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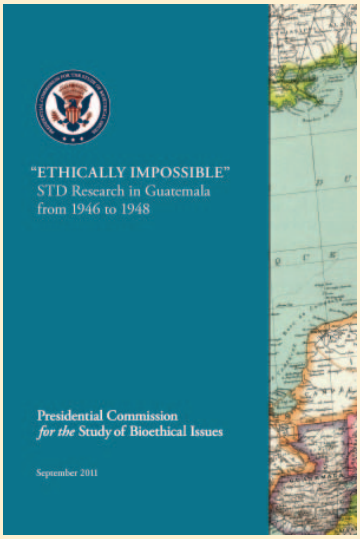
"Ethically Impossible": Investigating the PHS/Guatemala STD Scandal

Paul A. Lombardo

When most Americans awakened on October 1, 2010, they were not aware that the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) had carried out horrific studies of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in Guatemala more than sixty years earlier. But that day, news programs reverberated with the first public revelation of the research; President Obama issued an apology for the "abhorrent research practices," and directed the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues to conduct a "thorough fact-finding investigation" of the "clearly unethical" events that had transpired in Guatemala from 1946 to 1948.



The Commission subsequently carried out an in-depth, nine-month inquiry that probed thousands of records in more than a dozen archives, and summarized its work on the PHS/Guatemala STD studies in a report that described biomedical experiments involving intentional exposure of prisoners, soldiers, and mental hospital patients to syphilis, gonorrhea, and chancroid. Researchers exposed sex workers to disease, and then delivered them to a prison or army barracks to test the transmissibility of disease via the "natural method." In a separate line of study that did not involve exposure to disease, researchers took blood and sometimes spinal fluid from orphans, school children, and residents of a leprosarium during serology studies designed to refine diagnostic tech-

*See "**Ethically Impossible**" cont'd on page 4*

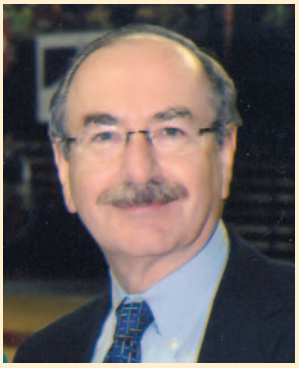
Opening Public Access to the Records of Dr. John C. Cutler and the Guatemalan Syphilis Experiments of 1946–1948

Robert Richards

On September 1, 2010, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) notified the National Archives at Atlanta of a series of records detailing a secret medical study performed from 1946 to 1948 in Guatemala. The study goal was to create a prophylaxis, or vaccination, that could prevent syphilis and other venereal diseases. The study was kept secret because the process involved intentionally injecting healthy Guatemalan citizens with the disease without their knowledge. Subjects included over 1,300 prisoners, soldiers, and psychiatric patients. Knowledge of this study was about to come to public light in a research article, and the CDC asked if the National Archives (NARA) would accession the records into their custody.

*See **Cutler** cont'd on page 5*

INSIDE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marc Rothenberg

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude for the honor you have bestowed on me. Being Society president is a great trust and a great opportunity.

I must admit it is with some trepidation that I begin my year as President. I am trying to fill some metaphorically huge shoes. Matt Wasniewski provided great leadership this past year, leaving behind a financially sound and active organization. His lasting legacy will be his oversight of the revision of the Society's bylaws. Not only do the bylaws now match the practices of the Society, but more importantly, the expanded committee structure will provide more opportunities for members to participate in the governance of the Society. Matt also met various challenges, such as the last-minute cancellation for health reasons of our Hewlett Lecturer, with poise and humor.

Of course, Matt was assisted by an excellent team. I want to express my appreciation to outgoing Executive Council members Jason Gart and Richa Wilson. A special thanks goes to David Turk, who became Treasurer under difficult circumstances due to the death of Peter Kraemer and did a magnificent job.

But I, too, will have a great team to work with. David McMillen of the National Archives and Records Administration is Vice President and President-elect. Sejal Patel, of the National Institutes of Health, continues as Secretary/Membership Coordinator. Our new Treasurer is Karen Kruse Thomas of the Institute of the History of Medicine of Johns Hopkins University. The new Executive Council members are Margo Anderson of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Sara Berndt of the State Department, and Jessie Kratz of the National Archives and Records Administration. They join continuing Council members Carl Ashley of the State Department and LuAnn Jones of the National Park Service. The Nominating Committee consists of holdover Terrance Rucker, Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives, and Richa Wilson of the U.S. Forest Service. Other key figures on the team are the Publications Coordinator and Webmaster Benjamin Guterman of National Archives and Records Administration, Awards Coordinator Suzanne Junod of the Food and Drug Administration, and Laura O'Hara, SHFG Bulletin editor, from the Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives. As the new committee structure evolves, I will be welcoming more members to the team. If you are interested in serving on the Finance Committee, the Membership Committee, the Program Committee, or in filling a vacancy on the Nominating Committee, please let me know.

