

SHFG HOLDS 30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE; KEYNOTE SPEAKER ROGER LAUNIUS RECEIVES TRASK AWARD

On March 19, more than 140 attendees gathered at Archives II in College Park, MD, for the Society's 30th Annual Conference and Awards Luncheon. Speakers at the plenary session and 10 concurrent sessions covered topics ranging from the Civil War, citizen initiatives, and scientific programs to digitization, contracting, and Congressional committee case studies, among others.

PLENARY SESSION

Chair: Lee Ann Potter, National Archives

SHFG President Lee Ann Potter opened the 2009 Annual Conference with personal recollections of her own discovery of history through visits to historic sites as a child, and with praise for the founders of SHFG who organized the first annual conference in 1979. She then turned the podium over to Vice President Mike Reis, who presented the Trask Award to Roger Launius of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum (*see box, right*).

Upon receiving the award, Launius delivered SHFG's inaugural Trask Lecture, "Federal History and National Identity: Reflections from the Trenches." Launius posed questions about the role of federal historians at a time when consensus history is more popular than ever, and revisionist history continues to be demonized. The "One Nation/One People" consensus history perspective that prevails emphasizes a positive approach to the telling of American history that seeks to enhance citizenship by indoctrinating the young, focuses on American exception-

See "Annual Conference" continued on page 3



Roger Launius (center) receives Trask Award from SHFG President Lee Ann Potter and Vice President Mike Reis.

LAUNIUS RECEIVES INAUGURAL TRASK AWARD

The Society for History in the Federal Government awarded its 1st Annual Roger R. Trask Award to Roger D. Launius, Senior Curator at the Division of Space History, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, and SHFG Past President (2003-4), at the Society's conference on March 19, 2009. Launius received the award "In recognition of his commitment to federal history at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, his promotion of the mission of the Society, and his generous mentoring of colleagues."

See "Trask Award" continued on page 3

INSIDE

SHFG 30th Annual Conference	1
President's Message	2
SHFG 2009 Awards	4
The Air Force Historial Foundation Symposium	13

Internships in Federal History	14
From the Archives	15
VA's Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibit Hits the Road, <i>Darlene Richardson, VHA Historian</i>	16
Making History	16



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lee Ann Potter

Thank you for allowing me to serve as this year's president of the Society for History in the Federal Government! Among the highlights was welcoming more than 130 of you to our annual meeting on March 19, at the National Archives in College Park, MD.

In my opening remarks that day, I reminded you that SHFG is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year and I asked you to recall where you were in 1979.

In case you needed a bit of a memory jog, I reported that Jimmy Carter was President, the National Archives was part of GSA, a gallon of gas cost 86 cents, the Dow Jones Industrial Average hit a high of 907 points, and the Median Household income was just over \$16,000. I invited you to tell your neighbor where you were and what you were doing then—and I must say, I think your stories fueled some good conversations!

Then, I told the following story:

In 1979, I was eleven years old and attending the 6th grade. In my language arts class, we were assigned to read The Diary of Anne Frank. While reading it, naturally, my classmates and I had many questions. To help us answer our questions, my teacher, Mr. Brimms, encouraged us do various research tasks—one of which was to write letters to Anne's father, Otto.

Mr. Brimms selected one of our letters to send on behalf of our entire class. Although mine was not selected, my friend Mark's was. His letter included questions, as well as a message of thanks for sharing his daughter's story with us. A few weeks later, Mark received a letter back from Otto Frank. I no longer remember what the letter said (it may have even been just a form letter), but, I vividly remember

being stunned and excited that he'd written back—and that our interest had been acknowledged.

My interest in history was forever changed after that. I'd always enjoyed going to museums and historic sites, but now my understanding of history had changed. History was no longer just a noun. Now it was a verb—it was about asking questions, conducting research, making connections, and building relationships. A year later, when Otto Frank passed away, I remember taking the news quite hard—but I was even more aware of the passage of time, the value of our research—and the importance of the effort we'd made as a class to make a connection with him.

Obviously, at eleven, my life was not directly connected to the Council on History in the Federal Government—what became the Society for History in the Federal Government—yet what I learned about history at the same time the Society was forming, I think, reflects the sentiments of the Society's founders, our field in general, and certainly the goals of the annual conference: asking good questions, making connections, and building relationships.

A couple of weeks ago, Mike Reis and Charles Downs spent some time looking through the SHFG Archives—and shared some highlights with me. One was a 12-page article about the first decade of the Society. It alluded to an academic job crisis; highlighted tensions between academic and public historians, and voiced concerns that the relative isolation of federal historians was detrimental to their professional growth. Thus, the time was right for SHFG to form.

The document included the names of many still in our midst, and some who have passed, and others whom I have never met, but whose actions back then benefited all of us today.

What I liked most about what I read, is that the history of SHFG is all about people and their motivation and their actions. We would not be meeting here today, as a community of federal historians, were it not for their efforts.

Then, I asked those of you who were involved in the Society for History in the Federal Government from the

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beginning, or at least the first five years, to stand so that the rest of us could thank you for your pioneering efforts, your commitment to history, and your on-going support of the Society. I was pleased to see quite a few of you stand, and it was an honor to join my colleagues in applauding!

As most of you know, in June, my family and I will be moving to Oslo for a year. I have received a Fulbright Grant to serve as a Roving Scholar of American Studies in Norway. Although I will be taking a leave of absence from NARA, my work will be quite similar: I will conduct workshops for

teachers and students in the upper secondary schools on topics related to United States history and government. If I receive questions that I am unable to answer, you can bet I will be calling on you—my colleagues in the federal history community!

It is my pleasure to pass the torch to Mike Reis. He and the newly elected council have wonderful ideas for leading the society! And I look forward to resuming my SHFG involvement when I return. Thank you all for your good wishes!

Annual Conference, continued from page 1

alism, nationalism, triumphalism, and nostalgia, and views with suspicion advocates who incorporate alternative historical perspectives into their arguments.

But all history, Launius pointed out, is revisionist, it is never neutral or objective, and it can always be used either to change or reinforce society or to promote or challenge common sets of values. The far-from-innocent use of history to define national identity has led to what Launius called “history wars.” Champions of consensus and triumphalist history have fought those wars through television programs, books, exhibitions, and even legislation, that have sought to control the past through propounding themes of national unity, capitalism, and traditional morality, to the exclusion of all else. The education policy of ex-Florida Governor Jeb Bush exemplified that approach, with its overt requirement that history lessons should inculcate patriotism, respect for authority, and a faith in the free enterprise system.

Rather than striving to present alternative perspectives on American history, some federal historians have engaged in self-censorship. Launius reported that this was “very true” even at the Air and Space Museum, where he is senior curator. The “America by Air” exhibit that opened in the fall of 2007, he observed, failed to examine many aspects of air transport, omitted serious discussion of air safety, and even avoided the issue of increasingly uncomfortable passenger seating. The exhibit’s curator admitted that he censored his own work in order to avoid antagonizing the airlines who helped provide the funding. In areas more controversial than the history of commercial air transport, Launius said, the self-censorship can be even greater.

Given the possibilities for controversial exhibits, the validity of multiple stories with many differing perspectives, the appeal of vernacular, personal history, the role of

See “Annual Conference” continued on page 5

Trask Award, continued from page 1

Launius was formerly Chair of the Division of Space History at the Smithsonian, and before that served as Chief Historian at NASA and as Historian at the U.S. Air Force. He is a graduate of Graceland College (now Graceland University) in Lamoni, Iowa, and earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in history at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. He has published numerous books and articles on the history of the space program, and appears frequently on televised documentaries. His most recent volume in space history is *Robots in Space: Technology, Evolution, and Interplanetary Travel* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008). He has also published biographies of Joseph Smith and Alexander William Doniphan, and *Seasons in the Sun: The Story of Big League Baseball in Missouri* (University of Missouri Press, 2002).

