

## CIA'S HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM: WHERE THE PAST BECOMES DECLASSIFIED

*By Peter Nyren*

The CIA's Historical Review Program (HRP) is responsible for the declassification review and release of documents detailing the Agency's analysis and activities relating to historically significant topics and events. Tracing its roots back to 1985, the HRP was established as an outcome of congressional discussions that resulted in the passage of the CIA Information Act of 1984. The mission of the HRP is to showcase CIA's contributions to national security, provide an accurate and objective understanding of the intelligence that has helped shape the foundation of major policy decisions, and release to the broadest audience possible information that is not otherwise subject to legally required review.

Last year was a banner year for the Historical Review Program, which is managed by the Historical Collections Division (HCD) in CIA's Information Management Services. HCD completed a total of eight release and outreach events in FY 2010, up from five in the previous fiscal year. In addition, each release was highlighted by a symposium held typically at partner organizations such as universities or presidential libraries. These symposia help place the declassified documents directly in the hands of historians and other academics most likely to benefit from using CIA source material in their research. As an added benefit, the public events drew significant coverage in the media, allowing us to reach a national, and even international, audience.

### SELECTED CIA RELEASE EVENTS IN FY2010

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Type of Event/Collection</i>
Reassessing the Warsaw Pact: The Use of Declassified Documents in Developing New Historical Insights	Nov 2009	Harvard University	Panel discussion and document release/More than 800 CIA documents on the Warsaw Pact.
Use of Intelligence in Historical Research: CIA's Outreach to Scholars	Feb 2010	ISA Conference, New Orleans, LA	Panel discussion.
Strategic Warning and the Role of Intelligence: Lessons Learned from the 1968 Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia	April 2010	LBJ Presidential Library, Austin, TX	Symposium and document release/ More than 500 CIA documents on the Soviet-Czech crisis of 1968.
Baptism by Fire: CIA Analysis of the Korean War	June 2010	Truman Library, Independence, Missouri	Symposium and document release/ More than 1,300 documents on the Korean War.

*See CIA continued on page 3*

## INSIDE

<b>CIA's Historical Review Program</b> , <i>Peter Nyren</i>	1
<b>President's Message</b> , <i>Matt Wasniewski</i>	2
<b>Executive Council News</b>	4
<b>C&amp;O Canal Quarters</b> , <i>Angela R. Sirna and Sam Tamburro</i>	5
<b>NPS Collections On-Line</b> , <i>Joan Bacharach</i>	7
<b>Winchester, Virginia, and John Brown's Raid</b> , <i>Ann Denkler and Daniel J. Radomski</i>	8

<b>Federal History Office Profile, FDA</b> , <i>Suzanne Junod</i>	11
<b>Industrial Recovery Board Records</b>	13
<b>From the Archives</b> , <i>Charles Downs</i>	14
<b>Sharon Thibodeau Retires</b>	15
<b>The Tully Archive</b> , <i>Benjamin Guterman</i>	16
<b>Making History</b>	17
<b>Federalist Calendar</b>	20



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Matt Wasniewski

My inaugural contribution to the newsletter opens with heartfelt thanks to our outgoing officers, including Leo Slater and Mike Bigelow. A special note of appreciation is due to

President Pete Daniel and Secretary Anne Rothfeld. Pete's status as a longtime federal historian, who is widely respected in the academic community, greatly benefitted our organization. Under his leadership, the Society enjoyed a successful 2011–2012, both programatically and financially. Pete not only has served as a bridge between federal historians and our academic cousins, he's also been a generous and thoughtful mentor to many in our community, including a long list of Smithsonian fellows that extends back decades. Anne Rothfeld served as the Society's institutional memory, annual meeting organizer extraordinaire, and most recently as its secretary. Anne's knowledge of event-planning, her organizational skills, and sense of humor made service on the council a delight. We wish each of these individuals all the best in their future endeavors and hope to see them often at future Society events.

I am excited about the upcoming year and our excellent executive council—which consists of a representative sampling of our vibrant community. Our new leadership team includes Vice President and President-elect Marc Rothenberg of the National Science Foundation. Marc is a well-known and respected federal historian, both for his work at the NSF and his leadership of the first-rate Joseph Henry documentary series. Our new council members are Lu Ann Jones of the National Park Service and Carl Ashley of the State Department; joining them are the new nominating committee members David McMillen of the Na-

tional Archives and Records Administration and Terrance Rucker of the U.S. House History Office. Sejal Patel, of the National Institutes of Health, who has run our membership program for the past year, will begin a two-year term as our new secretary. These folks will join our continuing elected council members, David Turk of the U.S. Marshals Service, Richa Wilson of the National Forest Service, and Jason Gart of History Associates Inc., as well as nominating committee member Kate Scott of the Senate Historical Office.

The primary goals for my term as president align with those of my immediate predecessors, and have been of interest to me since I joined the Society. First, is to recruit new members both through our programs and web site, and by reaching out to groups now underrepresented in our membership—particularly individuals who are engaged with federal history “outside the Beltway” and graduate students. I was heartened by the overflow turnout for our annual meeting in March and look to build on that momentum. To that end, at its inaugural meeting this summer the council will discuss the possibility of creating an annual skills workshop aimed particularly at early career federal historians and graduate students.

A second goal is to create a greater sense of volunteerism among the general membership, partly by reinvigorating committee functions that have been dormant for some time. As part of that undertaking, the council will be considering an update to the society's bylaws, which were last revised nearly a decade ago. Several of the bylaw processes have become outmoded, and responsibilities of some committees and officers also have changed. This, I suspect, a natural process in an organization that has traditionally been energized by the volunteerism of its membership. But it also is due to technological changes that have transformed the Society's communications with its membership and the wider world. New positions—such as a webmaster and an e-bulletin editor—have emerged in the past decade. A special committee, approved by the council this past spring, is now discussing proposed revisions.

### **THE FEDERALIST** (ISSN 0736-8151)

Newsletter of the Society for History in the Federal Government

Published Quarterly

The Society is a national professional organization open to all who are interested in federal history programs. Annual membership fee is \$40, \$20 students, and includes a subscription to *The Federalist* and other periodic publications. Contributors are encouraged to submit articles, news listings, and photographs to the editors.

Issues one-year-old and older (Second Series) are available, along with an index to articles, on the Society's web site at [www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org).

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of *The Federalist*, the SHFG, or the agencies or organizations where the authors are employed.

Society for History in the Federal Government  
P.O. Box 14139, Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044

#### SHFG Officers

President ..... *Matthew Wasniewski*  
*matthew.wasniewski@mail.house.gov*  
Vice President ..... *Mark Rothenberg*  
*mrothenb@nsf.gov*  
Secretary/Membership ..... *Sejal Patel*  
*sejal.patel@nih.gov*  
Treasurer ..... *David Turk*  
*fdc5@aol.com*  
Executive ..... *Carl Ashley*  
Council ..... *Jason Gart*  
*Lu Ann Jones*  
*Richa Wilson*

#### THE FEDERALIST

Editors ..... *Benjamin Guterman*  
*benjamin.guterman@nara.gov*  
*Albin J. Kowalewski*  
*albin.kowalewski@mail.house.gov*  
*John Lonquest*  
*lonquestj@usace.army.mil*  
*John W. Roberts*  
*john\_w\_roberts@nps.gov*  
Associate Editors ..... *Franklin Noll*  
*franklin.noll@bep.treas.gov*  
*Joan Zenzen*  
*joanz10@verizon.net*  
Archivist/Photographer ... *Charles Downs*  
*chasdowns@verizon.net*

Web Site: [www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org)

Printed by *Welsh Printing Corp.*  
Falls Church, VA

After the committee reports to the SHFG council, we will circulate proposed revisions to the membership for review. It's my hope that a general membership vote will occur no later than our next annual meeting.

Please save the date on your calendar for our first big membership event of the year, the annual Hewlett Dinner and Lecture, on October 26 at Clyde's of Gallery Place, in the well-appointed Piedmont Room. The lecture will be delivered by Adam Goodheart, author of the highly acclaimed and timely book *1861: The Civil War Awakening* (Knopf, 2011). Goodheart is a former journalist and the current director of the C.V. Starr Center for the American Experience at Washington College. In reviewing his book,

the distinguished Civil War historian James McPherson described Goodheart as "a Monet with a pen instead of a paintbrush." We're in for a treat! More details to come via the e-bulletin later this summer.

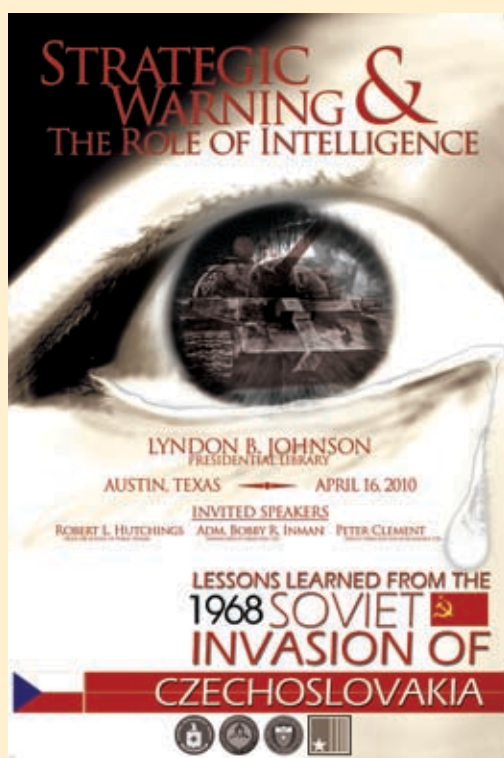
In closing, I'd like to take the opportunity to say that I greatly appreciate the trust you've bestowed on me—as well as the opportunity it presents—to serve as Society president. I'm happy and available to hear your suggestions or questions. The best way to reach me is by personal e-mail: [mwasniewski@live.com](mailto:mwasniewski@live.com). We have a full slate of events for the upcoming year, and I look forward to seeing you in person!