My primary objective during my term as President is to reach out to the community of historians "outside the Beltway," whether they are federal historians, contractors, or academics, and to graduate students. In doing so, I hope to build on the momentum that Matt began and to be able to tap the wisdom and energy of our members. As travel budgets get slashed for the federal workforce, as they already have in academia, how can the Society serve its distant members better? How can it attract non-federal historians to the Society? How can we increase awareness among graduate students of the Society and the important information residing on our web site? I welcome your ideas. Please contact me at my personal e-mail: *josephhenr@aol.com*

As I write this, two important Society events are being planned. One is the annual Hewlett Dinner, to be held in late October in Clyde's of Gallery Place. The date has not been finalized, although it might be by the time you read this. This year, we are doing something different. Instead of a single speaker, David McMillen is putting together a panel of distinguished historians and archivists to discuss "The Role of Federal Historians in Records Management." This is an extremely important and timely issue that many

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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*.

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
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of us face every day. I look forward to lively and informative presentations and audience discussion. Details will be provided in an e-bulletin.

The second event is the skills workshop for graduate students that Matt has been developing over the past year. We see this as an opportunity for members to share their expertise with graduate students and to make graduate students aware of the value of membership in SHFG. We are still finalizing details, but hope to make an announcement soon.

I look forward to seeing you at the Hewlett Lecture, the traditional holiday party, and the other Society events.

Marc Rothenberg
SHFG President 2012–13

National History Day 2012

SHFG is proud to sponsor an annual National History Day award for best entry in any category, in either division, that illuminates the history of the U.S. federal government. This year's award was presented to Alexander Herbets of Bullis School, Potomac, MD. His entry in the category Senior Individual Web Site was titled, "The Interstate Highway System and the Capital Beltway: A Motorized Revolution."

Teacher Sara Romeyn with SHFG President Marc Rothenberg, at National History Day, June 14.

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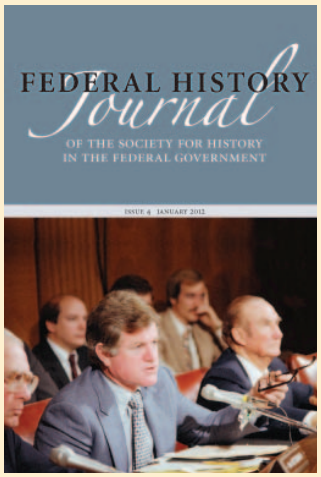
WELCOME NEW SHFG OFFICERS 2012-13

We welcome the following new officers: President, **Marc Rothenberg**, National Science Foundation; Vice President, **David McMillen**, National Archives and Records Administration; Secretary/Membership Coordinator, **Sejal Patel**, National Institutes of Health; Treasurer, **Karen Kruse Thomas**, John Hopkins Institute of the History of Medicine. New members on the Executive Council for a two-year term are **Margo Anderson**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; **Sara Berndt**, Office of the Historian, Department of State; and **Jessie Kratz**, National Archives and Records Administration.



CALL FOR PAPERS

Federal History Journal

Federal History, the journal of the Society for History in the Federal Government, seeks articles for upcoming issues. *Federal History* features scholarship on the history of the federal government, including military history, 1776–present. We welcome manuscripts from federal historians and others working in the federal government, as well as independent scholars and historians working in public history and academia. See *http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/federal-history-journal/* for current issue, past issues, and details on submissions, which should be sent to *editor-shfg-journal@shfg.org.*

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

SHFG recently launched Facebook *(facebook.com/SHFGHistorians)* and Twitter *(@SHFG Historians)* pages in addition to our YouTube Channel *(youtube.com/user/SHFGHistorians).* These are part of an effort to improve outreach to members and potential members. While social media features will not replace the E-Bulletin, *The Federalist*, or the SHFG web site as sources of news and information, they will act as supplements for items of interest. The Twitter and Facebook pages also serve as a forum for members to share noteworthy information and interact with one another. Please "Like" or "Follow" us and share your links, news, images, and other media.