Before his death in 2008, Roger R. Trask was one of the most distinguished members of the federal history community. A professor and department chair at Macalester College (1964-74) and the University of South Florida (1974-80), Trask served as Chief Historian of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (1977-78), Deputy Chief Historian of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (1980-87), and Chief Historian at the General Accounting Office (1987-93). He served as president of SHFG in 1990-91.

SHFG established the Trask Award in 2008 to honor Trask’s memory and his distinguished career as a pioneer and mentor in federal history. The award was proposed by a group of Trask’s former colleagues, who generously contributed to a fund that would support the award. The Society is pleased to accept nominations for the award, to be given to persons whose careers and achievements reflect a commitment to, and an understanding of, the unique importance of federal history work and the Society’s mission.

For further information on the life and career of Roger R. Trask, see the Spring 2008 issue of *The Federalist*; for more information on the Trask Award, see the Winter 2008-9 issue of *The Federalist*.

SHFG ANNOUNCES 2009 AWARDS

The Annual Awards Luncheon was one of the highlights of the 2009 SHFG Conference. Awards Committee Chair Henry J. Gwiazda served as Master of Ceremonies for the award presentations. President Lee Ann Potter bestowed the President's Pin on immediate Past President Bill Williams. In addition to the awards presented at the luncheon, SHFG presented Roger Launius with the Roger R. Trask Award at the morning plenary session (see page 1).

HENRY ADAMS PRIZE

Kathleen Burk, *Old World, New World: Great Britain and America from the Beginning* (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2008)

GEORGE PENDLETON PRIZE

John Parascandola, *Sex, Sin, and Science: A History of Syphilis in America* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2008)

JAMES MADISON PRIZE

Gautham Rao, "The Federal Posse Comitatus Doctrine: Slavery, Compulsion, and Statecraft in Mid-Nineteenth Century America," *Law and History Review* 26 (Spring 2008): 1-56.

CHARLES THOMSON PRIZE

Suzanne White Junod, "FDA and Clinical Drug Trials: A Short History," in Madhu Davies and Faiz Kermani, ed., *A Quick Guide to Clinical Trials: For People Who May Not Know It All*, April 2008, 21-51.

THOMAS JEFFERSON PRIZE (RESEARCH TOOLS)

Marc Rothenberg, ed, *The Papers of Joseph Henry: Vol. 11, The Smithsonian Years: January 1866-May 1878* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, in association with Science History Publications/USA, 2007),

JOHN WESLEY POWELL PRIZE (HISTORIC PRESERVATION)

Robert Arrighi, "Altitude Wind Tunnel at NASA Glenn Research Center: An Interactive History" DVD.

MARYELLEN TRAUTMAN AWARD

Charles Downs – For his distinguished service to the Society since 1982, as its official photographer, as the Society's archivist, and for his many contributions to a variety of Society events and activities.



Robert Arrighi
receives Powell
Prize from Lin Ezell.



Susan White Junod
receives Thomson
Prize from Larry
Dewitt.



Marc Rothenberg (center) receives Jefferson Prize from Matt Wasniewski and Frank Millikan.



Kathleen Burk (left) receives Adams Prize from Marilyn Parr.



Lee Ann Potter presents Charles Downs with the Maryellen Trautman Award.



Maryellen Trautman congratulates Charles Downs for receiving the award bearing her name in honor of distinguished service to the Society.



John Parascandola (left) receives Pendleton Prize from Roger Launius.



With the President's Pin having just been affixed to his lapel, Immediate Past President Bill Williams addresses guests at the Awards Luncheon.

officially sanctioned history, and the impulse to rein oneself in rather than fight battles, Launius asked: how can federal historians “be true to our craft and to our agencies? What is our role? What is our legacy?”

Launius’s presentation prompted a lively discussion, focusing especially on the issue of self-censorship. The exchange suggested that self-censorship could reflect different agendas, and not just those that endorsed consensus history. Federal historians, one attendee noted, censor themselves to avoid antagonizing not just the Right side but also the Left side of the political spectrum.

SESSION 1A: “FROM ONE TO ZERO TO ONE: THE DELICATE TASK OF SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION IN FEDERAL HISTORY OFFICES”

Chair: R. Michael McReynolds, National Archives [ret.]

NARA’s former Textual Reference Division Director R. Michael McReynolds stated that the “core hope” of SHFG at its founding was to increase the number of federal history offices. The corollary to this hope, he continued, was to keep ongoing history programs active after their long-time chiefs retired. To discuss how to keep programs alive, this session brought together two historians who

worked to keep their offices in place after they retired, and one historian who took over the reins after a program’s founder retired.

During the last year of her tenure at the History Office of the National Institutes of Health, Victoria A. Harden devoted herself to facilitating a smooth transition to her successor as director. Harden explained that her strategy included attempting to move the office to an NIH compo-



L–R: Mike McReynolds, Vicki Harden, George Mazuzan, and Leo Slater at “From One to Zero to One: The Delicate Task of Transition in Federal History Offices.”

ment whose mission was more compatible with that of a history program than was the communications division, and which could also provide greater support. It also involved writing a position description, furnishing pertinent information to decisionmakers, and forming an advisory group to aid in the search for a new director. But Harden encountered significant obstacles, including a tendency to regard history as little more than “old news,” the failure of NIH scientists to understand the field of history or the qualifications that a historian should meet, and a common conviction that history programs were just a luxury. Consequently, Harden’s efforts failed to ensure that a successor would be selected by the time she left. Transfer of the history office to the Office of Intramural Research did not occur until a week before Harden’s retirement. A scientist with no historical training oversaw the office on an interim basis for more than 18 months, during which morale crashed and employees resigned. NIH did not even begin to recruit for a new historian until more than a year after Harden’s retirement. Ultimately, an excellent candidate—with both a Ph.D. in history and an M.D.—was selected, but two and a half years had elapsed since Harden had first announced her retirement, and the severe delay made it necessary to rebuild much of the program.

Former Chief Historian of the National Science Foundation (NSF) George Mazuzan then described how he was able to perpetuate the NSF history program and, before that, the history program at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by establishing credibility, serving constituencies, and capitalizing on organizational location. He built credibility at the NRC by producing books that were not only acceptable to the Commission and readable, but that also earned scholarly recognition and avoided labeling as “official history.” To achieve this, he suc-

cessfully fought for an exemption permitting him to publish through university presses. He also made the most of his position within the Office of the Commissioner by accepting additional duties that enhanced the value of his program. He continued that practice at NSF, where his history office was part of the Director’s Office. He was able to accept management assignments, oversee the writing of the Director’s speeches, serve as the agency’s historic preservation officer, and carried out other tasks that helped protect his history “billet.” As at the NRC, his program was able to publish through university presses, but he also cultivated support by going to different offices in NSF to secure funding for books about their specialties. Thus, his program was able to function almost like a grantee providing a service to patrons, and did not have to rely solely on its own appropriations.

For Leo Slater, the Historian of the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), the challenge was to revitalize a program that had been moribund since his predecessor’s death three years earlier. No transition plan had been in place, there had been no programming for three years, and there were not even any electronic files (Slater’s predecessor’s computer having been wiped clean by NRL upon his death). Yet Slater found that NRL valued its history office, and in reestablishing the operation he was able to build on continuity in reporting, continuity in records management, and continuity of good will. He marketed his program by meeting with top officials, circulating a memo on the importance of division histories, and traveling to NRL centers outside Washington. He raised awareness and served NRL through public history initiatives that included collecting artifacts and archives, commemorating NRL anniversaries, responding to inquiries, and conducting oral history interviews. And he showed results by



Audience at one of the morning’s concurrent sessions.

publishing a book on the postwar history of NRL, fostering internal histories, encouraging external histories, inspiring NRL divisions to work on their own histories, developing bibliographies, and developing new sources. Following its unfortunate 3-year hiatus, the NRL history program was successfully back in business.