*CIA continued from page 1*

In addition to the public events, CIA featured each of the collections on its public web site ([www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)) in the Special Collections section of the Freedom of Information Act Reading Room. After each event, the site saw significant spikes in traffic as the availability of the documents was publicized. Prior to our efforts to make historical collections available in electronic, searchable formats on the Internet, the documents were released in hardcopy, with limited finding aids. Access to the documents required researchers to physically visit the National Archives in College Park, MD. The Archives' best estimate is that since the program began in 1984 through 2008, fewer than 10,000 researchers have accessed the hardcopy collections. In comparison, CIA's historical collections in 2010 received more than 2.5 million hits on [cia.gov](http://cia.gov).

HCD continued its efforts to look for innovative ways to present historical information. For example, we benchmarked with George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and National Library. A recognized leader in presenting history to the public, Mount Vernon has developed a program that uses interactive displays built around historical documents to enhance the education and learning experience for the general public, while creating an effective search and retrieval system for documents to increase efficiency for researchers and historians.

HCD has been able to apply these benchmarking lessons to the creation of our publications. By identifying two



primary target audiences—academics and the general public—we have been able to successfully package material that caters to both. We have enhanced the content provided with each collection of declassified documents, giving a greater understanding of the context and environment or the historical period. We include interactive user interfaces, graphical timelines, newsreel footage, firsthand narratives, audio, and photographs to address the needs of the general public audience. We have added scholarly analyses from CIA's History Staff, and have developed methods of more effectively organizing and grouping the actual documents to address the academic audience.

In 2009, we began an initiative to partner with external organizations. Given the tight resources HCD operates under, partnerships represent

a tremendous opportunity to leverage our efforts in creating release events of a greater scope and magnitude than we could ever afford to accomplish on our own. This year, we continued developing partnerships with universities, working with Harvard, the University of Texas at Dallas, the University of Texas at Austin, and George Mason University.

We also started reaching out to presidential libraries. The CIA's mission is to produce accurate all-source intelligence, and we go to great lengths to ensure the intelligence is timely and objective. The primary customer for that intelligence is the President. The President, along with his advisors and the Congress use that intelligence as just one of the several data sources and other considerations to



help formulate policy. The analysis that goes into creating intelligence is separate from the policy decision. However, to gain full understanding, researchers must be able to evaluate both intelligence and policy. While we can provide the source documents for the intelligence portion, the presidential libraries are the repositories on the policy side. By partnering with them, we can help ensure a complete story is told. This year, we successfully partnered with the Johnson, Truman, and Eisenhower Libraries to incorporate policy documents into our collections and to host release events. We have continued to work with the Reagan and Clinton Libraries on future projects.

In addition to our partnerships with universities and presidential libraries, we have reached out to other academic and professional organizations and associations. By participating in panel discussions, roundtables, lectures, and

briefings we have been able to greatly increase the accessibility of previously released collections at minimal cost.

With the participation of scholars and other experts, we provide a better understanding of key events in the Agency's history, raise the profile of the documents that are being released, and reach the broadest possible audience for the historical review program. This direct contact with researchers and students has greatly improved the understanding of the context of the documents and the overall release process and has provided one of the most cost-effective methods of meeting the Historical Review Program's primary goals.

*Peter Nyren is FRUS Coordinator in the Historical Collections Division of the Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC.*



## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NEWS

The Society's Executive Council met for its annual planning meeting on July 26, 2011, at Teasium in Washington, DC. This special meeting introduces newly elected members and allows for discussion of plans for upcoming events and new initiatives. The meeting was conducted by incoming President Matt Wasniewski and Vice President Marc Rothenberg. Attendees welcomed new council members Carl Ashley of the State Department Historian's Office, and Lu Ann Jones of the National Park Service History Program. Treasurer David Turk stated that the Society's finances are on a firm footing and ready for projected programs for the current year. Secretary and Membership Coordinator Sejal Patel noted that membership has been growing, and that more students are joining. The Society has aimed to gain more student members through lower membership and conference fees. Vice President Marc Rothenberg said that he has begun planning for next year's March conference, and urged council members to think about possible sessions and to contact others. Benjamin Guterman, Chair of the Publications Committee, presented a preliminary design for a print version of *Federal History* journal (now online), and projected costs. The volume would be mailed to members. After discussion, the Council voted to adopt and produce the print version beginning with the January 2012 issue. Matt Wasniewski

asked for suggestions for a new member for the Jefferson Award committee. He also announced that plans were proceeding for the annual Hewlett Lecture at Clyde's Restaurant in Washington on October 26 with speaker Adam Goodheart (*1861: The Civil War Awakening*), and that an announcement would soon be sent to members and the general history community. Matt also announced that the Bylaws Committee had met and that revised bylaws would be presented to the membership at the annual meeting in March. Kate Scott discussed efforts to recruit more listings for the online Directory of Federal Historical Offices, perhaps doing so at Hewlett Lecture and the annual meeting. Matt also noted the importance of recruiting volunteers from the general membership to serve on standing committees, such as Awards, Program, Publications, and Membership, to promote Society growth and to ease the burden on executive council and officers. He also announced plans to initiate a Society-sponsored skills/methods workshop for graduate students and those wishing to change careers. Sejal Patel and Jason Gart offered to participate in that planning. The meeting ended with discussion of ideas to restart the "Pearls of Wisdom" series, which involved tours of historically interesting venues throughout the DC area. The coming year promises to be a very productive one.

## C&O CANAL QUARTERS: UNLOCKING THE DOORS TO ONE OF AMERICA'S TREASURED PLACES

*By Angela R. Sirna and Sam Tamburro*

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to spend a night in a canal lockhouse? Well, visitors to Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park can now have that experience. The park and the C&O Canal Trust, its nonprofit partner, launched the C&O Canal Quarters Interpretive Program in November 2009. Four lockhouses (Lockhouses 6, 22, 28, and 49) are currently open to the public, and plans are underway to open two more in 2011.

On July 4, 1828, the C&O Canal Company began construction on a canal that would parallel the Potomac River and stretch from Cumberland, Maryland, to Washington, DC, for a distance of 184.5 miles. Because of an elevation change of 605 feet from Cumberland to Washington, a series of 74 lift locks, were needed to overcome the change in topography. As boats navigated the canal with bulk freight shipments, dozens of C&O Canal Company employees operated the locks, passing boats up and downstream 24 hours a day. Many of the locktenders lived in the lockhouses built by the C&O Canal Company. In 1924, the C&O Canal Company abandoned operations, and the lockhouses ceased to function as worker housing. Canal Quarters is a 21st-century effort to utilize the lockhouses, servicing the canal once again.

From a historic preservation perspective, Canal Quarters is a successful case of creative adaptive reuse, which is an ongoing challenge for the National Park Service. C&O Canal National Historical Park manages 60 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Of those 60 historic buildings, 26 are lockhouses built by the C&O Canal Company in the 19th century. Each lockhouse is unique and has its own place in the history of the canal. They are conveniently situated along the 184.5-mile towpath, which functions as the spine of the park and is very popular among recreationists today. For passing hikers or bikers,

these lockhouses stand as reminders of the human dimension of the C&O Canal Company's operation. However, most have remained closed to the public and "mothballed," serving only as scene setters in the cultural landscape. Park management sought a program that could unlock the history of the C&O Canal, while using lockhouses in a point-to-point system on the towpath trail.

Park staff began preservation maintenance on the lockhouses in January 2009. Most of the work focused on replacement-in-kind of missing or deteriorated features, re-plastering, painting, and correcting years of termite damage. Utilities in the lockhouses range from full service to "primitive" (no heat, water, or electricity). The C&O Canal Trust furnished the buildings, developed an online registration system ([www.canalquarters.org](http://www.canalquarters.org)), and organizes a corps of volunteers who regularly check on the buildings. The first program buildings formerly opened to the public in November 2009, just 10 months after initial preservation efforts began.

Canal Quarters is not an attempt to recreate the past for park visitors. Rather, it is an opportunity for them to intimately interact with the park's resources in a meaningful way. Last year, C&O Canal National Historical Park had 4.1 million visitors, all of whom came to the park for a variety of reasons—recreation, nature, or history. The Canal Quarters Program invites visitors to stay the night in a historic lockhouse, but allows them to tailor their experience to meet their own interests.

