians to mingle with our academic colleagues and share our work. Next January the AHA conference will be in DC, and the AHA would like to highlight federal historians and the Society given its presence in Washington! The deadline for submitting a paper or panel for the AHA has passed, however as an affiliate, Society members can submit panels until May. The Society is working with the AHA so they will allow Society members an extended early registration in recognition of federal conference requirements which usually delay registration. The Society will continue to work the AHA to highlight federal historians during their annual conference. Please contact the Society if you have any ideas for next year’s AHA conference in DC.

We are looking forward to SHFG’s annual conference this year. The Society is happy to announce our conference will be held in downtown DC at the National Archives. This year’s conference, “A Return to the Archives,” will be held April 13, and it promises to deliver a great array of panels on topics that include creating an online presence for records searches, military/intelligence research, women in congress and much, much more! Many thanks to past-president Terrance Rucker and the conference committee for putting together such a great program—and many thanks to all the members who submitted such interesting talks!

Although the federal government is facing a hiring freeze, the Society will be holding its Federal Jobs Workshop on 29 April 2017 at the National Archives building. Past Federal Jobs Workshops have been very successful—the workshop will provide relevant information and insights on how the federal hiring process works and it gives tips to writing your resume, reading a USAJobs resume, and federal job interviews. If you or someone you know is interested in working for the Federal Government, keep an eye out for more information on our E-Bulletin.

Finally, the Society is planning a special spring event for members. This spring we are planning a tour of the Old Naval Observatory and Annex grounds. Tucked away in the old Navy annex in Foggy Bottom, the Old Naval Observatory is now occupied by the Department of State’s Office of the Historian, special friends of the Society. Home of the old Naval Observatory, the old Washington Naval Hospital, Navy BuMed, and now State, the Annex is a historic, beautiful site generally off-limits to Washington residents. Join us for a tour of the site—the number of tickets is limited so be sure to watch our E-Bulletin or contact me directly at shfg.president@gmail.com for more information.

A select committee is currently reviewing the surveys that were submitted with our annual renewal letter. We look forward to updating you soon on the results and input we received. In the meantime, the Society is constantly working to meet your needs—so please let me know if you have questions, comments or ideas. I am available at: shfg.president@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support of the Society!

**SHFG’s e-bulletin**

Announcements of events, conferences, workshops, and other programs.

Send announcements to shfg.ebulletin@gmail.com

The bulletin is a service to SHFG members.
Editor’s Note

2016 ended with a blizzard of activity in the federal history community and, so far, 2017 is shaping up to be equally productive. As I edit this issue, I look forward to “returning to the Archives” for the Annual Meeting in April and learning more about exciting developments from across the field. I hope to feature information about many of the projects that will be discussed at the Annual Meeting in future issues of The Federalist.

In this issue of The Federalist, Eric Stoykovich highlights the audio recordings of Vice President Spiro T. Agnew held at the University of Maryland Libraries. Joseph E. Taylor III describes his innovative web-based project, Follow the Money, focused on the history of federal transfer payments to counties in the western United States. Marine Corps Historians Breanne Robertson and Alexandra Kindell provide an overview of a USMC History Division symposium on the WWII flag raising on Iwo Jima. John B. Snyder profiles operations at Watervliet, the oldest, continuously operating military arsenal in the United States. I am also very excited to feature an interview with Kris Kirby, the recently-appointed Superintendent of Manhattan Project National Historical Park, in which she describes her role in one of the Park Service’s newest and most unique historical sites.

One goal of mine as editor of The Federalist is to feature more material useful to the growing number of social media managers in federal history programs. For most of us, social media has come to play an important role in our work and the work of our agencies, yet information and resources are scarce for social media practitioners in government. With that goal in mind, I am pleased to feature a piece on image use in social media by Albinko Hasic, the creator of @WarThroughArt on Twitter, and I hope to feature more such content in the future.

SHFG Archivist Chas Downs presents the first of a series of articles focusing on the genesis of SHFG bylaws in his latest “From the Archives” column. A.J. Daverede highlights the personal classified files of Ambassador Francis J. Galbraith in his column on “Newly Declassified Records.” You will also find an update on IRBs and oral history projects, a call for papers for the 10th Blount Postal History Symposium, announcements about new federal history books in “Recent Publications,” and other newsworthy items in “Making History,” in this issue of The Federalist.

Comments and suggestions are welcome at shfgfederalist@gmail.com or on Twitter @faithtomfaith.

Update on IRBs and Oral History Projects

The Federal Register has been updated to clarify the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects with regard to oral history projects. The regulation, known as the Common Rule, established guidelines for interviewing human subjects for medical and behavioral research but has also been applied to subjects of historical research as well. This had the effect of rendering oral history project protocols subject to the review of Institutional Review Boards at colleges and universities. In 2015 the Society for History in the Federal Government joined with 14 other historical organizations in signing the comments here, authored by the National Coalition for History, that oppose IRB reviews of historical research: http://historycoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/NCH-HHS-Human-Subjects-Proposed-Rule-10-30-15.pdf. The new rule, which will go into effect January 19, 2018, now expressly exempts oral history research from the Common Rule. It reads: “For purposes of this part, the following activities are deemed not to be research: (1) Scholarly and journalistic activities (e.g., oral history, journalism, biography, literary criticism, legal research, and historical scholarship), including the collection and use of information that focus directly on the specific individuals about whom the information is collected.” (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/19/2017-01058/federal-policy-for-the-protection-of-human-subjects)

“Spiro T. Agnew” from page 1

include press conferences, off-air broadcasts from television and radio interviews, tapings of live events, original studio recordings by constituents, even an audiotape of the wedding of daughter Pamela Agnew. Topics related to the history of the federal government include the Vietnam moratorium, substance abuse as a social problem, federal-state revenue sharing policies, Native American economic development, Apollo spaceflights, and diplomatic relationships with foreign countries, such as Iran, Greece, and Australia. Perhaps the bulk of the audio files capture the many fundraisers and Republican Party rallies which Agnew so enjoyed during his time as Vice President. Revealing the personal as well as public side of the office of the Vice President in the mid-twentieth century, many are particularly worthy of preservation and reformatting. For more information about accessing the Spiro T. Agnew papers (http://hdl.handle.net/1903.1/1744), please contact the curator of historical manuscripts, Elizabeth Novara (enovara@umd.edu).

Dr. Eric Stoykovich is a Project Archivist at the University of Maryland Libraries.
Follow the Money: A Spatial History of In-Lieu Programs for Western Federal Lands

Joseph E. Taylor III

Overview

Follow the Money (http://followthemoney.stanford.edu/) is a website that maps federal transfer payments to counties in the far West. The site’s purpose is to enable researchers and the public at large to visualize the fiscal relationships that have existed between federal conservation programs and western counties. Ten maps, representing ten different payment programs established from 1907 to 2000, project data for 414 counties based on federal agency reports, state and county audits, and archival collections. The payment amounts have been adjusted for inflation based on 2014 dollars, and data color-coded into quantiles to enable rapid recognition of spatial and temporal patterns in payments. By clicking on any county, users can compare payments both within that county across time or between that county and all counties for the entire history of each payment program. The result is an easy-to-use tool that illustrates the political economic geography and history of the federal lands and federal conservation programs in the American West.

Background

Since the 1890s one of the most contentious issues in the American West has been the permanent presence of a vast federal domain. Although most of the lands in states east of the Rocky Mountains were privatized via sales and homesteading provisions, extensive portions of the eleven far western states are controlled by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and various defense and energy agencies. These lands constitute 47 percent of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, and they impose significant political and economic challenges.