SESSION IB—“EXPLORING NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN FEDERAL HISTORY PRACTICE”

Chair: Lee Ann Potter, National Archives

Alan DellaPenna, Coordinator of the Gold Book Project at the Indian Health Service (IHS), Department of Health and Human Services, provided a brief description of the history of the IHS, and his evolution from “project coordinator” on the Gold Book Project to “historian.” Although he began as a public health professional, DellaPenna became a historian during the course of this project. Unsure of where to start, he sought advice and mentoring about how to proceed with a history project that included documentary research, compiling a photo archive, and collecting oral histories. By letting a contract with History Associates Incorporated, DellaPenna developed a sense of how to gather resources and research history. Among the insights he discovered was that researchers must go to the reservations to get a real sense of Native American history. He also said that he was only able to rely on the records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs through about 1966; thereafter, oral histories had to fill the gaps where the documentary trail left off. Finally, DellaPenna realized that “people stay connected with Indian health for life.” That is, long-time staff stay involved with Indian health issues even after they leave IHS, and can contribute meaningfully to the historical narrative through oral histories and documents.

DellaPenna went on to describe the components of the Gold Book Project, including archival research at NARA regional centers in Atlanta, Anchorage, and San Francisco, presidential libraries, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian. The project has collected more than 60 oral history interviews with IHS directors and staff, and between 6,000 and 8,000 historic photographs. The project also conducts “living history presentations,” where retired IHS staff come to headquarters to interact with current staff, many of whom are Native Americans. Plans for the Gold Book Project include publications, presentations, and consultations.

Kathleen Johnson, historical publications specialist with the U.S. House of Representatives’ Office of History and Preservation (OHP), described how oral history interviews expand a researcher’s knowledge about the House as one part of her office’s mission to put a human face on a

large institution. OHP’s oral history project focuses on longtime personnel or committee staff, and currently comprises 60 hours of audio interviews and a number of video interviews. Johnson played some of the interviews for the audience and highlighted several notable interviewees, including: Irving Swanson, a clerk who read to the House the resolution declaring war against Japan on December 8, 1941; Bill Goodwin, a House page who witnessed the four Puerto Rican nationalists as they opened fire in the House chamber in 1954; and Cokie Roberts, the senior correspondent with ABC News whose parents—Hale Boggs and Corinne Claiborne “Lindy” Boggs—both served as representatives from Louisiana. The stories that the interviewees tell—and, in some cases, the artifacts they provide—contribute to a greater understanding of the little-known corners of House history.

Maria Christina Mairena shared her experiences as the Command Historian of the U.S. Army’s Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Command (FMWR), in Alexandria, Va. Dr. Mairena developed her expertise as a military historian on the job. After writing her dissertation in the field of ecclesiastical history and facilitating purchases of military history books as manager of a bookstore, she became a civilian employee of the U.S. Air Force and library director at Bolling Air Force Base. Upon transferring from the Air Force to the Army, she was given free rein to create a history office. She put together a reference library and developed a mission for the office. Some of her challenges involve matters related to BRAC (base closures) and fighting the apathy of the military command toward preserving its history.

SESSION IC: “STRADDLING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE OFFICE OF HISTORY, CORPS OF ENGINEERS”

Chair: John C. Lonquest, Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers History Office

The three panelists, all of whom are with the History Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided the audience with a detailed and well-organized presentation that addressed several of the most pressing issues facing government historians today: making our historical material readily available on the Internet; the challenges of digitizing large numbers of historic documents; and the daunting task of collecting, storing, and accessing the huge volume of digital records produced by federal agencies.

Historian James Garber opened the panel with his presentation “History on the Web: Advantages and Challenges.” Using a variety of carefully chosen screen shots that depicted current internet research tools, as well

as the Office of History's web site, the speaker's message was clear—the Internet is a vital tool for historians, both as a research tool and as a way for reaching large audiences quickly, easily, and affordably. The speaker said that posting information to the Web is as easy or as difficult as providers want to make it because the current generation of web design software can support everything from simple displays to complex sites. The key, the speaker argued, was that in the midst of the digital revolution it is crucial that federal history offices keep pace with digital technology. If history offices do not, both they and their products are at risk of being left behind.

Matt Pearcy's paper, "Facilitating Access to Our History" described his efforts to digitize large sections of the papers of Brigadier General Andrew Humphreys (1810-1883). Humphreys was a brilliant but often controversial engineer whose career included service in the Seminole War, surveys of the Mississippi River and the route for the Pacific Railroad, service in the Civil War, and a long and productive tour as Chief of Engineers. Humphreys' voluminous personal papers are in the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) in Philadelphia. One of the reasons that Humphreys languishes in obscurity is the state of his personal papers—there is no finding aid, the bound volumes are difficult to photocopy, and the HSP is only open 25 hours a week. To surmount those obstacles, working in close cooperation with the HSP and financial support provided by an outside grant, Pearcy digitally photographed thousands of pages of the general's papers. While the digitization process has not been easy, the product has been tremendously valuable. From Pearcy's perspective, the Humphreys project has a clear message—occasionally government history offices need to work collaboratively with private and academic organizations in order to create access to their own respective histories.

Doug Wilson's paper, "Digital Collections—Acquisition, Preservation, and Access" completed the session. Since 2003 the Office of History has been sending historians to Iraq and Afghanistan to collect records, the vast majority of which proved to be digital. Initially the Engineer historians collected data on CDs and DVDs, but on later trips went armed with large commercial hard drives. Ultimately the historians collected well over two terabytes of electronic records.

Once the historians returned with their hard won data, said Wilson, new challenges emerged. Without adequate storage space on the network, the records had to reside on the external drives on which they were collected and organized in a piecemeal fashion. Moreover, within the various collections file and folder names often bore little or no relationship to their contents, much of the material in the collection was duplicative, and searching across

multiple record collections proved difficult. Fortunately, colleagues in the Army history community provided a collection of software tools to quickly inventory the contents of hard drives, compare the specific properties of digital files, and conducted detailed searches. While the new software has proven helpful, Corps historians have found dealing with electronic records to be a challenging, time-consuming, and often frustrating process. However, digital records are now the medium in which today's historians have to work, and the speaker was clear that federal historians have to develop new skills to acquire, store, and access electronic data.

SESSION ID: "REMEMBERING ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE CIVIL WAR: INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES"

Chair: Edgar Russell, III, President, The Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia

This session demonstrated the wide range of research and commemorative activities that continue in this bicentennial year of Lincoln's birth. Eileen Mackevich, Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, spoke of the organization's approach and efforts nationwide. The Commission is a federal, bipartisan one charged to raise sustaining funds, and is housed in the Library of Congress. The Commission determined to take a national approach and explore what themes were missing from the story and then plan both popular and academic programs around those themes. Examples are how Lincoln relates to the American dream and immigration. There have been dance and dramatic performances as well as town hall discussions. Lincoln's legacy for civil rights will continue as a theme. Visit www.lincoln200.org for details.

Bruce Bustard, a curator at the National Archives in Washington, DC, outlined on his approach in developing an exhibit titled "Discovering the Civil War." He stressed how new historical themes and emphases have emerged in



L–R: Bill Williams, Edgar Russell, Eileen Mackevich, and Bruce Bustard, at "Remembering Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War."

recent decades that must be included in the larger story of the war, such as black soldiers, the Freedmen's Bureau, and emancipation. Consequently, different records are being used and new exhibit themes, such as "Breaking Apart," are being developed. Bustard emphasized visitor discovery in his design, especially through interactive displays, teaching moments, and units that invite close inspection and surprise. The exhibit will travel as well to eight venues.

Bill Williams, Chief of the Center for Cryptologic History, NSA, discussed his use of staff rides to the Antietam battlefield to promote an appreciation for history and its value for leadership and national intelligence work in an agency that is heavily concerned with current and future events. The events had positive results. The participants learn of the poor intelligence available to Union General George McClellan concerning Confederate General Robert E. Lee's troop strength and the effects that had on the battle's outcome. They see the terrain and learn how decisions were made. The lesson was that decision makers cannot uncritically accept intelligence reports.

SESSION IIA: "CITIZEN AGENCY AND CIVIC INNOVATION IN FEDERAL HISTORY"

Chair: Terrance Rucker, Office of the Clerk, U.S.