The interpretive framework of the program is layered, and the core of the experience is the building itself. Even if the buildings were empty, there is still something important to be gained from staying overnight in a historic lockhouse on the canal. However, we like to capitalize upon the time spent in the buildings to give visitors a better understanding of the canal's history. Each building has its own interpretive theme, which conveys a



*Exterior view of Lockhouse 22. Courtesy Chris Hanessian, C&O Canal.*

particular aspect of the canal or park, such as canal construction in the 1830s or Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas's 1954 hike. Each theme has a corresponding time period. The furnishings are vintage or reproduction pieces purchased by the C&O Canal Trust and are meant to place visitors within that general period. Since we have little documentation indicating how these buildings were furnished historically, we try to include pieces that are commensurate with the period and working class. To capitalize upon the wall space, framed copies of historic photographs from our collection are grouped around the house, which contribute directly to the theme. We chose to give the media a "soft" appearance to avoid making these buildings feel like a museum. Information that cannot fit on the walls is organized in a scrap book that visitors may peruse at their own leisure. The scrap books are a great way of introducing primary source material specific to the site, include information that goes beyond the chosen theme, and show "change over time" since these buildings are over 150 years old. Finally, we include secondary source material, such as trail guides, history books, and nature guides. Visitors can use this material to answer questions not addressed in the interpretation or explore personal topics of interest.

From November 2009 to May 2011, nearly 1,800 visitors from 33 states have stayed in Canal Quarters lockhouses and experienced this innovative interpretive program. Moving forward, the park plans to complete an environmental assessment on the Canal Quarters program to analyze its potential impacts on resources. Long term, it is our goal that Canal Quarters emerges as a model for viable adaptive reuse of historic structures and provides a new, creative paradigm for providing meaningful interpretive experiences to park visitors.

Visitors may register to stay at a Canal Quarters lockhouse by visiting [www.canalquarters.org](http://www.canalquarters.org). The web site gives a virtual tour of the individual building, so visitors may learn more about their history, furnishings, and amenities. Interested people can also check a building's availability and registration fee, which varies by building, season, and weekend. They may register online or call the C&O Canal Trust. Once registered, they will receive a Canal Quarters User Agreement, Arrival/Departure Checklist, and a list of Frequently Asked Questions. They will be e-mailed a confirmation code to be entered into a lock box upon arrival at the building. This box holds the key to the building. For a visitor, this means unlocking the doors to one of America's treasured places!

*Angela R. Sirna is a cultural resource specialist, and Sam Tamburro is the Cultural Resource Program Manager at the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Hagerstown, Maryland.*



*The interior of Lockhouse 22 is reminiscent of the 1830s during the establishment and construction of the C&O Canal. Courtesy Chris Hanessian, C&O Canal.*

## SHFG DIRECTORY

SHFG is compiling the Directory of Federal Historical Programs online.

Visit <http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/directory-of-history-offices/> to complete and submit a directory form. Send form to [Kate\\_Scott@sec.senate.gov](mailto:Kate_Scott@sec.senate.gov)

## JOIN H-FED HIST

Online at  
<http://www.h-net.org/-fedhist/>

Academic announcements  
Book reviews • Job guide  
Discussion logs



## SHARING AMERICA'S HISTORY: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COLLECTIONS ON-LINE AT WWW.NPS.GOV/MUSEUM

By Joan Bacharach

**A**braham Lincoln's rocking chair. Civil War uniforms. Thomas Edison's handwritten lab notes. Eleanor Roosevelt's radio. Frederick Douglass's library. Clara Barton's first aid kit. Mamie Eisenhower's hats. Manzanar high school graduation ring.

The National Park Service is one of the world's largest museum systems. It preserves places of grandeur and national significance as well as nearly 41 million natural, historic, and prehistoric objects and over 50,000 linear feet of archives. These collections tell powerful stories of America—its diverse cultures, significant events, and innovative ideas that continue to inspire the world. And they mirror the unique story of each unit within the National Park System.

National Park Service (NPS) collections range from everyday items associated with eminent American men and women—from presidents to ranchers; to objects of breathtaking beauty and overwhelming historic significance. They include tools and other implements fashioned by indigenous peoples over 1,000 years ago, rare plant specimens, dinosaur bones, and unique documents. The collections provide surprising, intimate, and poignant details of Americans at home, at work, and at war. They are witness to American history.

Unlike most museum collections that have been taken from their original context, NPS collections are managed in the places where they were created and used. They are located at NPS visitor centers, museums, historic house museums, and centers throughout the United States. Professional NPS museum staff, archivists, conservators, and others care for the collections and make them available for research and education. Because many parks display only a small percentage of the whole collection at any given time, the NPS's Park Museum Management Program collaborates with parks to provide public access in other ways.

The NPS Park Museum Management Program has produced over 30 **virtual museum exhibits and house tours** in collaboration with parks. The exhibits current-



*Tiffany Lamp with Laburnum Shade, ca. 1900. Death Valley National Park, Scotty's Castle. DEVA 15803;15804*



*Union Cavalry Musician's Jacket. Gettysburg National Military Park, GETT 20433*

ly feature over 4,000 digital images of NPS museum collections. Here virtual visitors can encounter American Revolutionary War heroes; examine Civil War uniforms, documents and photographs, personal gear, and weapons; visit with American presidents and first ladies at home; survey American landscape paintings; inspect decorative arts; and much more.

These virtual multimedia exhibits and house tours are designed for visitors who want to familiarize themselves with the park and its collections before visiting or who are unable to experience the parks firsthand. They bring park collections and programs directly into homes and classrooms to engage learners of all ages. They reach out to diverse audiences—urban and rural, young and old, formal and informal learners—and make park stories and collections available up close 24/7!

NPS **Teaching with Museum Collections** object-based, curriculum-related lesson plans help teachers meet national educational goals using park museum objects, historic documents, and photographs. Designed to dovetail with the virtual museum exhibits, there are over 50 lesson plans currently available, with more to be added. The lesson plans connect Kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers and students directly to parks and their collections in student-centered activities, bringing into the classroom America's diverse cultures, momentous events, inspiring ideas, and places where the nation's history happened. The lesson plans make history immediate, and introduce the park's cultural and natural resources to a new generation of young Americans.

The Park Museum Management Program's **digital imaging project** has captured over 13,000 new digital images of museum objects from 60 parks that will provide increased access to collections through future virtual museum exhibits and in the Web Catalog. The **Web Catalog** features participating park collection databases with selected catalog data that are searchable by park and other criteria. The **NPS Park Profiles** contain summary



**Radio.** Eleanor Roosevelt National Historical Site, ELRO 570

information for more than 350 park museum collections, including scope of collection, size, and type.

National Park Service museum collections are a tangible legacy that links us to significant times, places, events, and people.

The collections provide researchers, educators, students, and the general public opportunities for exploration and learning, and a deeper understanding of the park, its resources, and our nation's cultural and natural heritage.

The National Park Service museum program is over a century old. The Organic Act of 1916 authorizing the creation of the National Park Service includes wording about museum collections that continues to guide the NPS museum management program: “to conserve the scenery and natural and historic *objects* [emphasis added] . . . therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. . . .” The collections are treasure troves of information that await future researchers and new technologies.

The National Park Service publishes a *Museum Handbook* and the *Conserve O Grams* technical leaflet series. These publications cover preservation and protection, documentation, and use of museum and archival collections and are available online at no charge at [www.nps.gov/museum](http://www.nps.gov/museum).

*Joan Bacharach is a senior staff curator with the National Park Service Park Museum Management Program in the Washington, DC, office.*



*Frederick Douglass in His Study at Cedar Hill, ca. 1890. Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, FRDO 3886*

## A MILITIA, A MEDICAL COLLEGE, AND A JUDGE: WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA'S, CONNECTIONS TO JOHN BROWN'S RAID

*By Ann Denkler and Daniel J. Radomski*

**T**he town of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, located 26 miles northeast of Winchester, Virginia, will forever be associated with the October 17, 1859, raid by abolitionist John Brown and his 21 followers. His violent and controversial mission—to incite a slave revolt by seizing the federal arsenal and rifle works in the town—contributed to the escalating sectional tensions that started the American Civil War. What is not widely known is the vital role of Winchester's citizens, including militia members, women, medical students, and a lawyer from Ohio during the crucial aftermath of the event. Tensions from Brown's raid spilled over to Winchester, particularly after the death of two African American followers of Brown. The disinterment of their bodies by Winchester medical students who used them for medical study inflamed racial tensions in the town. Yet, today the lone Harpers Ferry memorial to

another African American, Heyward Shepherd, omits this important chapter in the story of John Brown's Raid. As historians, we must correct this incomplete record, especially in the interpretive histories and memorials we present to the public.

John Brown vehemently opposed slavery and strongly believed that armed insurrection was the only way to permanently abolish the “peculiar institution.” His beliefs were exemplified through his violent actions against pro-slavery forces in Kansas such as the Pottawatomie and Osawatimie Massacres in 1856. Through June 1859, Brown traveled the country seeking support for his cause while staying in contact with the six prominent abolitionists known as the “The Secret Six” (Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Samuel Gridley Howe, Theodore Parker, Franklin Benjamin Sanborn, Gerrit Smith, and George Luther Stearns). On June



30, 1859, Brown met with the other conspirators at a hotel in Hagerstown, Maryland, to further plan the raid. He arrived in Harpers Ferry on July 3, 1859, rented a nearby farmhouse, and waited for his recruits. In late August he met with Frederick Douglass in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and revealed his plan, which Douglass did not agree with. By September, Brown had 21 men under his command. On October 16, Brown received rifles from abolitionist societies and prepared to attack the arsenal and rifle works at Harpers Ferry.