How did this happen? During its first century, the federal government encouraged rapid divestment of its western public domain, including offering generous subsidies to individual homesteaders and railroad corporations to settle areas west of the hundredth meridian. The policy continued with few exceptions until the Land Revision Act of 1891, when Congress empowered the president to withdraw lands from entry to protect timber resources. What followed was a rapid, increasingly systematic retention of lands and resources. By 1901, Benjamin Harrison, Grover Cleveland, and William McKinley had withdrawn 46 million acres of forested lands, all in the far western states and territories. By 1912 Theodore Roosevelt, Howard Taft, and Congress more than trebled that figure to 165 million acres. Roosevelt and Taft also withdrew from all remaining subsurface mineral rights to coal, petroleum, and other valuable minerals, and all remaining sites that could be used to develop hydroelectricity. In 1916, Congress reclaimed 2.6 million more acres of timber in western Oregon that had been part of a nineteenth-century railroad grant, and in 1934 and 1936, Congress created the Grazing Bureau to manage another 142 million acres of western ranges. Finally, in 1946, the Grazing Bureau merged with the General Land Office to form the Bureau of Land Management, which controls more than 247 million acres of land and more than 700 million acres of subsurface mineral rights.

In addition to the complex jurisdictional problems of these federal lands, “public lands states” must also contend with the fact that the federal domain cannot be taxed. This one issue incited more western angst than any other aspect of the federal withdrawals in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Put succinctly, westerners worried first and foremost about how to provide basic social services such as schools and roads from a permanently constrained tax base. Westerners voiced this problem regularly, and many in Congress sympathized with them. The result was a series of legislative compromises designed to channel some of the proceeds from federal sales, leases, and royalties back to the states and counties from which monies had come. Alternately called “revenue sharing” and “in-lieu payments,” in reality they merged in members’ minds, and the payment formulas were crucial features of every federal conservation statute in from 1906 to 1939. The first bill was a Department of Agriculture appropriation in 1906, and two years later Congress made the payments permanent, establishing a
precedent of sending at least 25 percent of the Forest Service’s revenues back to counties. Subsequent bills included the 1916 Chamberlain-Ferris Act, the 1920 Federal Mineral Leasing Act, the 1920 Federal Water-Power Act, the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act, the 1937 Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, and the 1937 Oregon and California Lands Act. Payment ratios would vary from 37.5 to 50 percent, and some payments would go to the states or Reclamation Fund rather than to counties, but all these natural-resource-derived funds became integral to the business model of western governance.

Over time the payments became classic examples of what historian Brian Balogh calls “government out of sight.” Few Americans are aware of the payments, let alone why they exist. This lack of awareness can be seen in protests that federal agencies are tyrannical appropriations of western sovereignty, but also and alternatively in protests against loggers, miners, ranchers, and livestock as trespassers on the people’s lands. The range of views also underscores why payment programs have evolved as federal priorities changed. Since World War 2, agencies have accommodated a growing array of “multiple uses” and ecological values, and one consequence is that the level of natural resource extraction, and with it the amount of revenues for school and road budgets, has declined. This led Congress to establish two additional programs. In 1976, it passed the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program to compensate all U.S. counties for revenues lost to federal inholdings, and in 2000 the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) to address drastic declines in revenues to western counties as a result of environmental policies. The tendency of critics on the left and right alike to call these programs “welfare” payments is a measure of the historical ignorance of both the roots of each program and all the contingencies that have influenced their efficacy over time.

Outcomes

The genesis of Follow the Money was a simple desire to understand the history and geography of federal payments, and the paucity of scholarship on the subject carried me down an ever-expanding warren of archival rabbit holes. Then in 2011, when Congress briefly considered terminating the SRS payments and a fiscal crisis erupted in several western counties, I realized I had stumbled upon a bigger story. I met with colleagues at the Bill Lane Center for the American West to discuss ways to present the data through standard scholarly publications. Then county bankruptcy crises morphed into anti-federal protests in rural Nevada, Utah, and Oregon and into pro-federal demonstrations in urban centers around the U.S. We rethought strategies and decided that a widely accessible, web-based mapping tool was the more effective way to disseminate this information broadly. I was fortunate to receive support from the Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis at Stanford University (https://cesta.stanford.edu/) because it enabled me to work with a team that included geographer Erik Steiner, computer programmers Krista Fryauff and Alex Sherman, historian Zephyr Frank, and coordinator Celena Allen. I gathered and entered an immense amount of data while the team as a whole conceptualized and built the custom website.

Our collective goal is to present data in a way that is legible at a glance. We thus adopted a standard choropleth map to depict all counties in the western public lands states, and we crafted a layout that is intuitive and user friendly. We also created separate pages for each of the ten payment programs and adopted separate color schemes to represent quantiles of payments for all counties and for each county when using the “Advanced” feature. Finally, to help users with the program backgrounds, we included brief and long histories for each page. After five years we released the beta version in June 2016 and the full version five months later in November.

The formal unveiling was a great sense of accomplishment, and the early responses to the site have been helpful and immensely gratifying. At the same time, we are conscious of how much work remains. So far we have filled nearly 112,000 cells of data. By any measure this is a tremendous amount of information, yet it represents only 43 percent of the 258,000 potential cells from 1906 to 2016. Moreover, each additional year will increase the total another 3744 cells. Our challenge is to find as much county-level payment data as we can to fill the remaining cells, and our plea to readers is to contact us if you know of local, state, or federal sources for this elusive information, or if you want to suggest changes or additions to the site. Our fervent belief is that with contentious issues such as the political economy of western federal lands, we are all better served by being able to rely on a common evidentiary base, and the more solid and complete the data is on Follow the Money, the deeper and more nuanced the resulting discussions can be about the full implications of western federal lands.

Joseph E. Taylor III is a professor of history at Simon Fraser University and the creator of Follow the Money.
The History Professional  

An Interview with Kris Kirby

Kris Kirby is the Superintendent of Manhattan Project National Historical Park, which was established in November 2015, and she has served in that position since October 16, 2016. Kirby previously worked as the Chief of Commercial Services at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and the Chief of Business & Revenue Management at Yosemite National Park. She obtained her B.A. in Political Science from the Metropolitan State University of Denver, and her Masters of Public Administration from the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Interview by Thomas Faith

How did you get your start at the National Park Service, and what were your initial assignments?

My first position in the National Park Service (NPS) was as a Concessions Management Assistant at Lake Mead National Recreation Area (Lake Mead NRA) about a year after graduating from college. In this role, I provided administrative support to the Lake Mead NRA concessions management team responsible for oversight of a $40 million concession program focused mostly on marina operations providing hospitality and recreation services to the park’s 7 million annual visitors.

What are your current duties?

My current duties as Superintendent of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (Manhattan Project NHP) are somewhat unique from other NPS units as the park is managed in partnership with the Department of Energy (DOE) and is located in three very geographically dispersed locations: Hanford, Washington; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. My duties include responsibility for fostering and maintaining the NPS relationship with DOE and to begin to implement the park’s first Strategic Plan, scheduled for completion in the next few months. Since the park is relatively new, we are also in the early stages of developing funding, programming, and staffing strategies in order to build a more robust presence at each location.

How have you been able to apply your experiences as chief of Business & Revenue Management at Yosemite National Park to your current assignment?

My previous position managing the Business and Revenue program at Yosemite National Park, as well as my role in concessions management at Lake Mead NRA and Glacier National Park, required me to foster and maintain effective relationships with many external entities. To be successful I had to collaborate with numerous stakeholders, other federal agencies, and local communities. This experience serves me well in my new position as part of the success of the Manhattan Project NHP has been the incredible support of the communities, who all have deep connections to the story based on their modern origins in the Manhattan Project. Our visitor centers and associated activities are located within these communities and the park’s success is dependent on a healthy dialogue and good relationship with them.

What are some challenges you face as superintendent that are unique to Manhattan Project National Historical Park?