House of Representatives

David Keenan, a doctoral candidate in history at Northwestern University, presented an analysis of more than 5,000 petitions submitted to Congress from a broad variety of interests. During the Early Republic (1789-1815), elections and petitions were the primary vehicles available to citizens for communicating with their government. The petitions included pension requests from veterans of the American Revolution and requests for assistance in resolving property disputes. As the number of



L-R: David Keenan, Terrance Rucker, and Judson MacLaury, at "Citizen Agency and Civic Innovation in Federal History."

petitions grew, Congress began referring them to Executive Branch agencies for action. In addition, Congress institutionalized its committee system to help manage the increased workload resulting from the petitions. The Senate tended to establish standing committees, whereas the House favored select committees.

Judson MacLaury, former Historian of the Labor Department, discussed Executive Branch civil rights policies in connection with the appearance of the first affirmative action regulation in the *Federal Register* in 1962. MacLaury argued that this regulation laid the foundation for Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. He also examined the interaction of government agencies such as the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity with civic or grassroots organizations such as the NAACP.

SESSION IIB: "ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY: THREE PERSPECTIVES, THREE CONTEXTS"

Chair: Betty Koed, U.S. Senate History Office

William A. Blanpied of George Mason University described the roller coaster of rising and declining fortunes for federal science policymaking, reflecting the differing attitudes of the presidents. Sputnik galvanized federal science programs, and Dwight Eisenhower responded by establishing the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC) in 1957. In a rare example of a new administration sharing its predecessor's interest in federal science programs, the PSAC experienced a smooth transition when John F. Kennedy became president in 1961, and the following year Kennedy reemphasized his commitment to science by forming the more all-encompassing Office of Science and Technology (OST) as an ongoing part of the Executive Office of the President. Seeing minimal application to Vietnam, however, Lyndon Johnson showed little interest in OST. Richard Nixon was hostile to the program, regarding it as a lobby for university researchers and dissidents, and abolished it at the beginning of his second term. With no OST or PSAC from January 1973 until Nixon's resignation in August 1974, the National Science Foundation served as the President's science advisor.

Gerald Ford worked to recreate a presidential science office by law rather than executive order, and enactment of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Act in 1976 represented the high-water mark in Congressional/White House cooperation on science and technology policy. Ford also created the President's Science and Technology Council (PSATC). Jimmy Carter proved a disappointment to the scientific community, abolishing the PSATC and reducing the number of slots in the OSTP. Ronald Reagan's interest in scientific matters

was limited to military applications; during his administration, research and development funds were increased for the defense program only. George H.W. Bush reinvigorated science programs, however, appointing an effective science advisor with the title of Special Assistant to the President, recreating the PSATC, and encouraging cross-agency scientific initiatives with dedicated budgets. Bill Clinton built on the pro-science momentum established by the first President Bush, and Vice President Al Gore showed a strong interest in science and technology, but the OSTP's position plummeted under George W. Bush. Early in his administration, Barack Obama shows signs that he might reverse his predecessor's anti-science approach and restore the PSATC to the position of significance it enjoyed under his predecessor's father.

Examining the problem of competing missions for the National Science Foundation (NSF), Smithsonian Institution historian Marc Rothenberg said that NSF Director Alan T. Waterman resisted opportunities to involve his agency in policy-making in the 1950s, for fear that such a role would interfere with its primary mission of promoting basic research. President Kennedy responded by shifting all policy-making and policy evaluation responsibility to the Office of Science and Technology. When President Nixon abolished OST in 1973, however, NSF Director H. Guyford Stever assumed the role of Presidential Science Advisor. Stever was confident he could handle both his research mission and his policy mission—and to do so without additional resources—marking that “The solution is just to make sure which hat I am wearing.” But the arrangement exposed NSF to accusations of conflict-of-interest and criticisms that science was taking a backseat to policy, thereby diminishing NSF's credibility. It also exposed NSF to political retaliation. Getting drawn into political controversies could bring down partisan wrath upon the agency. And when NSF furnished negative critiques of programs that enjoyed the support of powerful figures in Congress or the administration, it faced retaliatory budget cuts. Rothenberg concluded that NSF staff simply lacked the political know-how to coordinate science policy for the Administration, and that Stever and his senior staff could not handle the dual responsibilities.

Fred W. Beuttler, Deputy Historian of the U.S. House of Representatives, discussed the role of Congress in developing federal science policy. Just as Sputnik prompted President Eisenhower to establish the PSAC, it also prompted the House and Senate to set up committees on science and, later, the Office of Technical Assessment. Several questions emerged as Congress struggled to define its role: pluralism vs. centralization (i.e., would universities and foundations play a key role or would federal science policy be restricted to cabinet-level decision-

makers?); Legislative Branch vs. Executive Branch (would Congress or the White House have primacy in setting the course?); and technology vs. politics (would technocracy trump democracy or would non-scientific priorities rule?). Many science-related policies—such as the space program and military initiatives—were based on politics more than science. Olin “Tiger” Teague (D-TX), Chair of the House Committee on Science and Technology, endeavored to bridge the gap between Congress and the White House on these matters when he helped engineer the OSTP Act, which President Ford signed into law in 1976.

SESSION IIC: “PERSPECTIVES ON CONTRACTING FOR HISTORY AND ARCHIVES PROJECTS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT”

Chair: Elizabeth C. Borja, Archivist, History Associated Incorporated/Contract Archivist, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Paul Theerman, Head of the Images and Archives Section at the National Library of Medicine, spoke on the role and use of contractors in his division, and also noted some limitations as well. Contracting, he noted, provides much needed skills and flexibility to his workforce. Tasks and roles can be precisely defined for efficiency, but contracts cannot be easily changed as the job changes. Clear communication between employer, agency, and contractor are key. He strongly favors use of contractors for the enthusiasm and contributions they can bring to the agency mission.

Capt. Todd Creekman of the Naval Historical Foundation provided a clear example of how a nonprofit



Anita Weber makes her presentation at “Perspectives on Contracting for History and Archives Projects in the Federal Government.”

adjunct to an agency can help with critical historical and archival functions. The Foundation collects tax-deductible donations and then funds clear and vitally needed projects. It also identifies the best-suited contractors for the job. The nonprofit signs the contracts, pays the bills, gifts the final product to the federal entity, and acknowledges the donors. Recent projects have included processing the papers of naval officers and photo collections. The talk provided an enlightening demonstration of how nonprofits can be critical to an office's success in times of uncertain budgets and rising costs.

Anita Weber, Vice President for Information Resources Management, History Associates Incorporated (HAI), provided a comprehensive overview of the contract selection and assignment process. She first urged that the "statement of work" must be coherent, defining the project's goals ("deliverables"), available resources, skills needed, software required, reports needed, and schedules. Is the workplace ready? Good communication is critical so that all are in agreement about roles and expectations. Such planning can obviate many mid-course changes in the workplan. However, if necessary new roles and work plans can be negotiated more efficiently if the original contract is clearly defined.

SESSION IIIA: "COMMITTEES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: THREE CASE STUDIES ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, VETERANS' AFFAIRS, AND WAYS AND MEANS"

Chair: Donald R. Kennon, U.S. Capitol Historical Society

Donald R. Kennon opened the session by discussing the role and image of congressional committees, and asking why so few committee histories have been written. He explained that it is not easy to conduct research on congressional procedure, and it is not a topic that commands much interest among readers. He went on to describe the experience of the Capitol Historical Society when Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-IL) approached it to write a history of the Ways and Means Committee, which he chaired. The Society had no problems until it got to the last chapter—which was particularly sensitive as it dealt with Rostenkowski's tenure as chair. The congressman exerted more editorial control over that chapter. Kennon predicted that this experience was unlikely to be duplicated with the history of the Commerce Committee that Rep. Dingell (D-MI) announced.