Winchester was connected to Harpers Ferry by way of the railroad, and proved to be a strategic location. On the night of October 17, 1859, the men of Winchester's Morgan Continental Guard were hosting a celebration commemorating the American victory at Yorktown during the American Revolution when they received news that abolitionist John Brown and his followers had seized the federal arsenal. Winchester immediately sent its three rifle companies into action. The Winchester Rifles scouted around Berkeley County, West Virginia, to quell any uprisings that Brown's insurgency may have created, and the Marion Riflemen patrolled the perimeter of Winchester to protect the town against any attacks. During Brown's subsequent trial the Morgan Continental Guard was assigned as part of the detachment that guarded him.

The first casualty of John Brown's raid was Heyward Shepherd, a free black man from, ironically, Winchester. Shepherd's story is a sad one—a person at the wrong place at the wrong time—and his legacy of the “faithful” person of color was largely comprised of a mythologized history created by white heritage groups in the late 19th century who wanted to memorialize him. There has been, however, very little attention paid to two of the African American assailants who accompanied Brown and who were executed following the raid: John Copeland and Shields Green. Copeland was a free black man from Oberlin, Ohio, where he was a student at Oberlin College and actively involved in the antislavery society. He met Brown at Frederick Douglass's house, where he was introduced to the famous leader by his uncle, Lewis Sheridan Leary, another follower of Brown during the raid. Copeland joined Brown in September 1859, working with him in upstate New York promoting his abolitionist agenda. Copeland's role in the raid was to assist white abolitionist John Henry Kagi in seizing Hall's Rifle Works. Shields Green, on the other hand, was an escaped slave from Charleston, South Carolina, who was nicknamed “The Emperor,” for un-



John Copeland (Wikipedia).

certain reasons. Not much is known about Green, but Douglass describes him in his *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* as simply, “a man of few words.” He joined Brown on August 19, 1859, in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Like Copeland, he spent time in upstate New York promoting Brown's abolitionist agenda and attempting to recruit slaves from neighboring counties.

But for all its planning and hopes for eliminating slavery in the United States, John Brown's raid was a disastrous undertaking. Most of his men were killed, and the nation would suffer the trauma of four years of civil war, only to unsatisfactorily rectify the consequences of slavery during the Reconstruction Era. Both Copeland and Green were captured and executed

in December 1859. For Copeland's family, the event of his death would lead to an even more tragic ending through connection with the Winchester Medical College.

Acting appropriately in the context of mid-19th-century medical studies, the students of the medical college heard news of the raid and journeyed to the outskirts of Harpers Ferry to search for cadavers. In the 1850s, cadavers were still the primary source for study of the human anatomy. They picked up a body and headed for the train station. At first the body was identified as Watson Brown, John Brown's youngest son, and one of the two that died in the raid. The body was later confirmed as that of Oliver Brown, another one of John Brown's sons. The students crammed his body into a barrel, boarded the train back to Winchester, and escorted it to the medical college where it was dissected. The skeleton was later displayed in the medical college's museum. After Brown's assailants were executed and buried, the students once again journeyed to the outskirts of Harpers Ferry and unearthed the bodies of two of Brown's African American raiders, John Copeland and Shields Green. Both men's bodies were also crammed in barrels and taken to the medical college's anatomy lab for dissection and examination. This action soon exposed racial bias and opposition to abolitionist rhetoric that existed in Winchester during the sectional crisis.

Attorney James Monroe experienced this racial bias firsthand during his journey to Winchester. Monroe taught law at Oberlin College in Ohio, where Shields Green and John Copeland once attended classes. Of Quaker heritage, he became a member of the Connecticut Anti-Slavery Society, and in 1841 took up a position as a national lecturer for the society. He was a professor of Rhetoric and Belles

Letters at Oberlin College. He simultaneously served seven terms in the Ohio state legislature on the ticket of the new Republican Party. In late November 1859, he agreed to help Copeland's family reclaim the body of their dead son, now in the possession of the Winchester Medical College.

When Monroe reached Winchester, he went to the Taylor Hotel (a building still standing in the downtown area) and checked in as "James Monroe, Russia" to not arouse suspicion among the general public. Monroe then visited Winchester native Judge Richard Parker, the man who had convicted John Brown. Parker had arranged a meeting with the board of the medical college. Monroe pleaded his case, and the medical college agreed to release Copeland's body and guaranteed their full assistance and cooperation. After the meeting, Monroe toured the campus of the medical college and identified the body of another man he knew from Oberlin. This man turned out to be Shields Green. The next morning the hotel clerk informed Monroe that a group of people was waiting for him in the parlor. When Monroe entered, the group of young men identified themselves as students of the Winchester Medical College. They argued with Monroe about how he had no right to intrude and disrupt their education by taking something away that they felt was rightfully theirs. This emotion was clearly expressed as one of them stated, "I stood over the grave with a revolver while my chums dug him up." They also described to Monroe how competitive a prize the cadavers of these men were, as they competed with other medical students to acquire them. Later that evening, Monroe went to see Judge Parker, who said that the bodies were taken last night by the medical students, buried in an undisclosed location, and that he was dropping the entire matter because it was stirring up too many emotions in the townspeople.

In 1860, the medical college closed its doors due to secession; however, the memory of John Brown continued as a powerful force, as Union forces burned the college building during their occupation of Winchester in 1862. Winchester resident Mrs. Hugh Holmes Lee explained the burning: "the skeleton of Oliver Brown; they buried in the yard what they supposed were his bones, but the genuine ones had been removed foiling their malicious design."

The absence of Copeland and Green's story in histories of John Brown's Raid limits our understanding of African American participation in that event to the unintended heroism of Heyward Shepherd. Also, choosing to honor only



*The cenotaph at Oberlin, Ohio.  
(WAvegetarian)*

Shepherd suggests the interpretation that Brown was simply an evil murderer, omitting discussion of his wider motivations, that he was an abolitionist with strong, but violent, ideals who was trying to make his controversial vision come true. And, finally, without the story of Copeland and Green, one cannot fully grasp Brown's effects on Winchester. The unearthing of the corpses displays strong racial animosities, but also by extension a direct act of revenge on Brown's abolitionist actions. Resentment and hostility is further displayed by the medical college students' protests at James Monroe's attempts to retrieve the bodies.

The memories of the stealing of the cadavers and the experimentation performed on them were fresh in the minds of many Northern troops throughout the Civil War. The conflict surrounding Winchester Medical College identified the town as one of the centers of tension during the sectional crises.

The Copeland-Shields story offers an important lesson for public historians involved in interpretive history. They bear the responsibility for historical accuracy and balance. In many cases, the narratives they develop for monuments and memorials are trusted

as the primary source of information for teachers, students, and the wider cultural memory. This story is an example of how more accurate and inclusive history benefits us all.

#### SELECT SOURCES

Chase, Julia. *Winchester Divided: The Civil War Diaries of Julia Chase and Laura Lee*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2002.

Monroe, James. "A Journey to Virginia in December, 1859." *Oberlin Thursday Lectures, Addresses, and Essays*. New York: New York Public Library, 1898.

Noyalas, Jonathan. *Plagued By War: Winchester, Virginia During the Civil War*. Leesburg, VA: Gauley Mount Press, 2003.

Shackel, Paul. *Memory in Black and White: Race, Commemoration, and the Post-Bellum Landscape*. Lanham, MD: Altamira Press, 2003.

*Ann Denkler is an associate professor of history and director of the Public History Certificate Program, and Daniel J. Radomski is a history major at Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA.*

## FEDERAL HISTORY OFFICE PROFILE

The Federalist profiles a different history office in each issue.

Please direct texts, comments, and inquiries to editor Joan Zenzen at [joanz10@verizon.net](mailto:joanz10@verizon.net).

### UPDATE ON THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION HISTORY OFFICE

By Suzanne Junod

The Food and Drug Administration History Office (FHO) is a small office, staffed by two professional historians, Dr. Suzanne Junod and Dr. John Swann, as well as a research assistant, Cindy Lachin, and a part-time oral historian, Robert Tucker. The office has established a unique presence in FDA over the past two decades, and its role has recently been codified in the Federal Register. (FR 74: 158 / Tuesday, August 18, 2009 / Page 41729). The office's mission is "to increase and enhance authoritative knowledge of FDA's past history in support of a broad understanding of the evolution of FDA's public health activities and mission."

The FDA's founding statute, the 1906 Pure Food and Drugs Act, re-oriented a scientific bureau in the Department of Agriculture, giving it regulatory powers over a broad array of consumer products. The new agency was renamed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 1930. The 1906 Progressive-era statute had been enacted under the authority of the commerce clause of the Constitution to protect Americans from adulterated and misbranded foods and drugs traveling in interstate commerce. The law advanced states' efforts to protect their signature products (e.g., Vermont maple syrup, Wisconsin cheeses) from fraud and imitation by requiring that product labels be both truthful and accurate. The law also brought some clarity to the "patent medicine" industry by requiring that the amounts of "dangerous" ingredients such as opium, heroin, cocaine, cannabis, chloroform, and alcohol be listed on the product label. A key component of the 1906 act mandated the creation of a federal cadre of food and drug inspectors.