As previously noted, much of the uniqueness of this park is that it’s located in three states and the NPS is partnered with DOE in the administration and management of the park. While the geography definitely creates logistical challenges, working with another federal agency is a privilege and is one of the reasons I was interested in the job. I’m a student of political science and public administration and I’ve always had an interest in government and its responsibility and subsequent benefits to our society. This position allows me to further explore that connection and provides great opportunities to learn about and build a relationship with another federal agency and to partner with local governments in each community.

Manhattan Project NHP is comprised of three sites distributed across three different states: Hanford, WA; Los Alamos, NM; and Oak Ridge, TN. Are there other historical parks in the National Park System with similar geographic spread?

There are a number of other historical parks in the National Park System that are geographically dispersed, a few examples include Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park with units in Alaska and Washington, Nez Perce National Historical Park with locations in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, and World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument with units in Alaska, California and Hawaii. In addition, many of the national trails managed by the NPS travel through multiple states, extend hundreds of miles and cross many jurisdictional boundaries.

How does your park’s partnership with the Department of Energy operate in practice?

The park’s legislation spells out the different responsibilities for the NPS and the DOE in the management of the park. In addition, a Memorandum of Agreement executed on November 10, 2015 provides further guidance in the park’s management. Essentially, both documents assign responsibility for the physical assets to DOE and responsibility for interpretation to NPS. In
addition, the NPS is responsible for playing an advisory role in preserving the park’s historic resources. Upon my arrival, a significant amount of groundwork was already completed in the development of the partnership between the two agencies, including the establishment of a Joint Park Management Team responsible for facilitating operational issues.

**Given that portions of the Oak Ridge reserve are in the process of being reindustrialized, what historic structures at the Oak Ridge site can be preserved?**

While the former K-25 site at Oak Ridge is being redeveloped, many of the other Manhattan Project structures, including the X-10 Graphite Reactor and buildings 9204-3 (Beta 3) and 9731 are still standing. Currently bus tours are available to the X-10 Graphite Reactor and all three facilities are in the process of being evaluated for preservation and visitor access.

**Manhattan Project NHP is a relatively young park, what are some things you hope to accomplish there in the next few years?**

Over the next few years, I plan on hiring site managers for each location, establishing formal agreements with Friends’ Groups from the local communities, and identify Cooperating Associations to sell books and other educational materials at our visitor centers. In addition, we will start the process for an Interpretive Plan and a Visitor Access Plan next year. These documents will provide significant guidance for growing and enhancing the visitor experience at Manhattan Project NHP.

**What role does youth education and outreach play at your park?**

Youth education and outreach at the park plays a large role and our incredibly talented park staff have developed some stellar educational programs. A number of school groups are already participating in these programs. The programs will continue to play large roles in the visitor experience provided by the park as one of our main interpretive themes focuses on the revolutionary science, engineering and technological innovations of the Manhattan Project and how they relate to developments in modern Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs.

**What is your favorite aspect of your duties at Manhattan Project NHP?**

It’s hard to really pinpoint my favorite aspect of the job since so much of it is fascinating. Along with the amazing opportunity to have NPS staff tell this story while working with another federal agency and the local communities, I also really enjoy the fact that this park will require the NPS to bring a number of diverse and sensitive topics to the table for discussion. These aspects are not only historically important, they still play a critical role in today’s geopolitics, environmental responsibilities, and social constructs.

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**Call for Papers for the 10th Blount Postal History Symposium: World War I and its Immediate Aftermath**

**Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington, DC, November 1–2, 2018**

On Monday, November 11, 1918, World War I came to an end. Wrought from militarism, nationalistic and imperialism, the Great War broke empires, challenged established gender and race relations, and destroyed millions of lives. Mail became the critical link for the families separated and desperate for news. Governments responded to these developments and the disruption of communication networks, and struggled to determine who should be able to communicate with whom and about what.

Deadlines for one-page proposal and CV: June 15, 2017.

In addition to a one-page proposal, each individual should submit a one-page curriculum vitae with contact information (e-mail, phone, address).

Notification of acceptance will be mailed on or about August 1, 2017.

Papers are due by September 1, 2018. Accepted proposals must result in papers of 4500–5500 words, including bibliographic material, citations, and image titles. The articles must be formatted according to the guidelines of the Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press. Images should be placed and discussed within the text and image permissions must be acquired. Writers will have the opportunity to revise their papers after the symposium and before the papers are considered for publication.

Possible Topics Include:

- Disruptions and shifts in mail transportation systems
- Communication alternatives to the mail
- Censorship of and by postal systems
- War-saving and thrift-saving stamp programs
- War propaganda and the mail
- War-time supply issues (inks, papers, etc.)
- Changing demographics and policies towards postal employees
- Postal systems in occupied territories
- Rise of airmail
- Stamps of the new countries

For more information on formatting and permissions, please see the call for papers for 2018 at: [http://postalmuseum.si.edu/research/symposiums-and-lectures/](http://postalmuseum.si.edu/research/symposiums-and-lectures/)
Image use on Social Media

Albinko Hasic

One of the most consistent problems that social media managers in federal agencies and museums face is how to incorporate images in social media posts and digital content. According to Social Science Research Network, 65 percent of people are visual learners. Humans simply respond to photographs or drawings in a more emotional manner—generating more of a response and greater interaction. Social media websites have noticed this trend, and a rise in picture and photo based social media services has occurred in recent years. The popularity of platforms such as Tumblr, Instagram, Pinterest, and Snapchat has grown rapidly, and even traditional social media services such as Twitter and Facebook are incorporating more visual elements into their services.

According to eMarketer, Instagram overshadowed Twitter in millions of users 77.6 to 53.1 in 2015. Pinterest was not far behind with 47.1 million users, and Tumblr steadily growing at 20 million. Facebook was still king of the hill with 157.1 million users; however, the platform has steadily turned to visual media for growth—debuting services such as live video and easier photo sharing capabilities. What does this mean for federal agencies or programs that are looking to expand their reach and communicate with a wider audience? Essentially, they must adapt to effectively convey information visually.

The Smithsonian Museums have well-incorporated a variety of media into their Twitter posts. For example, the National Museum of American History (@amhistorymuseum) boasts approximately 160,000 followers on Twitter, with a consistent and regular rate of retweets and likes, as well as follower comments with their content. The photographs are diverse—covering a range of topics, sometimes linking to digital written content hosted at the museum’s blog, O Say Can You See? Stories from the National Museum of American History. The content is usually paired with a hashtag appropriate to the post, and is even playful at times with emoticons utilized for additional visual appeal.

Another federal agency that successfully uses images in social media posts is the National Archives and Records Administration, which recently launched their own Giphy channel utilizing historical motion-picture footage and turning it into bite-sized pieces of video that are easily shared on platforms such as Twitter and Facebook (http://giphy.com/usnationalarchives). This sort of content has a high likelihood of going “viral,” or being disseminated by a high number of people in quick succession across different mediums. In the digital marketing world this is the ultimate objective—rapidly bringing relevant content to as many people as possible.

Of course, not all content lends itself easily to photographs or video. After all—how does one pair an image with a post about a 1959 trade agreement, or the birthday of Chief Justice Earl Warren? Creativity is an important element of successful social media engagement. The #OTD (On This Day) hashtag is often utilized on Twitter and Facebook to mark a special occasion. Additionally, a deeper dig into the content may reveal a fun fact that could be included as part of the information. Perhaps the trade agreement yielded some interesting import, or led to a discovery? This is where historians and curators can showcase their skill.