The work of the House of Representatives, explained Deputy House of Representatives Historian Fred W. Buettler, is based on work of the Committees; the floor votes basically ratify committee decisions. Yet out of 21 House committees, there are recent or recently updated

histories for only seven, and no histories at all for nine. To help address this, Buettler's office has histories of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in preparation. It has also developed a template aimed at making it easier to create or update histories for all the committees. The template encompasses several sections, including a chronology, a list of predecessor committees, and an overview of the committee itself (covering the committee's major activities, jurisdictional areas, and major legislation, as well as a list of hearings, biographies of chairs and ranking members, and a list of all members).

Andrew Dodge, Senior Fellow with the Office of the Historian of the House of Representatives, discussed the history of the House Committee on Science and Technology. Speaker Sam Rayburn established the committee in 1958 partly to prevent the Senate from stealing all the thunder in the wake of the Sputnik launch. Its first chair, Overton Brooks, tried to control all, but his successor—George Miller—took a low-key approach and set up subcommittees in hopes of avoiding confrontations. Olin "Tiger" Teague and Don Fuqua, who chaired the committee between 1973 and 1987, brought a strong set of professionals on board as committee staffers who were able to deal with complicated scientific issues. These appointments were non-partisan, with Teague (a Democrat) hiring former astronaut Jack Swigert (a Republican) as staff director. Dodge reported that a book on the committee is now available. Following the template Buettler described, it was prepared in 6 months on a limited budget. There was no direct oversight from the committee, and the book avoided judgmental interpretations. Staff members and committee chairmen were interviewed, and the project required that at least two interviewees corroborate points before they were published. Dodge noted, however, that institutional memory is rapidly disappearing, and that many members show little interest in activities dating back for more than a couple of sessions.

Anthony Wallis, Research Analyst with the Office of the Historian of the U.S. House of Representatives, concluded the session with an overview of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Starting in 1794, the Committee on Claims was the first to have oversight over veterans' benefits, but the wars of the 19th century meant an increasing number of veterans who flooded the federal government with new claims. Multiple committees on pensions and claims sprang up, with overlapping jurisdictions. Frustration among the veterans exploded in post-Civil War rioting at the Pension Building and the 1932 Bonus March. The Legislative Reform Act of 1946, introduced by Sen. Robert LaFollette (D-WI), reformed committee structures, and established the first standing committee on

veterans' affairs. Dodge noted several factors necessary to the successful completion of a committee history, including the strong support of committee staff, the support of current and former members of the committee, and control of the funding for publication. He also received assistance from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and various veterans' organizations. Among the interesting points Dodge noted the relationships between the veterans of different wars, and the fact that the declining percentage of veterans in Congress resulted in the appointment of the first non-veteran (Charles Smith) as committee chair in 2001.

SESSION IIIB: "THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY'S USE OF WIKIS AND BLOGS: HEADACHES OR OPPORTUNITIES FOR HISTORIANS AND ARCHIVISTS?"

Chair: Arian D. Ravanbaksh, National Archives

John Hackett, Director of Information Management, Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), discussed how the National Archives (NARA) is responding to the technical demands of preserving wikis and blogs. Although collaborative and records management software are proliferating, NARA's electronic archivists are challenged on the "back end"—that is, how to find common standards for electronic tagging and nomenclature. NARA's biggest problem is determining how much Information Technology (IT) programmers will invest for wikis and blogs on the back end to create a common language for all to use. These problems, however, create an opportunity for IT technicians to rethink strategies and make these programs more user-friendly. Hackett questioned whether wikis/blogs are the future of content management. The wiki/blog has value as a huge working file of information for analysis. Also, much of it is in shared drives and e-mails. Further, many of the new analysts grew up on Facebook, text messages, and information management, so they have a unique understanding about the technology. The main challenge, according to Hackett, is to maintain security.

DNI Chief Historian Michael Warner examined ways that historians can mine electronic records for their research. He covered the issue from three perspectives: as a taxpayer, as a federal historian, and as a historian-at-large. As a taxpayer, Warner acknowledged that paper records are a relic of the past in that many offices aren't keeping as many paper records. Instead, technology such as videoteleconferencing (VTC) is becoming predominant. Warner contended that much of the Iraq War was fought using PowerPoint presentations and VTC. As a federal historian, Warner used electronic records for a research project. Once he received a shared drive, he found he had too many records to handle. Because much

of the material was in PowerPoint, Excel, or Word, he used the search functions to create a chronology. Like paper files, shared drives contained drafts of documents for study. Once Warner accessed the shared folder, the Microsoft Office documents enabled to tell the story by judicious use of the search function. As a historian-at-large, Warner wondered about what has happened to paper records over the last 20 years or so. The destruction or loss of records is not a methodical process. Items are saved in a random way from the early 1990s forward. To some extent, the federal government is not doing enough to save its records, but is not systematically destroying them either. Information from 1984-92, however, may be gone forever. Information at this time is erratic, because it may not have been transferred to MS Office software.

Andrew Shepard, Deputy Chief of DNI's Office of Intelligence for Analysis, Analytic Transformation, and Technology, focused on A-Space (a collaborative workspace for intelligence community analysts) and Intellipedia (a modified version of Wikipedia). A-Space provides shared access to raw data and to databases shared by individual intelligence organizations. It enables individual or collaborative analysis of the data to answer requests or broaden knowledge about various subjects. Intellipedia enables users to combine short articles into longer documents by allowing analysts in different locations to work on similar projects. Whereas A-Space is limited to the intelligence community, Intellipedia permits a wide range of users to interact with one another. Currently, Intellipedia has over 40,000 registered users and 349,000 active pages. The programs work in a collaborative manner. Once a topic has been analyzed on A-Space, users can add it to Intellipedia for review by a broader audience. Shepard also discussed what was successful and unsuccessful with the program. The program creates an online service to senior-level customers that enables transactional feedback. Maintaining and improving on Intellipedia, however, will require the persistent leadership of DNI and agency heads.

SESSION IIIC: "VARIATIONS ON POST-WORLD WAR II FEDERAL AGENCY RESEARCH"

Chair: Todd Bennett, Historian, U.S. State Department History Office

James E. David, curator at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, discussed what he has learned about the structure of U.S. COMINT (communications intelligence) in the WWII era from released documents. In so doing, he also noted the progress and problems of declassification of government documents for the postwar period. His sources are the NSA web site, National Security Archive, and 1940s-era documents he has requested and analyzed. While the Army

and Navy had separate spheres for intelligence gathering during the war, that changed later. In early 1945 the A-N Communications Intelligence Board (ANCIB) was set up to avoid duplication in policy and ensure the exchange of technical information and intelligence. Agreements with the UK worked to dilute the Army Navy separation. In April 1946, STANCIB established the Joint Operating Plan, and the two services began to work more closely. David acknowledged that many organizational outlines for the intelligence community for that period remain unclear and depend on further declassification of key documents.

Andrew Sorokowski, historian at the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, discussed the issues involved in research for environmental lawsuits, especially counterclaims. The U.S. government managed or benefitted from many sites during its World War II mobilization efforts (for rubber, metals, and armaments), many of them ultimately having serious environmental impact. Concerns heightened in the 1960s and after, resulting in the 1986 Superfund for cleanup of those sites. The government can seek recovery costs from those who later operated the sites or transported materials there. The U.S. can also be sued, however, if it owned or controlled production at a plant during the war years, a question that often remains murky. There have been conflicting court

cases attempting to define the limits of government responsibility—if it had controlling influence in onsite production, for example. Government lawyers and historians differ in their approaches, Sorokowski contends, with historians wondering how government can be seen to control industry to the extent that it is 100 percent liable.

Mike Reis, Vice President for Litigation Research at History Associates Incorporated, surveyed the record collections at the National Archives that are most useful for research in environmental issues. He briefly noted the pioneers of the field, including the legendary John Muir, Forest Service Director Gifford Pinchot, and Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist Ding Darling, who was a fervent conservation advocate. Congressional records, especially committee files, are especially informative. Early laws set the stage for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), especially the 1948 Water Pollution Act. Executive agency records should be researched, including policy files and central and branch files. He gave an example of the richness of the record in the October 1948 case of air pollution in Donora, Pennsylvania, found in Public Health Service Bulletin #306. Also, public papers of the President concerning special commissions can be valuable, often discussing interstate issues such as water resources.