"Ethically Impossible," *continued from page 1*

niques for tracing STDs. All told, researchers used more than 6,000 people in Guatemala for studies without their consent; government officials there approved of the studies and collaborated with American researchers. The Commission echoed the President in condemning the "unconscionable ways" researchers exploited subjects to advance a scientific agenda, and it ultimately borrowed a scientist's contemporary description of intentional infection studies as "ethically impossible" as the title for its official report: *"Ethically Impossible": STD Research in Guatemala from 1946 to 1948.*

The Commission's work started with recovery of approximately 10,000 documents included in the papers of Dr. John Cutler, the PHS physician who led much of the research in Guatemala. Cutler left his papers to the University of Pittsburgh, where he spent decades as a faculty member following a 25-year career in the PHS. Wellesley College historian Susan Reverby, who was doing research at Pittsburgh, identified the Cutler papers in June 2003. Her discovery of Cutler's accounts of the Guatemala experiments was widely publicized following distribution of an article she wrote for the *Journal of Policy History* in January 2011.

This male patient in the Psychiatric Hospital was exposed to syphilis twice and was treated with penicillin. He also was involved in the serological testing for syphilis. His age and original diagnosis, and reason for hospital treatment, are unknown.

In the wake of Reverby's announcement, the Centers for Disease Control conducted a preliminary assessment of the Cutler records in Pittsburgh. The University then transferred the papers to the National Archives and Records Administration, which delivered a copy to the Commission. Those records included Dr. Cutler's correspondence related to the time he spent in Guatemala, experimental logbooks and individual note cards for each subject who participated in the experiments, reports to PHS officials compiled as the research was ongoing (1946–1948), and retrospective reports written by Cutler as late as 1953. Some seven hundred photos of research subjects, many taken by Dr. Cutler's wife, Eliese, during the STD studies, are also contained in the Cutler files.

As the Commission's investigation began, Guatemalan Vice President Dr. Raphael Espada, who led a separate independent investigation launched by the Guatemalan government, visited Washington, DC, and met with the Commission Chair, University of Pennsylvania President Amy Gutmann. Subsequently, several staff members led by Commission Executive Director Valerie Bonham traveled to Guatemala to meet with the government committee headed by Vice President Espada. The delegation also visited locations where Dr. Cutler's research occurred and conferred with experts at the Archives of Central America, where other documentation relevant to the investigation was thought to reside. Eventually, the Commission hired an independent researcher to review contemporaneous records and Spanish-language publications to fill out the context what happened in Guatemala.

The Commission heard from historians, ethicists, and scientific experts on issues relevant to the Guatemala studies at three different public meetings during 2011. Staff members reviewed more than 125,000 pages of archival records and 550 published sources in an effort to capture the historical and ethical context in which the Guatemala studies occurred. The Commission titled its resulting report *"Ethically Impossible."*

The Commission drew inspiration for that title from a brief newspaper account printed in the *New York Times* in 1947. The article described research demonstrating how penicillin could be used to prevent syphilis from developing in rabbits after the animals had been exposed to the disease. To conduct similar experiments in humans "it would be necessary to shoot living syphilis germs into human bodies." The *Times* science editor concluded that would be "ethically impossible."

The article appeared just as Dr. Cutler's research began in Guatemala, and he left a copy of it with his own records. Many contemporary statements in those records from Cutler's superiors in the Public Health Service, such as s Surgeon General Thomas Parran and syphilis researchers Richard Arnold and John Mahoney, also provided evidence that the Commission weighed in reaching its conclusions. Those who directed and carried out the Guatemala studies suspended "moral sensitivity" and "grievously aggravated" the suffering of research subjects, the Commission said; many parts of the research were simply "morally wrong." The Commission based its conclusions on ethical norms endorsed by scientists at the time of the Guatemala studies, and in some cases the endorsements came from the very people who had designed and implemented the STD research.

The Commission concentrated attention on the lack of information research subjects had about what was being done to them, and their ability freely to give consent to the procedures they endured. Many of the subjects lived in environments, such as the military or a prison, where their ability to make autonomous decisions was compromised. Others, such as patients in a mental hospital, suffered from cognitive deficits or physical disabilities. Commercial sex workers, who were used to transmit infections to some sol-

diers and prisoners, were desperately poor, drawn from the lowest rungs of Guatemalan society. In the language we would use today, they could not give "informed consent." There is little evidence that most participants in the research understood what was happening to them, and there is no evidence that most of them gave consent at all.

While the Commission was careful not to apply contemporary expectations for research ethics to the events that took place in Guatemala decades ago, the historical inquiry revealed that many of the same PHS personnel involved in the Guatemala research had only a few years earlier participated in similar work in a prison near Terre Haute, Indiana. However, in Terre Haute, they developed protocols for informing subjects before the study and approved consent and waiver forms, following a general consensus at all levels that no one would be enlisted in research except true volunteers who could understand the risks they faced.