I recently created a new Twitter account, @WarThroughArt, and a website by the same name www.warthroughart.com. The account and website deal with U.S. World War II propaganda posters, and the images that they portray lend themselves to a variety of historic content and current events. For example, on January 19th Twitter celebrated #NationalPopcornDay. What does a propaganda poster have to do with popcorn? Nothing, directly—however, I was able to take advantage of the trend by finding a World War II poster that called for the production of more corn. I paired the visually appealing poster with a tweet that read: “Happy #NationalPopcornDay—remember, corn is crucial to the mission (or just movie night). [WWII Propaganda Poster via @USNatArchives].” I also utilized Twitter’s emoticon system by
including corn at the end of the sentence. Sometimes the historical image lends itself to humor. For a poster that read, “Don’t take time off,” I wrote, tongue-in-cheek, “Bosses everywhere be like.” Posts such as this stimulate interest through comedy and curiosity. On January 5th, National Bird Day was celebrated across social media. I found a fantastic poster that highlighted the bald eagle with the words “Keep Him Free.” This sort of content lends itself perfectly to capturing the zeitgeist and inspiring others to disseminate it as broadly as possible.

One of the most important elements of social media is interaction with individual followers. Following up on comments and feedback is crucial because it shows genuine interest and demonstrates that the account is live and active—not an automaton simply throwing material into web space. On one occasion, the National Museum of American History engaged in a “joke battle” on Twitter with @WarThroughArt, utilizing posters. The use of an already-viral hashtag can make a post more visible, prompt a wider response and, ultimately, grow account followers.

Where does one find great historical images to match with specific content? There are a variety of sources that can be utilized, however, social media practitioners must remain mindful of copyright issues. Copyright law may prevent certain images or videos from being used and disseminated online. The vast majority of National Archives online material is in the public domain because this was material produced by the U.S. government where intellectual property rights do not apply. Cornell University provides a clear guide on what constitutes public domain images here: http://copyright.cornell.edu/resources/publicdomain.cfm. Additionally, anything published prior to 1923 is also in the public domain—which includes a great deal of the material that is available through the Library of Congress. Additional material can also be found on university websites or through Wiki Commons, although this material might not be part of the public domain.

Ultimately, it does not matter whether you consider the material you are posting boring or unappealing to wider audiences. Creativity, branding, timing, active interaction, and visual media can turn any post into potentially viral and share-worthy content.

Albinko Hasic is a PhD candidate at Syracuse University and the creator of @WarThroughArt on Twitter.

### Newly Declassified Records

The spring issue’s featured declassified series returns to the ever fruitful Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, Record Group 84. Entry P 342 in that record group is a 17-box series that contains the personal classified files of Ambassador Francis J. Galbraith. Galbraith was one of those professional Foreign Service Officers who sustain the State Department through good times and bad, and he served as the U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia between 1969 and 1973. The records are organized into 6 discrete sections: Subject Files, Chronological Files, Correspondence Files, Personal Correspondence Files, Daily Schedules, and Diary. Ambassador Galbraith’s tour in Djakarta was far less eventful as those of his two predecessors, Howard P. Jones and Marshall Green, so these files are far more replete with mundane matters. An examination of these records, though, will reveal the functioning of an American embassy from the Ambassador’s perspective, where political, military, economic, social, and personal affairs become intertwined. The provision of the Ambassador’s schedule and diary lend a very personal view of the duties of Ambassador punctuated by unique details of a posting in Djakarta, Indonesia. While the vast majority of the documents in this series has been declassified, there may be a few documents that have been withdrawn for national security reasons. The document withdrawals are represented by the standard NDC red-striped withdrawn item notice. To discover more record series declassified by the NDC, please visit the NDC Blog at http://blogs.archives.gov/ndc/ for a complete list of declassified record series and an opportunity to set processing priorities on a number of record series awaiting indexing.

— A. J. Daverede, NARA, NDC
From the Archives

SHFG By-Laws (Part I)

Chas Downs

The bedrock of an organization like the Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG) is its by-laws. They serve as its constitution and provide direction and procedural guidance to the membership. Good by-laws are flexible, clearly written and address an organization’s goals, structure, and procedures. Also, to keep them viable and relevant they must contain a means for their own revision. Note that the term “by-laws” usually appears with a hyphen in SHFG publications, but it can also appear as one word (bylaws) or two (by laws) in some correspondence.

Shortly after SHFG was founded to serve the federal history community, by-laws were drawn up by Jack M. Holl and David K. Allison, describing the organization’s purpose, specifying the duties of officers and the purpose of committees, defining operating procedures, and delineating how the by-laws were to be revised. They presented their work to the Society membership at the SHFG meeting of January 30, 1979, when minor changes were suggested and incorporated. During the next meeting, of the steering committee, on March 12, 1980, Allison noted that these standards and practices were similar to those of the American Historical Society. Then Phil Cantelon moved that the by-laws be accepted as amended. On May 15, 1980, an SHFG general meeting was held to seek approval of the Society’s by-laws. The meeting was chaired by David R. Trask, who designated Allison to explain them to the members, and asked that they be accepted as written. At the conclusion of discussion, “the by-laws were voted on and accepted unanimously.”

In fact, this first set of by-laws needed to be revised soon after they were written to reflect changes in SHFG’s Articles of Incorporation made to comply with federal requirements for nonprofit entities, so that the SHFG would be treated as a publicly supported educational organization rather than a private foundation. (For more on this, see “From the Archives: Securing Our Non-Profit Status” in The Federalist, 2nd Series, Number 33, Spring 2012, p.15) On November 30, 1982, an ad hoc committee was named to review and revise the by-laws “in light of experience thus far.” Jack M. Holl was the committee chair, with David Allison as a member. They changed the by-laws to correct typographical errors and “infelicitous wording.” These changes were approved at the April 12, 1983, SHFG Conference. In a memo dated July 12, 1983, acting secretary Paul J. Schieps brought to the attention of the executive council a substantive error in the text of the by-laws, substituting the “Society” for “Secretary” which had been overlooked by everyone, including the By-laws Review Committee. Schieps corrected the error, but reminded them:

For the future, the Council might wish to take a new look at the bylaws, before making them available to the members as should be done, with a view to ascertaining changes that would make them harmonize with the language of the society’s Articles of Incorporation. This was not done by the Bylaws Review Committee.

In 1985, Roger R. Trask proposed changes to the by-laws specifically relating to reducing the terms of elected officers by one year, in order to bring more of the membership into leadership roles. In order to preserve continuity, “the vice-president, elected for a one year term, would then automatically succeed to the presidency for a one year term.” Terms for the Executive Council would be reduced from three to two years with their election staggered to retain continuity. Also changes were made to the nominating committee in order to make it easier for them to find individuals willing to run for office. These changes would be phased-in during the elections of 1987 in 1988. While no action was taken on Trask’s proposals in 1985, he proposed them again in a memo dated February 20, 1986, to SHFG President Richard A. Baker, who acknowledged their merit. On April 18, 1986, these changes to the by-laws were approved at the business meeting held during the seventh annual SHFG’s conference.

In 1991, Roger Trask, who was then SHFG President, proposed additional changes to the by-laws, which were “designed to eliminate some outdated clauses and get the by-laws up to date with current practices.” Member classes were regular, sustaining, and patrons, with the category “corresponding member” eliminated. Duties of the Secretary and Nominating Committee were clarified, the paragraph dealing with charter members eliminated, and proposal of amendments by the Executive Council would now be by majority vote. Trask’s changes were approved at the SHFG business meeting on April 22, 1991, and concurred in by a majority vote of SHFG members.

Of course, this was not the last time SHFG’s by-laws would be revised. I will discuss later revisions to them in a future column.

To learn more about the SHFG Archives, or if you have additional information or documentation on this or other SHFG matters, contact Chas Downs at chasdowns@verizon.net.
**Marine Corps Sets the Record Straight on Iwo Jima**

*Dr. Breanne Robertson and Dr. Alexandra Kindell*

On 23 February 2017, the USMC History Division held a symposium on the iconic flag raising that took place atop Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima, on that date in 1945. This was an all-day event with four sessions and ten speakers from various U.S. government agencies as well as civilian scholars and independent historians. The symposium, and the related follow-on book, was inspired by the announcement of the findings of the Huly Panel, convened to confirm the names of the participants from each of the two Iwo Jima flag raisings after evidence emerged of possible misidentification from the Del Valle investigation in 1947. The panelists informed the audience about the updated identifications of the flag raising participants as a result of the Huly Panel deliberations while also providing the historical and cultural context of the photographs and short film of the flag raising and its attendant meanings.