THE AIR FORCE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM

The Air Force Historical Foundation will hold its biennial symposium on Thursday, October 8, 2009, on the theme *The Balkans Air Campaigns in the 1990s and Their Influence Since 2001*. The symposium will take place at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington. The guest speaker for the awards banquet that evening will be General Norton A. Schwartz, Chief of Staff, USAF, and the luncheon speaker will be General Michael E. Ryan, who as 16th Air Force Commander was responsible for air operations in Bosnia, and who was Chief of Staff from 1997 to 2001. The morning keynote speaker will be Dr. Benjamin Lambeth from the RAND Corporation. The morning panel will address air campaigns in Bosnia, 1995, and in Kosovo, 1999, and the afternoon panel will consider air operations since 2001.

The awards banquet will include the address by General Schwartz and the presentation of two prestigious awards. The third annual General Carl “Tooe” Spaatz Award will be presented to Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Stafford, USAF (Ret). It is awarded to an individual for a sustained, significant contribution to the making of Air Force history during a lifetime of service, and is named for the first President of the Foundation and first Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Past recipients include General David C. Jones and Maj. Gen. John R. Alison, both USAF (Ret).

The Foundation also will present its third annual Major General I. B. Holley Award to Herman S. Wolk, a distinguished career Air Force historian, for making a sustained, significant contribution to the research, interpretation, and documentation of Air Force history during a lifetime of service. It is named for the distinguished professor who taught military history at Duke University for over six decades, served as an active and reserve Air Force officer, and influenced several generations of military historians. Past recipients include General Holley and Brig. Gen. Alfred F. Hurley, both USAF (Ret).

Full details and registration may be found online at the Foundation Web site, www.afhistoricalfoundation.org. Further information is available by contacting Tom Bradley at execdir@afhistoricalfoundation.org or by calling (301)736-1959.

INTERNSHIPS IN FEDERAL HISTORY

Internship opportunities in federal history offices are diverse and extensive. Interns can make valuable contributions to a program, and often these opportunities lead to permanent positions. This column highlights a different history internship program in each issue. You can send information on your office program for future inclusion to benjamin.guterman@nara.gov.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Anyone interested in a behind-the-scenes look at how museums work should consider the internship program at the National Museum of American History! As one of the Smithsonian Institution's 19 museums, the Museum offers learning opportunities in a variety of fields. Interns with diverse backgrounds work with talented staff and lend their ideas and expertise to curatorial and archival projects, exhibition design and graphic production, museum management, and education and public programs.

Intern duties: Curatorial interns work with the professional staff and assist in scholarly historical research and a variety of tasks related to the museum collections. Graphic design interns produce two- or three-dimensional design work in support of exhibition development projects. Students with an interest in creating learning opportunities for the public work with staff in developing and producing the Museum's many public programs. And for those interested in nonprofit management, public relations, special events, and other administrative offices offer varied opportunities to learn important management skills.

Work location: National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

Application requirements: Internships are generally awarded to junior and senior level undergraduates, as well as graduate students from colleges and universities around the world. Qualifications should match the requirements of specific internship projects as described on the program web site. The Museum welcomes diversity in age, occupation, nationality, and background within its intern population.

Web site: for information and application instructions: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/getinvolved>

Contact:
Suzanne McLaughlin, Intern Manager
mclaughlins@si.edu
202-633-3556

DREW ROBARGE

As a graduate student in museum studies, I am always eager to use what I have learned in the classroom and to acquire new skills in a museum environment. My experience at the National Museum of American History has allowed me to do both as the internship exposed me to different aspects of museum work. For example, I have learned how to process new objects in the collections of the Division of Medicine and Science. I have also been able to work with a curator in developing two new exhibitions, and I created a guide for collecting objects pertaining to the history of disability. What also made interning at the museum special were staff members who took the time to share their experiences and wisdom after many years of being a museum professional. Through this internship experience, I am becoming a confident, emerging museum professional ready to make a difference.



Drew Robarge is a second-year student in the MA Program in Museum Studies at George Washington University. He is completing his second internship at the NMAH Division of Medicine and Science. Photo by Griffin Davis, a full-time commercial photography student pursuing an AAS degree at Randolph Community College, Brevard, North Carolina, and serving as an intern at the NMAH Photographic Services Branch assisting on location during exhibit photography assignments.

FROM THE ARCHIVES SHFG FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

Charles Downs, SHFG Archivist

On its 30th anniversary, the Society celebrates its incorporation as a direct result of the Federal Government Historians Conference held in Washington, DC, on September 13, 1979. The next step in the Society's founding occurred on October 16, 1979, when 23 historians comprising The Steering Committee convened in a meeting room at the Supreme Court. Dr. Jack Holl was appointed chairman, and the attendees quickly agreed that an organization should be formed.

With many of the details still to be worked out in subsequent meetings, the group was in immediate need of a name. This was no minor matter because it reflected an internal debate among the Society's founders over who was to be included in the organization they were creating, and what its goals and philosophy would be. While it was agreed that historians working for and with the federal government be included, the question of a broader membership had not been determined.

The original name suggested by David Allison, "Association for the Advancement of History in the Federal Government," was amended to the more restrictive "Council on History in the Federal Government." A few weeks later, the name "Society for History in the Federal Government," also suggested by Allison, was settled upon, reflecting the SHFG founders' decision to include all those with an interest in Federal history in their new group. For more information of the SHFG archives, write to cfdowns@earthlink.net.

MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE October 16, 1979

Members present were:

David Allison	Charles Hendricks	Neal Peterson
Frank Burke	Jack Holl	Martin Reuss
Philip Cantelon	Kathy Jacobs	Alex Roland
William Dudley	Ben Levy	Jack Shulimson
Frank Duncan	Maeva Marcus	Mike Smith
Gail Galloway	George Mazuzan	Ron Spector
Martin Gordon	Bill Mobley	Sam Walker
Gerry Haines		Dana Wegner

The meeting was called to order by Jack M. Holl.

- I. After introductions, Dr. Holl reviewed a number of developments since the September 13th meeting of Federal Historians.

Steering Committee

The present steering committee was formed because of the following concerns:

1. raising the image of the profession
2. internal concerns such as meaning, role, task and purpose of the profession

Council of Public History

Dr. Holl mentioned that this group was formed after the September 13th meeting. The Council has organized the public history movement. Their membership consists of groups rather than individuals and their focus is largely on academic questions.

AHA

Concern about the future of the NCC was discussed.

Dr. Holl mentioned a large and positive response to the Tise questionnaire.

It was noted that the Professional Division of the AHA has the Brown resolution on its agenda for consideration. AHA members present were asked to sign the petition.

OAH

Dr. Holl said that contacts with Messrs. Kirkendall and Perry have been supportive of the problems discussed at the September 13th meeting.

Institute for Research in History

Philip Cantelon reported that this Institute, based in New York, has many of the same concerns as the steering committee. The Institute was formed to attract money from non-profit organizations and carries out numerous research projects. He will report to the steering committee on a meeting he is attending on October 18-19.

VA'S LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT HITS THE ROAD

By Darlene Richardson, VHA Historian

Two history offices at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and National Cemetery Administration (NCA) recently collaborated to create the agency's first historical traveling exhibit entitled "Lincoln's Legacy at VA." Historians Darlene Richardson (VHA) and Sara Amy Leach (NCA) developed a portable exhibit to honor the VA's connections to America's 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, as part of the Lincoln Bicentennial commemoration.

Ancestral institutions of both the VHA and the NCA were signed into law by Lincoln: National Cemeteries on July 17, 1862, and the National Soldiers and Sailors Asylum on March 3, 1865. The VA's official motto, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle..." derived from Lincoln's second inaugural address and became a permanent fixture when VA Administrator Sumner Whittier ordered that the quote be mounted to the front of the VA Central Office building in spring 1959. Whittier's daughter visited the VA on February 24 to see the exhibit and take photos for the Whittier family.