As a result of this close connection between the earliest food and drug inspectors and the origins of the agency, interest in the agency's history had long resided within the Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA). A formal FDA History Office was first established there in 1984, at which time ORA hired two professional historians, Junod and



Suzanne Junod and John Swann, the two historians in the FDA History Office, with Dr. Frances Kelsey. Kelsey was the FDA medical officer who refused to approve the licensing of the drug thalidomide for sale in the U.S. in 1962. Her inaction meant that the U.S. was spared an epidemic of devastating and severe birth defects seen in countries such as Germany, which had allowed the drug to be sold over-the-counter. Kelsey was subsequently awarded the nation's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Honor, from President John Kennedy. The FDA historians played a key role in commemorating the 50th anniversary of Kelsey's arrival at FDA in the spring of 2010.

Swann, to staff the office and to consolidate and coordinate disparate history activities and interests within the agency. Even though the History Office's work was agency-wide in scope, it was a natural fit organizationally because ORA inspectors work in every FDA Center (drugs, biologics, devices, cosmetics, veterinary products, and foods). Longtime ORA employees had already demonstrated an interest in the agency's history by conducting oral history interviews with some of the agency's original investigators and administrators. They were able to collect some unique and sometimes surprising photographs and artifacts as well. Many of these materials were "off the record" and portrayed an inspector's life in a personal way. They soon expanded their work to interview their succes-

sors, many of whom were of retirement age and had been with the field organization their entire careers.

At the time that the ORA employees began their work on oral history, they began working with James Harvey Young, a professor at Emory University, whose first book, *The Toadstool Millionaires* (Princeton University Press: 1961) had been based, in part, on FDA records and case files. He himself had conducted numerous oral histories as a component of his research. FDA and Dr. Young began a partnership with the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, MD, that continues to the present. NLM maintains copies of all tapes and transcripts of FDA oral histories, conserving them and making them available to researchers. At the present time, there are nearly 200 interviews in the collection.

The agency's first "historian" was appointed by the FDA Commissioner in 1968. Wallace Janssen, a former head of the Office of Public Information, served as a valued source of institutional knowledge until his death in 1995. His enthusiasm for the agency's history, combined with his journalistic expertise, soon resulted in the creation of



a popular FDA Museum in the building housing the Commissioner's office in downtown Washington. The museum was short-lived, but Janssen's legacy cast a long shadow over the office as he left papers, photographs, artifacts, and published articles that became the basis of the FDA History Office's collection.

The agency had no dedicated space to display its growing collection of products except a few dozen items at any one time during the more than three decades it occupied the Parklawn Building in Rockville, MD. The History Office has worked collaboratively with many institutions to conserve, create finding aids, and make available many historically significant papers. These include the Frances Kelsey Papers (Library of Congress). Dr. Kelsey was a drug reviewer in 1961, and she is credited with preventing the approval of the teratogenic drug thalidomide in the United States.

In 2006, FDA celebrated its Centennial, and the History Office played a key role in the commemoration of this event. The historians standardized all references to the 1906 Act (Pure Food and Drugs Act). They consulted widely, both within the agency and with the press; published articles; spoke at key events; created poster exhibits; designed commemorative inspector badges; helped the Postal Service create a commemorative stamp; and worked with the Food and Drug Law Institute to publish a "coffee table" style book featuring historical photos and articles documenting the evolution of the FDA. Partnerships with the newly created FDA Alumni Association and the FDA Alliance, an advocacy group supporting additional appropriations for the work of the FDA, and a prominent site on the FDA web site, all called attention to the need to support the History Office and its work.

In 2009, in an effort to consolidate the information service functions of the agency, the FDA History Office became a part of a new organization: the Office of Public Information and Library Services (OPILS). In addition to the History Office, OPILS also includes the Division of Dockets Management (DDM), Division of Freedom of Information (DFOI), and the FDA Biosciences Library (FBSL). The new organization is located in the Office of the FDA Commissioner.

In 2010, FDA's Deputy Commissioner requested that the FHO be moved to the new FDA "campus" in White Oak, Maryland. The campus unifies components of FDA that had been housed for decades in more than 40 locations around the Washington area. Relocating to the White Oak campus has opened up new opportunities for the History Office to accommodate researchers, engage in more educational outreach, and stage formal and modern exhibits. An alcove in Building 1 has allowed the agency's oldest and some of its most valuable and instructive artifacts to be displayed together for the first time in over a century.

Custom-made cases will be installed this summer adjacent to the alcove exhibit to contain historical artifacts and explain FDA's historical evolution and mission. Other collaborative exhibits are already on display and will come to the White Oak campus in the near future. The NIH History Office and the FDA History Office (with support from the FDA Alumni Association) have just opened an exhibit on the history of replacement heart valves at the NIH Clinical Center. The exhibit will come to the White Oak campus after it leaves NIH. The FDA History Office has also recently mounted an exhibit in conjunction with the U.S. Pharmacopeia entitled "FDA-USP: Partners in Public Health." The exhibit highlights the history of Food and Drug's interactions with the Pharmacopoeia from the mid-19th century to the present. And finally, although time for research and writing is often limited, the FDA historians publish regularly in the fields of the history of medicine and pharmacy. Recently, John Swann authored "Reducing with Dinitrophenol: Self-Medication and the Challenge of Regulating a Dangerous Pharmaceutical Before the U.S. Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act," in *Perspectives On Twentieth-Century Pharmaceuticals*, and Suzanne Junod coauthored an article with the director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research exploring the history of the "user fee" program for drugs at FDA: "Launching into the Era of User Fee Acts: PDUFA Lays the Foundation," in *PDUFA and the Expansion of FDA User Fees*.

#### **FDA HISTORY OFFICE**

White Oak, Building 32, Room 3318  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

**Chief Historian:** none

**Staff positions:** Suzanne Junod, Ph.D.  
John Swann, Ph.D.

#### **Office Activities and Responsibilities**

The FDA History Office maintains specialized expertise on the history of FDA and its predecessors and it meets a wide spectrum of information requests.

**Recent Publication:** <http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/WhatWeDo/History>

**Contact:** Suzanne Junod

Tel: 301-796-8951

Fax: 301-595-7941

E-mail: [Suzanne.Junod@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Junod@fda.hhs.gov)

Web site: <http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/WhatWeDo/History>

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1933 SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY BOARD NOW ON THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S HISTORICAL OFFICE WEB SITE

The Historical Office of the Department of Labor has recently posted online the minutes of the 1933 Special Industrial Recovery Board (SIRB) meetings. The board was established by President Franklin Roosevelt immediately upon passage of the National Industrial Recovery Act (June 16, 1933). The SIRB was charged with setting up the National Recovery Administration (NRA) and developing policies to jump start the nation's economic recovery through fair competition and a public works program.

The Special Industrial Recovery Board met weekly from June until December 1933. After each weekly meeting, minutes were typed and distributed to Board members. On December 18, 1933, after only six months of service, the functions and duties of the Special Industrial Recovery Board were absorbed by a new National Emergency Council created by Executive Order 6513.

The proceedings of the SIRB meetings yield a great deal of varied and wonderful information. Through these minutes, you are able to watch the birthing process for the National Recovery Administration. You are also able to witness discussions of the many troublesome issues surrounding the codes of fair competition that were developed to regulate each separate trade and industry and through which businesses achieved the coveted "Blue Eagle." The meetings also highlight the magnitude of the Great Depression. On September 6, Harry Hopkins told the Board that at one time America had 4.8 million families on public relief, amounting to about 15 million individuals. West Virginia was cited as having 35 percent of their population on relief, and in some areas, the number rose to 50 percent (Meeting 12, pages 12–13).

Key Board members included Daniel C. Roper, Secretary of Commerce; Homer S. Cummings, the Attorney General; Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior; Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture; Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor; Lewis Douglas, Director of the Budget;



Hugh S. Johnson, Administrator of the Industrial Control Act; and Charles H. March, Chair of the Federal Trade Commission. Other important New Deal figures also attended meetings upon request in order to provide specific information or argue a particular policy position. Often Board members heatedly debated procedures and policies from the perspectives of their own Departmental missions, but their determination to help the country recover from economic collapse unified them into a cohesive and productive unit. Their passionate desire to help echoes through comments such as the one by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins when she spoke about alleged violations of the National Industrial Recovery Act, saying "...those little

*fellows like the macaroni manufacturer in Oshkosh get short shrift from the big men who, because of their advantages, are chosen to serve on the large policy-forming bodies. He is incoherent, not very articulate and not well educated... The Government must see that he gets justice even if he is unimportant"* (Meeting 15, page 14).

Proceedings of the SIRB meetings can be found at: <http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/history/1933-sirb.htm>.

Additional resources relating to the history of the Department of Labor are located on the Historical Office web page at: <http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/history/main.htm>

### SHFG'S E-BULLETIN

Send announcements to  
[shfg.ebulletin@gmail.com](mailto:shfg.ebulletin@gmail.com)

The bulletin is a service to SHFG members.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES THE SHFG ARCHIVES

*By Charles Downs*

The material for “From the Archives” features have been taken from the SHFG Archives, which is the repository for significant records created or collected by members of the Society. While some of the earliest records predate the Society’s 1978 founding, the most recent are current through 2010. The Society has a records schedule that serves as a guide for determining the records appropriate for inclusion in the Society’s archives. The Society Archivist also reviews material to determine its suitability to be added to the collection. The Archives’ purpose is to be the repository for the SHFG’s significant documents, as well as serving as a significant source for the Society’s history and precedents.