In April 2016, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert B. Neller, tasked LtGen Jan C. Huly (USMC ret.) to establish a board of review to investigate the claim of several independent historians that some of the flag raisers had been misidentified. During the four months that the Huly Panel members met, military historians and both active-duty and retired Marines carefully pored over visual and written evidence and determined that, indeed, there had been some misidentification. The flag raisers as represented in the photograph taken by SSgt Louis Lowery at the first raising have been identified as 1stLt Harold G. Schrier, PltSgt Ernest I. Thomas, Jr., Sgt Henry O. Hansen, PhM2c John H. Bradley, Cpl Charles W. Lindberg, and Pvt Philip L. Ward. The flag raisers in the famous photograph taken by AP photographer Joseph Rosenthal at the second raising have been re-identified as Sgt Michael Strank, Cpl Harlon H. Block, PFC Rene A. Gagnon, PFC Ira Hayes, PFC Harold H. Schultz, and PFC Franklin R. Sousley. In addition to a discussion of the panel’s actions to correct the historic record, the symposium addressed combat photography and wartime media coverage, along with Sgt William Genaust’s film and Felix de Weldon’s Marine Corps War Memorial sculpture in Arlington, Virginia, near the Arlington National Cemetery. As Rosenthal’s iconic image has become engrained in the Marines Corps’ virtual DNA, the symposium was held in the National Museum of the Marine Corps, built to abstractly mirror the flag raising.

This event, spurred by the release of the Huly Panel findings, highlighted the history and context of the flag raising and its iconic imagery, and the discussion will be continued in a follow-on book published by the USMC History Division and the Marine Corps University Press. Scheduled for release on the 73rd anniversary of the flag raisings, this 2018 publication will make the symposium topics available to anyone interested in the nation’s past. The publication will be provided free of charge, and you may order your copy in advance by emailing the press at MCU_Press@usmcu.edu.

*Dr. Breanne Robertson and Dr. Alexandra Kindell are historians with the USMC History Division.*

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**Donate to SHFG**

Support New SHFG Events

Please donate to SHFG’s current efforts to organize and promote new events and workshops. These events will provide opportunities for professional development: to meet colleagues, exchange ideas, and learn more about the federal community. We urge you to contribute to our General Fund. You can donate the amount of your choice, either by check or online payment (at [http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Donate](http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Donate))

Your donations also support all activities of the Society, including publication of *The Federalist* newsletter, *Federal History* journal, and stories and news for our website; our annual conference, the Richard G. Hewlett Lecture; and programming such as occasional tours, workshops, and social events that help students and historians develop in their careers.
The Watervliet Arsenal’s announcement last January that it had received a $47 million contract to manufacture howitzer cannons for the Indian army may have caught some in the community by surprise, as they may not have been aware the Arsenal was still operating, let alone able to provide manufacturing support to a foreign army.

But their lack of knowledge about the Army’s oldest, continuously operating arsenal may be understandable. After all, since their birth and the birth of their parents, grandparents, and great grandparents going back eight generations the Arsenal has been in operation. And now, with more than 200 years of operation, the historic arsenal may have simply become part of the community’s landscape.

The Army’s arsenal at Watervliet, N.Y., was built during the War of 1812 next to where goods and people flowed on and along the state’s major lines of communications, the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers. Since that warm, July day in 1813, the arsenal’s products have served with Soldiers in every conflict from the Battle of New Orleans to now supporting U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Despite such a proud history, the Arsenal workforce has learned that success on the battlefield does not necessarily translate to long-term success at Watervliet. Before the Soldiers from the Battle of New Orleans returned home in 1815, there were members in Congress and in the Army who believed the Arsenal should be closed. This debate would reappear after almost every major conflict over the last 200 years.

But the Arsenal has survived the ebbs and flows of defense budgets, and the subsequent calls for closure, for good reason. “Although the buildings, machinery, and uniforms have changed since 1813, the one thing that has not changed is the Arsenal workforce’s ability to leverage its unique capability and technology to support the emerging, critical needs of the American Soldier,” said Joseph Turcotte, the Arsenal’s deputy commander. “Today, the Army calls this process transformation, while the Arsenal workforce has, and still does today, call it survival.”

In the beginning, the Arsenal’s mission was to produce ammunition and small articles of equipment for the Army. Most of the work was performed by enlisted men. Civilian workers were typically hired by the day or week. Of particular note, women have been a critical part of the workforce since 1813.

Between the War of 1812 and 1824, the Arsenal nearly closed as the U.S. Congress did not appropriate any funds for improvements. In fact, it was not uncommon for the arsenal to go without funds to pay its workforce for five or more months. But once the Erie Canal, which ran through the Arsenal, was completed in 1824, a resurgence of interest of the Army’s arsenal at Watervliet had come full circle.

By the time of the Mexican-American War, the Arsenal had increased its footprint from 12 acres to nearly 90 acres to make room for nearly 20 new buildings.

During the Mexican American War, the Arsenal was manufacturing gun carriages so fast that they were shipped unpainted, but loaded with a keg of paint with the hope that Soldiers in
the field would finish their work.

By the time of the American Civil War, the Arsenal had become a premier ammunition supplier for the Northern Army. By 1863, the Arsenal had achieved the capability to produce more than 30 million cartridges a month. This was in addition to manufacturing other military requirements such as 18-pounder siege carriages, 10- and 12-pound canister shot, and saddles.

But it would not be until nearly 75 years after the Arsenal produced its first product that it was thrust into national prominence. In 1887, the Arsenal became the Army’s manufacturer of large caliber cannons. What this meant was that Arsenal production transformed from the manufacturing of saddles and gun carriages to cannons.

Remnants of this period are still in operation today as evidenced by the continued use of the historic, “The Big Gun Shop.” This gun shop once produced the 16-inch guns for U.S. Navy battleships and today, remains in operation housing machining operations for 155mm howitzer barrels, and the painting and packaging of all cannon products.

Just as America had its greatest generation during World War II, so did the Arsenal. Just prior to America entering the Great War, the Arsenal had fewer than 1,000 workers. By 1943, the workforce exploded to about 9,300, with more than 3,000 of those being women. From the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor to the landing at Normandy, the Arsenal manufactured and shipped more than 23,000 cannons with an on-time delivery rate exceeding 99 percent.

In the 1950s, the Arsenal provided critical war materiel to support combat operations in Korea. The 50s was also a time for “inventiveness” as Arsenal scientists, engineers, and machinists were focused on solving the problems of weaponry. Just about every major manufacturing operation, from quality inspections to heat treatment, were under review for improvement. New products that were researched, designed, and manufactured during this time period consisted of such items as 75mm antiaircraft guns to a new 90mm tank gun. In 1953, the Arsenal manufactured a 280mm cannon that became the first artillery-delivery system for nuclear munitions.

The 1960s and 70s continued to challenge the Arsenal, but in a good way. Production levels skyrocketed and new weapon programs were developed to support the U.S. war efforts in Southeast Asia. In addition to the production of large caliber tank and howitzer tubes, production lines were realigned to support the manufacture of non-standard product lines, such as engineer scissor bridges, grenade launchers, and helicopter parts.

Today, the Arsenal remains the Department of Defense’s only manufacturer of large caliber weapon systems, a fact that was solidified by Secretary of the Army John McHugh in 2013 when he designated the Arsenal as the Army’s Center of Industrial & Technical Excellence for manufacturing cannon and mortar systems. For Fiscal Year 2016, the Arsenal generated $126 million in revenue from a workforce of 540.