"Lincoln's Legacy at VA" received official endorsement from the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and will travel across the country to be dis-



Jay Whittier at VA exhibit on Abraham Lincoln.

played at various VA facilities throughout 2009. Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Fargo, Providence, Prescott, Ft. Harrison, and other sites have signed up to host the exhibit and take part in the national Lincoln commemoration. The exhibit will also be displayed during Public Service Recognition Week, May 7-10, on the National Mall.

MAKING HISTORY

AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF

NRCS has published "The History of Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting: Interviews with U.S. Department of Agriculture Pioneers," edited by Douglas Helms, Steven E. Phillips, and Paul F. Reich. Since 1935, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has coordinated the cooperative effort in snow surveying and water supply forecasting in the Western States, known for many years as the Federal-State Cooperative Snow Surveys. A PDF copy of the book is posted at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/history/articles/the_history_of_snow_survey_and_water_supply_forecasting.pdf For a hardbound copy, contact Douglas Helms: douglas.helms@wdc.usda.gov.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

To mark the Association's 125th anniversary, the AHA is seeking contributions to a fund that will support expan-

sion of its public programs and outreach efforts. Learn more about this anniversary and the 125th Fund in Perspectives on History at <http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/2008/0812/0812pre1.cfm>

The Working Group on Evaluating Public History Scholarship seeks comments on how public history work should be recognized and rewarded in promotion and tenure decisions. The National Council on Public History (NCPH), the American Historical Association (AHA), and the Organization of American Historians (OAH) formed a task force in 2007 to advance this discussion and report to the governing boards of the three associations. The group now seeks public comment on its draft report, which is available at <http://www.ncph.org/Portals/13/Careers%20and%20Training/WGOEPHS%20DRAFT%20REPORT-22April09.pdf>

BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC DEBT

Archivist Harry Heiss reports that the Bureau of the Public Debt is preparing to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United States Savings Bond. The first

bond was issued on March 1, 1935. So, 2010 should prove a year of exhibits and other celebrations.

CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY (U.S. ARMY)

It has been a busy spring at the Center. Among the new publications to be released is Larry W. Yates, *The U.S. Military Intervention in Panama: Origins, Planning, and Crisis Management, June 1987–December 1989*. Part of the Center's Contingency Operations Series, this volume examines the events and decisions leading up to the U.S. intervention known as Operation JUST CAUSE. *Operation URGENT FURY* is the most recent entry in the Center's series of campaign brochures. Prepared by Chief Historian, Richard W. Stewart, it is based upon the forthcoming full-length study of the operation by Edgar F. Raines, Jr.

Many of the Center's historians attended the annual meeting of the Society for Military History held in Murfreesboro, Tenn., April 2–5. Andrew J. Birtle of the Center's Histories Division received the Society's Moncado Prize for his article, "PROVN, Westmoreland, and the Historians: A Reappraisal," that appeared in the October 2008 issue of the *Journal of Military History*. Dr. Raines chaired a panel on "The U.S. Army in Open Ended Wars" at which two CMH historians presented papers: William M. Donnelly and Stephen J. Lofgren. Other CMH historians making presentations at the conference were: Christopher N. Koontz, Mr. Joseph R. Frechette, Col. Stephen Bowman, and Maj. Kenneth Foulks.

David I. Goldman, who is working on a volume for the Center on the Army in Europe, 1963–1976, published "The Generals and the Germs: The Army Leadership's Response to Nixon's Review of Chemical and Biological Warfare Policies in 1969" in the October 2008 issue of the *Journal of Military History*. Using recently declassified documents, Mr. Goldman analyzes President Nixon's decisions to eliminate biological agents, retaining only a defensive research program, and to limit the nation's chemical efforts to retaliation.

Edgar Raines's "The Interagency Process and the Decision to Intervene in Grenada," appeared in Kendall D. Gott and Michael G. Brooks, eds. *The U.S. Army and the Interagency Process: Historical Perspectives. The Proceedings of the Combat Studies Institute 2008 Military History Symposium* (Ft. Leavenworth, Kans.: U.S. Army Combat Studies Institute, 2008).

William M. Hammond, chief of the General Histories Branch, published "The Tet Offensive and the News Media," in the Winter 2009 edition of *Army History*. Addressing some of the enduring myths surrounding media coverage of Tet. Hammond compares President Lyndon Johnson's decision-making following the offen-

sive with President Bill Clinton's decision to pull American forces out of Somalia.

Jon Mikolashek of the Contemporary Studies Branch was interviewed on April 29 by the Armed Forces Network to discuss the battle at Anzio in World War II. Portions of his interview will be used in a radio program commemorating the 65th anniversary of the battle. Stephen Lofgren and Christopher Koontz made presentations at the "Exploring War and Conflict Through Oral History" conference sponsored by the Library of Congress on May 1. Mr. Lofgren's presentation was titled "From Transformation to 9-11: Oral History in the U.S. Army, 1993–2003." Dr. Koontz spoke about "Fifteen Months in the Mountains: An Airborne Infantry Battalion in Afghanistan, 2007-2008."

On April 28, Dale Andrade participated in a panel discussion of John Prados's new book, *Vietnam: The History of an Unwinnable War, 1945–1975*, along with the author and veteran journalist Bernard Kalb at The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. The April 2009 issue of *Vietnam* magazine contains his article, "Why Westmoreland Was Right." In March Mr. Andrade presented a paper at the Organization of American Historians (OAH) conference in Seattle on Vietnam War strategy, titled "Learning the Wrong Lessons from the Vietnam War."

Erik B. Villard also presented a paper at the OAH conference entitled, "Questioning the 'Border Battle' Thesis: A Reappraisal of North Vietnamese Planning and Preparations for the 1968 Tet Offensive." He also recently delivered a lecture on strategy during the Vietnam War to a class from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, which is associated with George Mason University.

Mark L. Bradley's volume, *Bluecoats and Tar Heels: Soldiers and Civilians in Reconstruction North Carolina* was published in January by the University Press of Kentucky. Also in January he delivered a paper on "Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman and the Surrender of the Confederacy" at the 17th Annual Civil War Symposium in Sarasota, Florida.

John Maass has been assigned to the Center's forward office in the Pentagon for three months, beginning May 4. The Center recently hired a new librarian, Ms. Carrie Sullivan, who comes to us from Germany. Dr. J. Patrick Hughes, formerly of the Historical Support Branch, departed the Center to be the Historian at the Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Lieut. Col. Robert Smith, an Army Reservist assigned to the Center, continues his efforts to collect records from units deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. He can be reached at robert.smith38@us.army.mil or by phone (202) 685-2759. Robert Rush of the Field Programs and

Historical Services Division is currently serving in Iraq as historian for III Corps.

HISTORY ASSOCIATES INCORPORATED

History Associates Incorporated has completed a multi-year research, writing, and acquisition project to help transform the David Wills House, where President Abraham Lincoln stayed prior to delivering his Gettysburg Address, into a historic house museum. The new museum, owned by the National Park Service and located in downtown Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, tells the story of devastation and recovery in the face of the Civil War. For the project, the National Park Service and its museum designer, Gallagher & Associates, turned to History Associates to conduct research, write the exhibit script, and secure high-resolution imagery for the museum's seven galleries. The house museum also features two rooms restored to their original 1863 appearance: David Wills' office and the bedroom where Lincoln stayed and prepared for the Gettysburg Address. The David Wills House Museum opened on February 12, 2009, the 200th anniversary of President Lincoln's birth. Main Street Gettysburg, a nonprofit organization committed to the historic preservation and economic revitalization of Gettysburg, operates the museum in cooperation with the National Park Service. For more information about History Associates, call 301-279-9697 or visit <http://www.historyassociates.com>.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA), is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Todd Ahlman as an HRA shareholder. Ahlman received his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Tennessee in 2000 and joined HRA in 2005, after working with the Louis Berger Group, conducting research at the University of Tennessee, and teaching as an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Montana. He has added to HRA's regional breadth with his experience in the Southeast and the Caribbean, and he has moved the company forward technologically with his knowledge of GIS systems and his mapping capabilities. Since 1974, HRA has provided consulting services for public and private clients in cultural resource management, litigation support, and historical research. Headquartered in Missoula, Montana, HRA also has offices in Seattle and Spokane, Washington; Portland, Oregon; and Washington, D.C.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

New NASA publications include *Exploring the Unknown: Selected Documents in the History of the U.S. Civil Space Program*, Volume VII, edited by John M. Logsdon, and Roger D. Launius; *William H. Pickering: America's Deep Space Pioneer*, by Douglas J. Mudgway;

Remembering the Space Age: Proceedings of the 50th Anniversary Conference, edited by Stephen J. Dick; and Columbia Crew Survival Investigation Report, in electronic form only at http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/298870main_SP-2008-565.pdf.