The Society’s first archivist was Paul Scheips, an Army historian, who had been appointed the Society’s first Secretary. He carefully organized and preserved materials covering the early years of the Society. These records, along with the personal interviews with SHFG personalities that Dennis Roth conducted, were the key sources for Roth’s history of the SHFG’s crucial first decade.<sup>1</sup>

When Dr. Scheips became less active in the SHFG, the archives fell into neglect, until Dick Myers of the National Archives took it over in the 1990s. He also tried to inform the Society’s officers and demonstrate to its members the archives’ value as a resource for information and guidance. At the SHFG annual meetings, Dick often displayed and discussed significant and interesting archival documents to those present. Dick wrote and got approval of the SHFG’s first records schedule. He was also responsible for maintaining the SHFG archives in the National Archives Building in College Park.

By 2005, illness prevented Dick from maintaining the SHFG Archives, and I took over from him, having recently retired after a career with NARA, and returning as a volunteer. Coincidentally, the SHFG records were stored in a closet only a few feet from my desk. One of my first tasks was to process several feet of materials that had



*Roger Trask (left) and Dick Myers share a laugh at the 1997 annual meeting*

been accumulated, rebox them, and create a finding aid for the entire collection. Eventually, the records will get more detailed description as well.

As archivist, I have also answered questions about their contents, and provided SHFG officers with materials required to conduct Society business, and historical perspective. Suggested by Federalist editor Benjamin Guterman, the “From the Archives” feature was instituted to inform the Society’s

members about the SHFG Archives’ contents.

Currently, the Society’s archives consists of about 60 boxes of materials, which include documents, photographs, CDs, diskettes, audio cassette tapes, and artifacts maintained in 30 series. Its coverage of the Society’s 32-year history is generally good, if spotty in some areas. By in large, SHFG Presidents and Treasurers have been dutiful in providing their records to the Archives, although some significant gaps relating to Committee records remain. SHFG records fall into the following general categories: Presidential Records, 1979–2009; Treasurers Records 1979–2007; Committee Records; Publications Records, records of significant individuals, events, or activities; Still Pictures, 1988–2011; and a Record Set of SHFG Publications.

The comprehensiveness of the SHFG’s archives is totally dependent on the willingness of former Society officers and chairpersons to keep good records during their tenure, and to retire them to the Archives after they complete their duties. Recently Terry Gough, former SHFG Council member who was active in several committees, provided me with two cubic feet of records covering work in behalf of the Society. He explained that he had moved into smaller quarters that lacked storage space, and he did not want to trash records of potential value to the Society. I am looking forward to reviewing this new accession, and adding it to the archives. For more information on the SHFG Archives, write to [chasdowns@verizon.net](mailto:chasdowns@verizon.net).

<sup>1</sup> Dennis Roth, *The First Decade of the Society for History in the Federal Government*, unpublished manuscript, undated, SHFG Archives.



## SHARON GIBBS THIBODEAU RETIRES

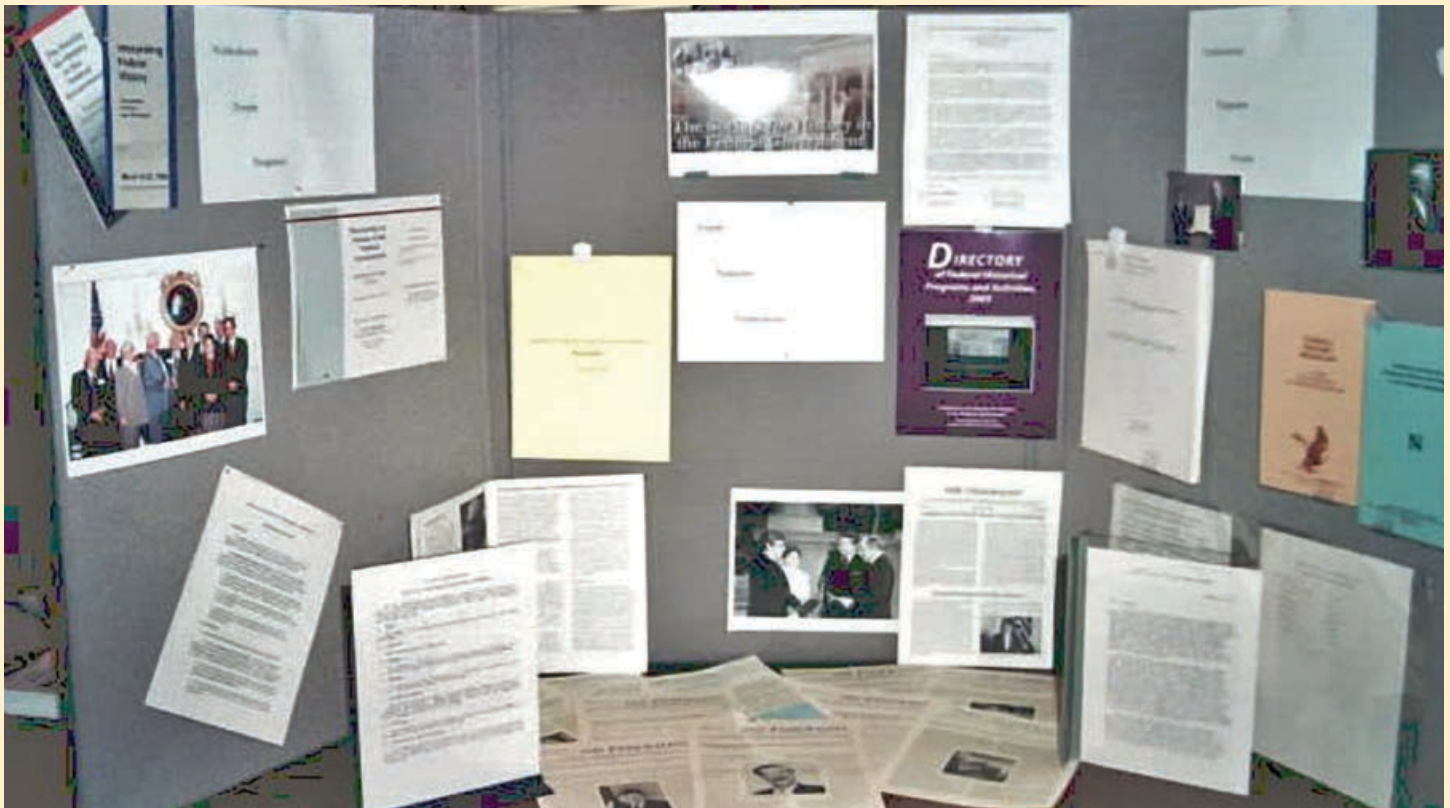
**S**haron Gibbs Thibodeau has retired after 36 years of service to the National Archives. She served as an archivist in the Scientific, Economic, and Natural Resources Branch; NARA's liaison with the Federal historical community; Special Assistant for Archival Automation; Director of Archival Publications; Director of Access Programs; and Director of Archival Operations. In 2008 she was appointed Deputy Assistant Archivist in the Office of Records Services Washington, DC. She also served on many task forces defining NARA policy and tackling major records issues; these included the original FBI appraisal task force, the appraisal study of National Science Foundation case files, and the 1980s report on appraisal and disposition policies. Sharon contributed to the development of descriptive standards for archives in national and international contexts and was a key agent in NW's efforts to promote professional development and a high-performing organization. She is a member and Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and a founding member of the Society for History in the Federal Government, which awarded her the Maryellen Trautman Award (formerly the President's Award) in 2004 for outstanding contributions to the Society, especially preparation of the 2003 *Directory of Federal Historical Programs and Activities*.



**SHFG Online**  
New at [www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org)

- Latest federal history news
- Video of Trask Lecture, 2011
- Latest publications from federal history offices
- *The Federalist*, past issues
- Registration for SHFG Directory
- Library of Congress interactive on Lincoln
- Calendar of conferences
- *FEDERAL HISTORY* journal

Send news and information to  
[webmaster@shfg.org](mailto:webmaster@shfg.org)



*SHFG Archives and publications display at the 2004 annual meeting*

## THE TULLY ARCHIVE

By Benjamin Guterman

The story of the recent release of the Tully Archive of documents from President Franklin Roosevelt's administration presents some stark lessons for the history community, ranging from the protection of federal records to the awareness that we can never write a final history of an era.

This collection of documents recently released by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park, NY, was secretly held for decades by FDR's last secretary, Grace Tully. As his confidante and friend, she held onto approximately 5,000 handwritten notes, memos, drafts, and letters that should have been included in and transferred with his official documents. Many of these were originally generated through dictation, later to be formalized. They include three groups of documents: FDR materials, documents maintained by Grace Tully, and others collected by FDR's previous secretary, Marguerite "Missy" LeHand.