“The Arsenal’s manufacturing expertise provides our nation with a warm manufacturing base that it may call upon to surge or sustain its war fighters,” Turcotte said. “It is this sense of being, as some Army leaders have stated, that we have become the national security insurance policy for our nation.”

Although it may have become part of New York’s landscape, there are no other arsenals or depots in America that have such lineage, lineage that can pride itself on more than 200 years of continuous support to the nation’s men and women in uniform.

John B. Snyder is the Director of Public Affairs for Watervliet Arsenal.
Recent Publications

Many recent federal agency publications are featured at http://shfg.org/shfg/category/recentpublications/

The Naval History and Heritage Command has published *H. L. Hunley: Recovery Operations* by Robert S. Neyland and Heather G. Brown. This comprehensive archaeological report covers the recovery of Civil War submarine *H. L. Hunley*, from the planning stages through execution. It also contains a detailed description of objects excavated from the seabed and provides an analysis of the hull in the state it was found at the time of recovery. The submarine was taken to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in North Charleston, South Carolina, for conservation. Further reports documenting the excavation of the interior, including crew remains, personal effects, and hull components will be forthcoming. *H. L. Hunley: Recovery Operations* is available at the Naval History and Heritage Command website here: https://www.history.navy.mil/research/underwater-archaeology/sites-and-projects/ship-wrecksites/hl-hunley/recovery-report.html.

The Glenn Research Center has published *NASA’s Hydrogen Outpost: The Rocket Systems Area at Plum Brook Station* by archivist Robert S. Arrighai. It tells the story of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Glenn Research Center’s remote testing area, Plum Brook Station. Plum Brook played a little known, but important role in the Center’s hydrogen research efforts in the 1950s and 1960s. This publication focuses on the activities at the Rocket Systems Area, but it also discusses hydrogen’s role in NASA’s space program and Glenn’s overall hydrogen work. The Rocket Systems Area included nine physically modest test sites and three test stands dedicated to liquid-hydrogen-related research. “There was pretty much a general knowledge about hydrogen and its capabilities,” recalled former researcher Robert Graham. “The question was, could you use it in a rocket engine? Do we have the technology to handle it? How will it cool? Will it produce so much heat release that we can’t cool the engine? These were the questions that we had to address.” The Center played a critical role transforming hydrogen’s theoretical potential into a flight-ready propellant. Since then NASA has utilized liquid hydrogen to send humans and robots to the Moon, propel dozens of spacecraft across the universe, orbit scores of satellite systems, and power 135 space shuttle flights. Read NASA’s *Hydrogen Outpost: The Rocket Systems Area at Plum Brook Station* here at the NASA Technical Reports Server: https://ntrs.nasa.gov/.

The U.S. Army Center of Military History is pleased to present a new pamphlet in the U.S. Army Campaigns of the Vietnam War series. *Taking the Offensive, October 1966–September 1967*, by Glenn F. Williams, begins with a discussion of Operation ATTLEBORO in Tay Ninh Province. The largest allied operation to date in the war, ATTLEBORO forced the 9th PLAF Division to abandon its attack on Suoi Da Special Forces camp and cost over 1,000 enemy lives. Additional action in War Zone C, including Operations CEDAR FALLS, JUNCTION CITY, and JUNCTION CITY II, highlight the U.S. Army effort to disrupt the network of camps and supply stores of the North Vietnamese main force units through ground and air assault. Operations in Binh Dinh Province—THAYER I, THAYER II, PERSHING, and LEJUNE—continued to inflict heavy losses on the enemy. The efforts of the U.S. Army throughout Vietnam during this time allowed for growing political stability in South Vietnam leading up to the 3 September 1967 election. This pamphlet contains twelve maps and fifteen illustrations.

Dr. Glenn F. Williams is a historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History. A retired Army Infantry officer, he holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Maryland. His publications include *Year of the Hangman: George Washington’s Campaign Against the Iroquois* (Westholme, 2006) and *Dunmore’s War: The Last Conflict of America’s Colonial Era* (Westholme, 2017). He is a contributing author of *The Panama Canal: An Army’s Enterprise* (Center of Military History, 2009). Williams has also worked at the National Museum of the U.S. Army, the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service, and as curator of exhibits for the USS *Constellation* Museum.

The Center of Military History (CMH) provides the United States Army, from senior civilian and military leaders to individual soldiers, with an awareness of history. The purposes are to educate and inform. Other military services, policymakers, government agencies, and the public at large also benefit from the Center’s
history program. To those ends, CMH produces publications on the history of the United States Army for worldwide distribution, administers the Army’s far-ranging field history operations, and manages the Army’s museums both stateside and abroad. CMH publishes books, monographs, pamphlets, CD-ROMs, historical map posters, and the professional bulletin Army History. For more about the Center, go to www.history.army.mil; the home page also provides a link to CMH’s online book catalog.

The Department of State has published Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977–1980, Volume XXIII, Mexico, Cuba, and the Caribbean. This volume is part of a subseries of volumes of the Foreign Relations series that documents the foreign policy decision making of the administration of President Jimmy Carter. The nine compilations in this volume examine the Carter administration’s foreign policy toward fourteen Caribbean nations, and the Caribbean as a whole.

The volume documents the attempted coup in the Dominican Republic, attempts to normalize relations with Cuba, U.S.-Mexican natural gas negotiations, the opening of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, the Soviet military presence in Cuba, the Mariel Sealift, and the Jonestown Massacre. The debate among U.S. policymakers about whether to promote a regional identity and culture for Caribbean nations and the intersection of Carter’s human rights agenda with autocratic rule in nations like Haiti also receives focus.


The U.S. Department of State has published Foreign Relations of the United States, 1981–1988, Volume VI, Soviet Union, October 1986–January 1989. This volume is part of a subseries of volumes of the Foreign Relations series that documents the foreign policy decision making of the administration of President Ronald Reagan. The second release of four Soviet bilateral volumes, it commences immediately following the dramatic encounter at Reykjavik, on October 10–11, 1986, where U.S. and Soviet leaders propelled the negotiation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) and the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), and focuses on subsequent interactions between and among President Ronald Reagan, Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, Secretary of State George Shultz, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Included are internal deliberations and memoranda of conversation from the December 1987 Washington Summit, where Reagan and Gorbachev signed the landmark INF Treaty, and the May 1988 Moscow Summit, where Reagan stood with Gorbachev in Red Square and stated his phrase from 5 years earlier—“evil empire”—applied to “another time, another era.”


The Marine Corps University Press just released a book titled The Dilemma of Lawlessness: Organized Crime, Violence, Prosperity, and Security along Guatemala’s Borders. Authored by four CNA analysts—Ralph Espach, Daniel Haering, Javier Meléndez Quiñonez, and Miguel Castillo Giron—they explore in-depth three towns typical of Guatemala’s border regions and examine the economic, political, and security effects of the amplification of the drug trade in their streets, across their rivers, and on their footpaths. The cases reveal that trade has brought prosperity, but also danger, as illegal profits penetrate local businesses, government offices, and churches as longstanding local smuggling networks must contend with or accommodate the interests of Mexican cartels. The authors argue persuasively for the importance of cultivating local community capital to strengthen these communities’ resiliency in the face of these threats.

A free copy can be requested by contacting the press at MCU_Press@umscu.edu. If you are interested in publishing a book with the press or an article in the MCU Journal, please contact the acquisitions editor, SHFG member Alexandra Kindell at alexkindell@gmail.com. The press is always looking for new book reviewers as well.
The Library will be built in Chicago's Jackson Park and is expected to be administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Barack Obama Presidential Library, which will become part of the Presidential Libraries system administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Barack Obama Presidential Library is the fourteenth library to become part of the Presidential Libraries system administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Library will be built in Chicago's Jackson Park and is expected to be open to the public in 2021.