Division of Space History curators are developing a new exhibit titled "Moving Beyond Earth" to be completed in parts between 2009 and 2011. It will explore "the experience of spaceflight as evidence in the Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs and on possible futures envisioned for human exploration beyond Earth."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The Archives Library Information Center (ALIC) has made available databases of over 63,000 important declassified documents regarding critical U.S. policy decisions. The collections include Afghanistan: The Making of U.S. Policy, 1973–90; China and the United States: From Hostility to Engagement, 1960–98; Presidential Directives on National Security, from Truman to George W. Bush; U.S. Policy in the Vietnam War, 1954–75; and others. See the NARA library link at www.archives.gov

NW announces publication of *World War II: Guide to Records Relating to U.S. Military Participation*, compiled by retired staff archivist and subject specialist Timothy P. Mulligan and edited by Rebecca L. Collier (NWCT2R) with Judith Koucky (retired) and Patrick R. Osborn (NWCT2P). Published in two volumes, this important new guide represents the most comprehensive and detailed finding aid to World War II source materials in the custody of the National Archives.

The Civil War Pension Digitization Project continues its scanning of 500,000 images (or the first 3,150 case files) of the heavily used series of approved pension applications of widows and other dependents of Civil War soldiers ("WC files" or "Widow's Certificate pension files"). With the help of volunteers and partners, more than 340,000 images from approximately 10,000 widows' certificate pension application files have been scanned thus far. The first of these images are now being made available through footnote.com.

Recent microfilm publications include M1923, *OMGUS Finance Division Records Regarding Investigations and Interrogations, 1945–1949* [RG 260, 8 rolls]; M1933, *Safehaven Reports of the War Crimes Branch, 1944–1945* [RG 153, 9 rolls]; M1947, *Records Concerning the Central Collecting Points ("Ardelia Hall Collection"): Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point, 1945–1952* [RG 260, 117 rolls]; M2102, *Letters Sent and Registers of Letters Received by the Secretary of the Treasury, 1882–1887, Relating to Immigration Matters* [RG 85, 1 roll]; M2121, *Langenstein-Zwieberge Concentration Camp Inmate Cards, April 1944–April 1945* [RG 549, 1 roll]; M2124, *Records of the*

Adjutant General's Office Relating to the United States Military Academy: Rolls, Registers, and Reports, 1803–1917; Register of Cadets, 1803–1865 [RG 94, 1 roll]; and M2125, *General and Special Orders Issued by General Winfield Scott, Headquarters of the Army, War with Mexico, 1847–1848* [RG 94, 1 roll].

The Jimmy Carter Presidential Museum is undergoing major renovation. It will reopen on Oct. 1, 2009.

Alan C. Lowe has been appointed Director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library. He has 14 years' experience in the National Archives Presidential Libraries system. Most recently he was Executive Director of the Howard H. Baker, Jr., Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville campus. The permanent George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum will be constructed on the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas as part of the George W. Bush Presidential Center which will include the library, museum and institute.

The Eisenhower Library has opened for research Eisenhower's personal diaries from 1966, 1968, and 1969. The last diary entry was made in late January 1969. Eisenhower died just two months later on March 28, 1969. Eisenhower's entries include comments on the issues and personalities of the day, including the economy, civil rights, Vietnam, and the 1968 presidential elections.

The National Archives at Atlanta held a one-day symposium on June 13 titled "Documented Rights: A Symposium on the Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement." Partners include the Center for Civil and Human Rights Partnership, the Office of the Mayor of Atlanta, and the Georgia Humanities Council. For information contact, the National Archives Southeast Region staff at 770-968-2100.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

The library has posted portions of its FDA Notices of Judgment Collection online at <http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/fdanj>. The library states that these notices "are resources in themselves but also lead users to over 2,000 linear feet of evidence files used to prosecute each case. The evidence files are a rich documentary resource filled with legal correspondence, lab reports and data, photographs, and product labeling and containers. This digital library, created using the "new" SPER system, allows for browsing the collection as well as searching the collection's metadata and full-text.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

On Saturday, May 23, the museum opened "On the Water: Stories from Maritime America," a new permanent exhibition designed to engage the public in a dynamic exploration of American maritime heritage.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The latest National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom newsletter is online at <http://www.nps.gov/history/ugrr/2009february.pdf>. Contact Program Manager Diane Miller with news at 402-661-1588.

NPS is pleased to announce the launch of the latest "Teaching with Historic Places (TwHP) on-line lesson plan: Federal Courthouses and Post Offices: Symbols of Pride and Permanence in American Communities. In this lesson, students learn how three buildings restored and maintained by the General Services Administration (GSA) illustrate the important role the federal government has played in communities across the country. The lesson plan was created by NPS and GSA in partnership with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers. For further information, see <http://www.nps.gov/history.nr/twhp>.

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Treasury Historical Association (THA) recently hosted a lunchtime lecture in the historic Cash Room of the U.S. Treasury in which Burrus M. Carnahan discussed his book, *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the Law of War*. At the lecture was displayed a recent gift from the THA to the Treasury, a 19th-century painting of President Abraham Lincoln attributed to artist George Healy. The THA bought the painting at auction and helped fund its restoration. The painting, the Treasury's first original portrait of Lincoln, now hangs in the Secretary of the Treasury's Conference Room next to a Gilbert Stewart painting of George Washington.

WARNER ROBINS AIR LOGISTICS CENTER HISTORY OFFICE, ROBINS AFB, GEORGIA

William Head, Chief of the Office of History, won the Frank Futrell Air Force Book Award for 2008–2009 for his volume *Shadow and Stinger: The Development and Deployment of the AC-119G/K Gunship* (Texas A&M University Press).

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FEDERALIST CALENDAR

July 27–30, 2009. U.S. Army Center of Military History. Biennial Conference, “Exiting War: Phase IV Operations.” Washington, DC, area. Visit www.history.army.mil/2009cah/index.html.

Aug. 11–16, 2009. Society of American Archivists (SAA), Joint Annual Meeting with Council of State Archivists (CoSA). Austin, TX. Visit www.archivists.org/conference/

Sept. 10–12, 2009. Naval History Symposium, Annapolis, MD. Visit www.usna.edu/history/symposium.

Oct. 14–18, 2009. Oral History Association (OHA). Annual Meeting, “Moving Beyond the Interview.” Louisville KY. Visit www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/

Oct. 15–16, 2009. Cryptologic History Symposium, “Global Perspectives on Cryptology.” Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Kossiakoff Conference Center, Laurel, MD. Visit “Cryptologic History News”

under “Center for Cryptologic History” at www.nsa.gov or call 301-688-2336.

Oct. 29–31, 2009. Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC), Meeting, Jersey City, NJ. Visit www.lib.umd.edu/MARAC/conferences/conferences.html.

Jan. 7–10, 2010. American Historical Association (AHA), Meeting, San Diego, CA. Visit <http://www.historians.org/annual/2010/index.cfm>.

Mar. 10–14, 2010. National Council on Public History (NCPH). Annual Meeting, “Currents of Change.” Portland, OR. Visit www.ncph.org/.

Apr. 7–10, 2010. Organization of American Historians (OAH), Annual Conference, “American Culture, American Democracy.” Hilton Washington, Washington, DC. Visit <http://www.oah.org/meetings/2010/>

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