The documents include a June 1933 letter from Mussolini to FDR; the handwritten, first draft of FDR's 1938 State of the Union address; Joseph P. Kennedy's letter to Marguerite LeHand, October 3, 1939; FDR's draft note ("chit") to Harry Hopkins about the public works programs, July 6, 1935; the President's "chit" listing of "Must" legislation for 1935, May 31, 1935; a letter from Lucy Mercer Rutherford to Grace Tully, April 5, 1945; FDR's "chit" regarding promotion of George C. Marshall to brigadier general, ca. 1936; FDR's note from Cairo to Grace Tully, November 6, 1943; FDR's draft of a telegram to President Hoover, 1932; and much more.

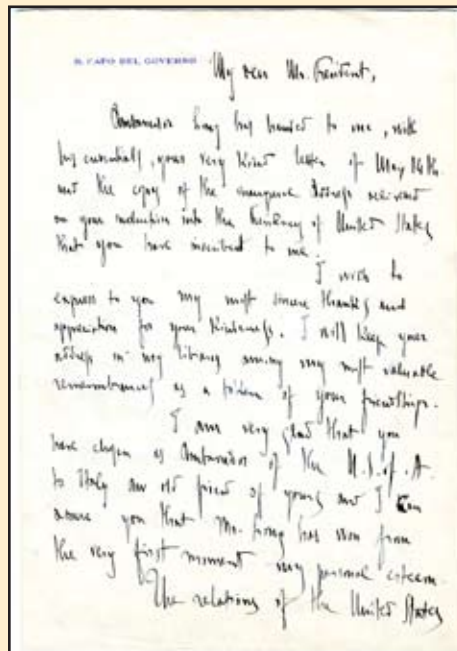
These documents would have been useful to historians over the decades, but there were few clues to their existence. Tully did draw facts from the documents in her brief memoir, *F.D.R., My Boss*, but the Roosevelt papers had

not been opened yet (mid 1950s), so her book caused no stir. Upon her death in June 1984, the collection apparently passed to the sister, and then years later to Guernsey's Auction House in New York City. It changed hands, and in 2001, the collection was acquired by Hollinger International Corporation for \$8 million. Hollinger's Chief Executive Officer Lord Conrad Black was an FDR collector,

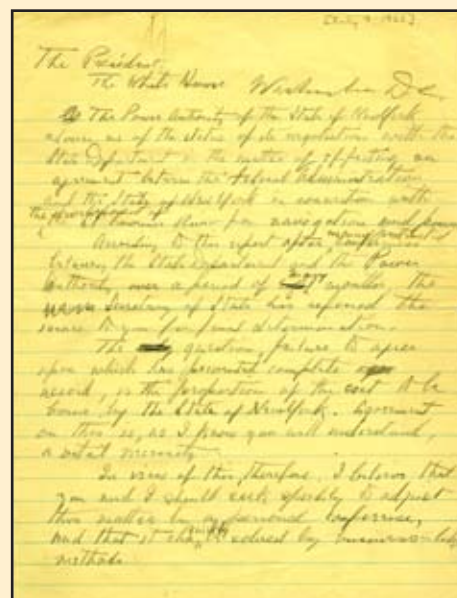
and he published a book titled *Franklin D. Roosevelt: Champion of Freedom* (Public Affairs, 2003), citing documents from his collection. After financial difficulties, Hollinger changed its name to Sun-Times Media Group, after which the documents were offered at auction at Christie's. The auction house contacted the Roosevelt Library pointing to certain items they might find interesting, as they hoped to divide the collection to boost sales price. The Library acted with the National Archives Office of the General Counsel to stop the sale and to plan how to retrieve the collection for the government, where it belonged.

Under an agreement, the collection was boxed, sealed, and deposited at the FDR Library until the case was decided by the court or resolved through negotiations. Finally, it was agreed that an act of Congress would allow the Library to receive the collection as a gift, and allow the Sun-Times Media Group a tax donation. Bankruptcy proceedings against the company threatened the deal, but the court allowed the donation to proceed. On June 30, 2010, the FDR Library was able to take possession of the materials and open the Tully Archive.

The Library has digitized this collection and made it fully available online. The finding aid is posted at [www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu](http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu). Full information on this collection is at <http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/collections/tully.html>



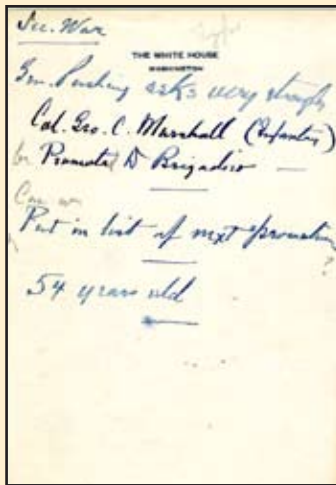
Mussolini letter to FDR, 1933



Draft letter to President Hoover, July 9, 1932



This fascinating episode exemplifies the fragility as well as excitement surrounding historical evidence. As historians, we recognize the absolute necessity to protect the evidence, and in the case of federal records, to maintain the legally specified transfer of government documents. Here, in that unique, secretive space between executive and secretary, Tully chose to view certain documents as personal property. She hoarded those materials, perhaps loosely considering them to be unofficial materials. Nevertheless, they were part of the President's executive records. We've come a long way, as the papers of presidential advisors and White House personnel are regularly depos-



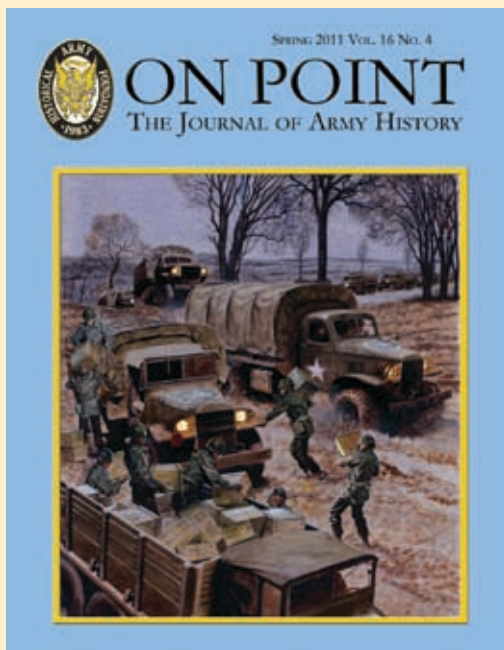
FDR's note to promote George C. Marshall

ited in the presidential libraries. However, the opportunities for siphoning off such materials still exist, and do occur. We must be vigilant about such possible hidden collections, and recent controversies, such as those of the Bush administration's e-mail files, again highlight these concerns.

Also, as historians, we welcome the release of new documents that will allow more detailed insights into past events and personalities. In this way, we have to think of our narratives as somewhat tentative, open to reanalysis, for we don't know what new evidence can suddenly find the light.

Photos courtesy of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.

## MAKING HISTORY



### ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

The Spring 2011 issue of *On Point: The Journal of Army History* is available. It features the articles "Butler's Folly: The First Battle of Fort Fisher, December 1864," by Taylor Hess; "The M107 175mm Self-Propelled Gun," by Matthew J. Seelinger; and a museum review of the Third Cavalry Museum at Fort Hood, Texas. An update on the National Museum of the United States Army reports a six-figure donation by an anonymous donor for recognition on the Donor Wall of the "V.M.I. Class of 1943." Many of that

class fought the Japanese in and around the Burma Road in World War II.

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN

As part of a larger initiative to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS) series, the Office of the Historian has explored the story behind it. To learn more about how FRUS—and the U.S. Government's commitment to openness—has evolved, please visit the FRUS Sesquicentennial Research page (<http://history.state.gov/frus150/research>) to read about our latest research findings and learn of upcoming events. You may also subscribe to a new RSS feed (<http://history.state.gov/frus150/feed.xml>), which will notify subscribers of new FRUS Sesquicentennial content. Contact: Lindsay Krasnoff at [KrasnoffLS@state.gov](mailto:KrasnoffLS@state.gov)

### LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's Interpretive Programs Office has opened a new online exhibit titled "The Last Full Measure: Civil War Photographs from the Liljenquist Family Collection." This collection features rare and candid images most of which have never been exhibited before. See <http://myloc.gov/exhibitions/civilwarphotographs/pages/default.aspx>



### MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Several works will appear in the next year as the centennial of Marine aviation in 2012 transpires. The Marine Corps History Division is publishing a two-volume com-



memorative history. The first volume, by Dr. Tom Baughn, covers Marine aviation through the end of combat in Vietnam in 1973, and the second volume, by Dr. Fred Allison, compiles the important developments on the subject since 1974. Additionally, the Kratos Company is nearing completion of an illustrated centennial commemorative, under the auspices of the Marine Corps History Division.

#### NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NASA has published *Contributions to Aeronautics, Vols. 1 and 2*, edited by Richard P. Hallion. It is available as an e-book online at <http://www.aeronautics.nasa.gov/ebooks/index.htm> and in hard copy from the NASA Headquarters Information Center or Amazon.com. Available is NASA's publication *Psychology of Space Exploration* (NASA SP 2011-4411), edited by Douglas A. Vakoch. Also available is *The Partnership: A NASA History of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project*, by Edward Clinton Ezell and Linda Neuman Ezell (Dover Publications, January 2011). New materials online include the Glenn Research Center history of the Propulsions Systems Labs 1 and 2 with narrative, photographs, videos, and original documents at <http://pslhistory.grc.nasa.gov/>

#### NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

The Museum announces the opening of the *Barron Hilton Pioneers of Flight gallery*. It includes such aircraft as the Fokker T-2 (the first nonstop, coast-to-coast flight in the U.S.), the Douglas World Cruiser *Chicago* (one of the first two around-the-world aircraft), Amelia Earhart's Lockheed Vega (the first transatlantic flight piloted by a woman), and Charles Lindbergh's Lockheed Sirius *Tinqmissartog* (pioneering trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific flights).