With the launch of ObamaLibrary.gov, the National Archives is pleased to provide access to:

- biographical information about the President and First Lady,
- an interactive timeline of key events, illustrated by documents, photos, and video from our holdings,
- multimedia galleries that provide a look inside the Obama presidency,
- resources for research, and
- the Obama Administration’s WhiteHouse.gov websites and social media content.

**Business History Conference**

The Business History Conference (BHC), the largest professional organization of business historians in the United States, has cancelled plans to hold its 2018 annual meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. Its decision is in response to the adoption of the HB2 bill by the state government, and the subsequent rejection of a repeal of the measure by the North Carolina legislature. BHC will instead hold its 2018 annual meeting at the Baltimore Embassy Suites Inner Harbor.

**Make History**

**Arlington National Cemetery**

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) and the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) have teamed together to create a joint exhibit on the First World War that will open on April 6, 2017, the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entry into the Great War. The exhibit will focus on the American experience in the war, and how ANC and ABMC were focal points for remembrance and commemoration of the Great War after the conflict ended.

**Army Historical Foundation**

This is an exciting time in the development of the National Museum of the United States Army—Construction is underway at Fort Belvoir, VA! Crews are on-site installing erosion and sediment measures, performing rough leveling of future roadways and utilities infrastructure. In early 2017 construction on the actual building itself is expected to begin. Follow the construction at https://armyhistory.org/construction-updates.

**Atomic Heritage Foundation**

After being closed more than a year for renovation, the Los Alamos History Museum celebrated its grand reopening on December 30, 2016. It traces Los Alamos’s history from the Ancestral Puebloans through the Manhattan Project to today. The Museum incorporates numerous oral histories from Manhattan Project participants from Atomic Heritage Foundation’s “Voices of the Manhattan Project” collection (http://manhattanprojectvoices.org). Many are first-hand accounts of life in the “Secret City.” In a Reflections Gallery, Manhattan Project veterans recall the Trinity Test and discuss their reactions to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Visitors are asked to share their opinions on the responsibility of scientists for how their discoveries are used.

The Atomic Heritage Foundation is also pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the IEEE Foundation to support a Ranger in Your Pocket program on “Los Alamos Innovations.” The program will focus on seven seminal technologies associated with the Manhattan Project. The program will incorporate first-hand accounts by scientists and engineers explaining the challenges they faced and how they approached them. Drawing from interviews with leading historians of science and other experts, the vignettes will provide multiple perspectives on the impacts of these innovations over the course of the last seven decades. See Atomic Heritage Foundation Ranger in Your Pocket programs here: http://www.atomicheritage.org/tours.

**Barack Obama Presidential Library**

On January 20, 2017, the National Archives and Records Administration launched the Barack Obama Library website at ObamaLibrary.gov, including access to archived web and social media content. The Barack Obama Presidential Library is the fourteenth library to become part of the Presidential Libraries system administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Library will be built in Chicago’s Jackson Park and is expected to be open to the public in 2021.

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Department of Defense

The Defense Digital Service (DDS), in collaboration with the Deputy Chief Management Officer (DCMO) and data owners throughout the U.S. military, has launched an exciting experimental online project: Data.mil. Data.mil allows users to explore and download historical defense data, and aims to provide users with an in depth understanding of the data, how it was created, and its potential value in industry and the public to foster creative analysis. And Data.mil will experiment with different policy initiatives and technical features, learning lessons that can be used by data owners throughout the military.

Data.mil currently features the THOR dataset on Vietnam and Korean conflict data. THOR is only the first dataset however—data on defense logistics, personnel, facilities, research, and engineering is planned to be uploaded in the future. Data targeted for public release will also depend on public feedback. If you are a member of DoD and have data you think should be posted on Data.mil, let us know and we will work with you through the appropriate review and clearance processes. If you have suggestions on what we should feature, don’t be shy. We want to hear from you!

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library

On February 19, 2017—the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066—the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum opened a new photographic exhibition entitled, “Images of Internment: The Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II,” with over 200 photographs including the work of Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams. Signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Executive Order 9066 led to the incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese descent—including approximately 80,000 American citizens—during World War II. The exhibit will be on display in the Library’s William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery through December 31, 2017. See https://fdrlibrary.org/exhibitions for more information.

George W. Bush Presidential Library


Library of Congress

In November 2016, the Library of Congress signed a memorandum of understanding with the Digital Public Library of America to become a “content hub partner” and will ultimately share a significant portion of its rich digital resources with DPLA’s database of digital content records. The first batch of records will include 5,000 items from three major Library of Congress maps collections—the Revolutionary War, Civil War and panoramic maps collections. The Digital Public Library of America is a portal—that aggregates existing digitized content from major sources such as libraries, archives, museums and cultural institutions. It provides users with links back to the original content-provider site where the material can be viewed, read or, in some cases, downloaded.

The Library also announced that the stories of Americans in World War I—General John J. Pershing, soldiers, nurses and Red Cross volunteers—will come to light in a major exhibition at the Library of Congress opening April 4. “Echoes of the Great War: American Experiences of World War I” will open Tuesday, April 4, in the Southwest Gallery on the second floor of the Library’s Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First St. S.E., Washington, D.C. The exhibition—made possible in part by the Library of Congress Third Century Fund—is free and open to the public through January 2019, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Tickets are not needed.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Langley Research Center has been preparing for its centennial and celebrating with pre-centennial events for the past few years. The Center dates its beginning from the groundbreaking of the first NACA Langley administration and research building on July 17, 1917. In 2017, the celebration will culminate with events for employees and the public. Check the Langley Research Center website for updates at https://www.nasa.gov/langley.

National Council on Public History

On February 20, 2017, NCPH issued a statement in support of federal public history workers amid concern “about tightened controls and censorship of federal workers, including those working in the fields of history, heritage, and cultural conservation.” The statement urges “the current administration to look upon history, heritage, and cultural conservation workers, as well as all federal workers, not as adversaries, but as partners in the sound governance of the United States.” Read the full text here at http://ncph.org/phc/statement-of-support-federal-workers.

National Endowment for the Humanities

The NEH Digital Repository (https://neh.dspacedirect.org) offers access to a growing collection that documents the history of the Endowment and its role as the largest federal funder of the humanities in the United States. The collection offers a unique perspective on the evolution of humanities research and public programs, federal government priorities since 1965, and the impact of NEH grantmaking.

Materials available to the public through the Public Reading Room include a wide variety of archival records such as grant program guidelines, photographs from the Jefferson Lecture and other special events, press releases, and NEH publications. We are continually adding items based on their historical significance and interest to the public.

National Museum of Forest Service History

Since the inception of the Museum, considerable and extensive
effort has been put into “behind the scenes” work of collecting, archiving and cataloging important historical artifacts. We have an estimated 50,000 artifacts in our possession and have used museum industry best practices in painstakingly cataloging these objects, photographs, letters, journals, and other documents. These items are made available for researchers, educators, other museums, and are used in virtual and traveling exhibits managed by the Museum. In 2016 we have elevated our collection to an online venue. This major endeavor is a work-in-progress and will allow anyone with internet access to easily view and use the vast information we have to offer. See it here at http://forestservicemuseum.pastperfectonline.com.

**National Park Service**

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell joined U.S. Senators Charles Schumere, Kristen Gillibrand and U.S. Congressman John Katko as well as community and park partners at a signing ceremony formally establishing the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park (NHP), in Auburn, New York on January 10, 2017. The new park commemorates the work of the fearless Underground Railroad conductor during her later years in life, when she was an active proponent of womens’ suffrage and other causes. The park is located at the site where Tubman lived and worshiped in Auburn, New York, caring for family members and other formerly enslaved people seeking safe haven in the North.

The Park Service also recently celebrated President Barack Obama’s designation of three new national monuments to recognize the nation’s journey from the Civil War to the modern Civil Rights Movement. Building on the Administration’s commitment to protecting places that are culturally and historically significant and that reflect the story of all Americans, President Obama designated the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument in Birmingham, Alabama, the Freedom Riders National Monument in Anniston, Alabama and the Reconstruction Era National Monument in Beaufort County, South Carolina, to honor historic sites in both states that played an important role in American civil rights history.

Additionally, the Department of the Interior announced the designation of 24 new national historic landmarks including: the Medgar and Myrlie Evers House in Jackson, Mississippi; the Greenhills Historic District in Greenhills, Ohio; Casa José Antonio Navarro in San Antonio, Texas; the George Read II House in New Castle, Delaware; and the May 4, 1970, Kent State Shootings Site in Kent, Ohio. The full list is here: https://www.doii.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-24-new-national-historic-landmarks.

**National Preservation Institute**

The National Preservation Institute offers a series of professional training seminars for the management, development, and preservation of historic, cultural, and environmental resources related to historic preservation and cultural resource management. Training seminars focus on topics of current concern to professionals involved in the management and stewardship of cultural and historic resources, charged with compliance and contracting, and/or involved in the cultural resource and environmental management process. NPI’s professional training seminars are taught by nationally recognized educators, consultants, and practitioners in historic preservation, archaeology, architecture and landscape architecture, conservation, engineering, historical research, laws and regulations, planning, restoration, technology, and cultural resource management. The seminar format encourages discussion and allows time to focus on issues of particular interest to the group. Participants return to the workplace with new skills and knowledge immediately applicable to the current concerns of their organizations or clients. For a list of seminars topics, dates, locations, and registration information visit: http://www.npi.org/Seminars.

**National Publications and Records Commission**

Over one hundred and fifty years have passed since the end of the United States Civil War and it still captures the imagination and passion of young and old. Drawing together the expertise of four organizations—the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens; the Papers of Abraham Lincoln at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; North Carolina State University; and Zooniverse—along with a two-year grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), Decoding the Civil War’s goal is to use the transcription and decoding of Civil War telegrams from The Thomas T. Eckert Papers to harness this fascination and engage new and younger audiences using crowdsourcing technology to spark their curiosity and develop new critical thinking skills: https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zooniverse/decoding-the-civil-war.

The transcription and decoding will contribute to national research, as each participant will become a “citizen archivist,” creating materials that will be of use and widely available to scholars interested in telegraphy, cryptography, communications during wartime, technology, civilian-military relations, and many other aspects of the Civil War or American history more generally. Perhaps the most meaningful outcome is that the collaborative will provide public access to previously unavailable historical records in a format that will lead to a better understanding of communications, technology, and the course of the Civil War.

**National Woman’s Party**

As millions of people marched throughout the country and across the world on Saturday, January 21st, more than 1,000 people came through the doors of the Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument. The #WomensMarch brought energy and excitement to an array of policy issues as women and men of all ages gathered to exercise their first amendment rights. While this has now been labeled one of the largest demonstrations in history, it was not the first. On March 3, 1913, the NWP organized a procession down Pennsylvania Avenue the day before Woodrow Wilson’s inauguration to make sure the fight for the right to vote made the front page of newspapers around the country and topped the agenda in Congress and the White House.

The work of the NWP continues; preserving the archival collection and sharing the story of the NWP and the ongoing work for women’s
equality is critical, and to do this we need your help. We’re asking you to donate your artifacts and tell your story. If you or someone you know marched on Saturday, please let us know if you have objects from the march you can share with us. These materials may be added to the collection or used in an exhibition or program to continue the conversation about women’s rights. If you want to keep your artifacts, we would still love to have a record of your story. Visit nationalwomansparty.org/collections/artifact-collections for more information.

National Women’s History Museum

In commemoration of International Human Rights Day, the National Women’s History Museum’s latest exhibit Women in Peace and Conflict explores some key women and their advocacy during times of peace and conflict in protecting the rights of all people. From 19th century activist Ida B. Wells to early 20th century reformer Jane Addams, the exhibit explores how women worked inside and outside the political system to promote and push for change. From calling for international disarmament to promoting nonviolence, racial justice and peace movements. See Women in Peace and Conflict here https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/w/0/exhibit/kAIIX5aygsD11Q.

Pinckney Statesmen Papers

In December 2016, the Pinckney Statesmen Papers Project announced the publication of Volume 1 of the Papers of the Revolutionary Era Pinckney Statesmen Digital Edition. The volume is available online now through Rotunda, the digital imprint of the University of Virginia Press, at http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/PNKY.html. The Papers of the Revolutionary Era Pinckney Statesmen Digital Edition is a multi-year initiative to collect, transcribe, annotate, and publish the correspondence and other public and private papers of Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (1746–1825), his brother Thomas Pinckney (1750–1828), and their cousin Charles Pinckney (1757–1824). These three South Carolina men played leading roles in military, political, economic, social, and diplomatic affairs on the state and national stages from the American Revolution through the War of 1812.

Public Interest Declassification Board

In December 2016, the White House announced the declassification and release of records related to human rights abuses committed under Argentina’s 1976–1983 dictatorship. President Obama committed to prioritizing the declassification of these records in March 2016, including the release for the first time of records from U.S. intelligence, law enforcement, and defense agencies. You can view the records at https://icontherecord.tumblr.com/.

The declassified records originate from four Presidential Libraries operated by the National Archives and Records Administration. The successful release of these 550 pages of records underscores the PIDB’s recommendation that agencies should continue to prioritize the declassification review of records from the Presidential Libraries.

Society for First World War Studies

There have been some exciting new developments concerning the collaborative online bibliography of First World War Studies. After the initial signing of a cooperation agreement with the 1914–1918 Online Encyclopedia bibliography (http://www.1914-1918-online.net/) in 2014, we have now been able to overcome the technical hurdles and shared our respective bibliographies. This means when you consult the International Society of First World War Studies bibliography you have access not only to the over 6000 references we had originally collected there, but also to the over 6000 references (duplicates excluded) which come from the bibliographical indications in the Online Encyclopedia—all sorted according to our established categories and sub-categories and, in due course, the Society references will be appearing in the third-party “additional content” which will be added to the Encyclopedia in the next stage of development. See the First World War Studies bibliography here: https://www.zotero.org/groups/first_world_war_studies_bibliography/items.

Trust for the National Mall

Representatives from the National Park Service and the Trust for the National Mall held a symbolic groundbreaking in December 2016 for the relocation and rehabilitation of the Lockkeeper’s House at the corner of 17th and Constitution Avenue. Built in 1835, the 400,000-pound building will be moved further from the intersection in June 2017 and undergo renovation to serve as an educational space.

White House Historical Association

The White House Historical Association announced a new educational offering, The 1600 Sessions podcast series, telling the stories and traditions of the Executive mansion where the president works and the first family lives. Hosted by White House Historical Association President Stewart McLaurin, the series will feature experts, luminaries and eyewitnesses to history as it explores the nation’s most iconic landmark.

The inaugural episode “Moving Day,” released as the White House prepared for inauguration, focuses on presidential transitions from the perspective of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Anita McBride, veteran of four presidential transitions, joins to discuss the behind-closed-doors details of the changes that occur inside the White House as it is prepared for a new president and first family.

Each future episode will include a prominent guest to discuss varying facets of White House history, including insights from former staff and many other topical issues. The 1600 Sessions will be available on iTunes, GooglePlay, and SoundCloud. To hear the full episode, visit The1600Sessions.org and learn more about White House history at whitehousehistory.org.
**Federalist Calendar**


**Oct. 19–21, 2017.** Ohio Valley History. 33rd Annual Conference. Murray State University in Murray, KY


**Jan. 4–7, 2018.** American Historical Association. 132nd Annual Meeting. “Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism in Global Perspective.” Washington, DC


Additional listings at [http://shfg.org/shfg/category/calendar/](http://shfg.org/shfg/category/calendar/)