Roger Launius (Space History division), James Rodger Fleming (Colby College), and David H. DeVorkin (Space History) have edited *Globalizing Polar Science: Reconsidering the International Polar and Geophysical Years* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, Nov. 2010).

#### NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

The Archives' new exhibit, "What's Cooking, Uncle Sam? The Government's Effect on the American Diet," opened June 10. It fea-

tures government records relating to food in the areas of "Farm," "Factory," "Kitchen," and "Table." The records highlight government research in production and nutrition, regulation of meatpacking and drugs, and nutritional guidelines and meals for the military. There is an exhibit catalog and a book of recipes found in government records.

Kenneth Price of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has identified nearly 3,000 Walt Whitman documents written during his service as a Federal government employee. Whitman started his government work with the Attorney General's office. There, "he took on a number of tasks, including sifting through incoming mail, copying outgoing correspondence written by others, drafting some of the outgoing correspondence himself, summarizing cases, indexing vast letter books, and researching a variety of topics, including the question of whether smallpox had been used as an offensive weapon during the Civil War." Some of the papers bear his initials, but most are recognizable to researchers thru his distinctive handwriting style. Price is co-director of the Walt Whitman Archive ([www.whitman-archive.org](http://www.whitman-archive.org)).

Archivist David Ferriero recently announced the appointment of historian Thomas F. Schwartz as the new director of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library & Museum. His appointment was effective July 5, 2011

The Archives has established an online portal to records relating to Nazi-Era cultural property. These records are voluminous and scattered in several institutions and nations.

This database will assist researchers in many cases in documenting the original ownership, theft, and location of looted cultural materials. The portal is at <http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/international-resources/> The information is in the national language of each institution, and is often in the form of databases, but sometimes scanned documents and images. The participating institutions are The National Archives of the United States, Bundesarchiv (The Federal Archives of Germany), The National Archives of the United Kingdom, France Diplomatie: Diplomatic Archive Center of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Central State Archive of Supreme Bodies of Power and Government of Ukraine (TsDAVO), State Archives in Belgium, Commission on Looted Art in Europe, Claims Conference, United



States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Deutsches Historisches Museum, and Mémorial de la Shoah.

The following finding aids have been recently posted on NARA's web site at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/index.html>: *Black Family Research: Using the Records of Post-Civil War Federal Agencies at the National Archives*, comp. by Reginald Washington (2010), Reference Information Paper (RIP) 108; *The Mauthausen Concentration Camp Complex: World War II and Post-war Records*, comp. by Amy Schmidt and Gudrun Loehrer (2008), RIP 115; *Records Relating to Railroads in the Cartographic Section of the National Archives*, comp. by Peter F. Brauer (2010), RIP 116; *Federal Records Relating to Civil Rights in the Post-World War II Era*, comp. by Walter B. Hill, Jr., and Lisha B. Penn (2006), RIP 113; *Presidential Libraries Holdings Relating to Prisoners of War and Missing in Action*, comp. by Dale C. Mayer (rev. 2007), RIP 104.

The Mine Warfare Operations Files (MINEA) have been added to the online Access to Archival Databases (AAD), found at [www.archives.gov/aad](http://www.archives.gov/aad). The records document the U.S. mine seeding operations in North Vietnamese waterways from May 1972 to January 1973. It was at that time that the U.S. was involved in extensive mine laying activities north of the demilitarized zone (DMZ). The records were created by the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (OJCS), Operations Directorate (J-3). Two such operations, Pocket Money and Linebacker, are documented in these records. The electronic records staff reports that "Each record includes the location of the mine seeding, the activation and safe date of each string of mines laid, the number of mines of each type and sensitivity of each string, geographic coordinates of the end of each string, and the type of aircraft that delivered the string." These records were used after the Paris peace Accords to assist in removal of the mines.

NARA's National Declassification Center (NDC) recently released its 2011 Prioritization Plan for eliminating the over 400-million-page backlog of reviewed, but unavailable archival records. The President has charged the National Archives with eliminating the backlog by December 2013. The plan is a roadmap for the NDC to declassify and process for release federal records and presidential materials. The annual work plans (Appendix B for Civilian Records and Appendix C for Defense records) provide greater detail about which entries or subject areas within record groups are scheduled for processing this year. NDC Director Sheryl Shenberger noted that their work was guided in large part by public input. The plan is posted online at [www.archives.gov/declassification](http://www.archives.gov/declassification), and updates and progress reports will be posted there as well.

The Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California, recently opened 265 hours of White House tapes, over 140,000 pages of presidential records, and 75 hours of video oral histories. All of the White House tapes and selected documents are available online at [www.nixonlibrary.gov](http://www.nixonlibrary.gov). The released White House tapes cover conversations from February and March 1973 and a few from early April 1973. There are no transcripts for these tapes, but the Library has produced a detailed subject log for each conversation. The tapes will all be available at [www.nixonlibrary.gov](http://www.nixonlibrary.gov) and in the library's research room. The tapes cover many subjects including the ceasefire in Vietnam, the release of American POWs, Watergate, U.S. Mideast policy, the assassination of two U.S. diplomats in Sudan, the state visits of King Hussein of Jordan and Prime Minister Golda Meir of Israel, the Wounded Knee incident, and Wage and Price controls. Also in this release are nearly 2,500 pages of formerly classified national security records including documents on U.S. policy toward China and formerly classified materials from the files of White House aides H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman.

The Library will also release 43 video oral histories, available at the Library. They include interviews with former Senators George McGovern and Lowell Weicker, former Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill, former Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, former U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Earl Silbert, George Else, Peter Flanagan, David Gergen, Morton Halperin, Lee Huebner, Terry Lenzner, Dana Mead, Jerry Schilling, and Gerald Warren.

#### U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY

The Center has published two new books. *Freedom by the Sword: The U.S. Colored Troops, 1862–1867*, by William A. Dobak, and *The Rucksack War: U.S. Army Operational Logistics in Grenada, 1983*, By Edgar F. Raines Jr. Contact Bryan Hockensmith at [bryan.hockensmith@us.army.mil](mailto:bryan.hockensmith@us.army.mil) for more information.

The Center publishes *Army History* (ISSN 1546-5330) quarterly for the professional development of Army historians and as Army educational and training literature. This bulletin is available at no cost to interested Army officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers, and civilian employees, as well as to individuals and offices that directly support Army historical work or Army educational and training programs. The current issue, as well as the complete collection of back issues of *Army History* can be viewed online at: [www.history.army.mil/armyhstory/index.html](http://www.history.army.mil/armyhstory/index.html). Contact: Managing Editor, Army History, [Army.History1@conus.army.mil](mailto:Army.History1@conus.army.mil)



Society for History in the Federal Government

Box 14139 • Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
MERRIFIELD VA  
PERMIT NO. 1701

## FEDERALIST CALENDAR

- Aug. 22–27, 2011. Society of American Archivists (SAA),** Meeting, “Archives 360,” Chicago, IL. Visit <http://www.archivists.org/conference/>
- Sept. 1–4, 2011. American Political Science Association (APSA),** Meeting, “The Politics of Rights,” Seattle, WA. Visit [http://www.apsanet.org/content\\_65547cfm?navID=193](http://www.apsanet.org/content_65547cfm?navID=193)
- Oct. 6–7, 2011, Center for Cryptologic History (CCH),** Biennial Cryptologic History Symposium, “Cryptology in War and Peace: Crisis Points in History,” Laurel, MD. Visit [www.nsa.gov](http://www.nsa.gov)
- Oct. 12–16, 2011. Oral History Association (OHA),** Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. Visit <http://oralhistory.org/annual.meeting>
- Oct. 13–16, 2011. Western Historical Association (WHA)** Meeting, “Modern Histories of Ancient Places, The Western History Association, 1961–2011,” Oakland, CA. Visit <http://www.westernhistoryassociation.org/.conference/>
- Oct. 27–30, 2011. Southern Historical Association (SHA)** Meeting, Baltimore, MD. Visit <http://www.uga.edu/sha/meeting/index.htm>
- Nov. 3–6, 2011. The Society for the History of Technology,** Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH. Visit <http://www.historyoftechnology.org/shot2011cfp.html>
- Jan. 5–8, 2012. American Historical Association (AHA),** Annual Meeting, “Communities and Networks.” Chicago, IL. Visit <http://www.historians.org/annual/proposals.htm>
- Jan. 20–24, 2012. American Library Association,** Midwinter meeting. Dallas, TX. Visit [www.ala.org/conferenceevents/upcoming/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/conferenceevents/upcoming/index.cfm)
- Mar. 27–31, 2012. Society for Applied Anthropology (Sfaa),** Annual Meeting. “Bays, Boundaries, and Borders,” Baltimore, MD. Visit [www.sfaa.net](http://www.sfaa.net)