At Terre Haute, researchers injected inmates with gonococcus bacteria in an attempt to understand how gonorrhea could be transmitted and treated with the newest available antibiotics. Less than three years later in Guatemala, those researchers discarded those waiver protocols, and the emphasis on "volunteers" disappeared. Surgeon General Parran himself was quoted as saying that such research could not be done in the United States. The efforts by Dr. Cutler to conceal his purposes and deceive his research subjects and insistence of his colleagues that he hide details of the work there from outside scrutiny speaks for itself. Documents generated by the researchers who planned and managed the studies provided the strongest evidence the Commission needed to condemn the ethical failings in Guatemala by the norms of that time.

President Obama's charge to the Commission also included a directive to evaluate current legal and regulatory standards for protecting research subjects both in the United States and abroad. Following the release of *"Ethically Impossible,"* the Commission carried out that task as the second phase of its work focused on human subject protection, and issued its report *Moral Science* incorporating the findings of an international research ethics panel at the end of 2011.

In *Moral Science*, the Commission recommended that universities, professional societies, licensing bodies, and journals "adopt more effective ways of integrating a lively understanding of personal responsibility into professional research practice. Rigorous courses in bioethics and human subjects research at the undergraduate as well as graduate and professional levels should be developed and expanded to include ongoing engagement and case reviews for investigators at all levels of experience."

To promote this type of activity, the Commission has engaged in several subsidiary activities. It posted *"Ethically Impossible"* online with hyperlinks to many of the 700 reference notes in the report, so that readers may immediately have access to the correspondence, government documents, and archival materials cited by the Commission. In addition, the Commission posted the detailed analysis of all the research subject information in the Cutler files compiled by Commission staff in a Subject Data Spreadsheet, which identifies the subject populations and the procedures researchers performed on them during the Guatemala studies: *http://bioethics.gov/cms/node/650* and *http://www.bioethics.gov/cms/node/654http://www.bioethics.gov/cms/node/654http://bioethics.gov/*

And finally, a Study Guide intended for college-level use that will include material from archival sources, questions, and a list of further readings for teachers is currently under development, and will also be posted online soon. By making documents, archival sources, and a study guide available online, the Commission meets two important goals. First the research that went into *"Ethically Impossible"* becomes more transparent and accessible to anyone, and secondly, the educational process that is called for in *Moral Science* is further enhanced.

Paul A. Lombardo is a historian and professor of law at Georgia State University. He serves as a senior advisor to the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues. He can be reached at plombardo@gsu.edu.

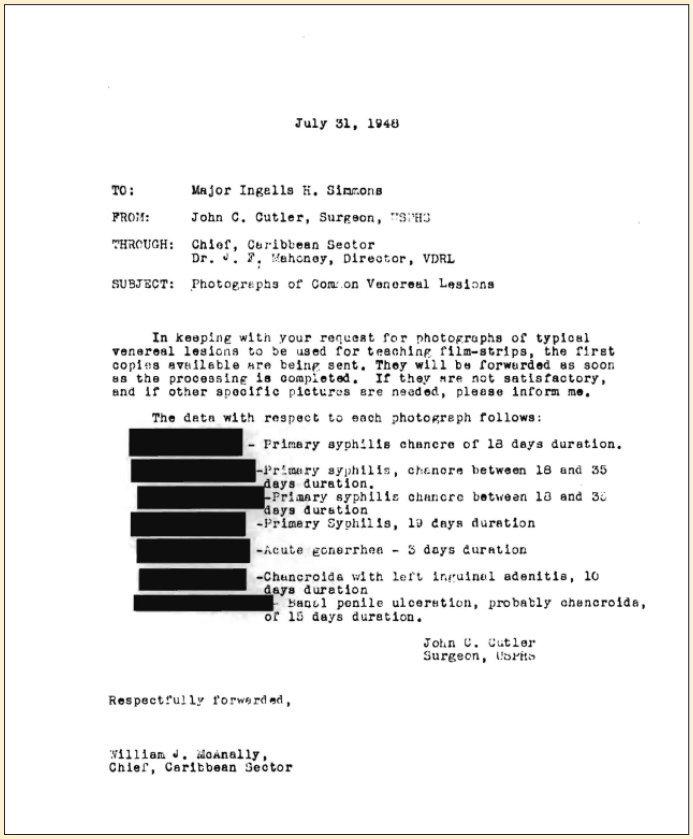
***Cutler,** continued from page 1*

The National Archives at Atlanta is the primary repository for historical records created by the CDC, and we work together regularly on records management issues. Of particular interest is our combined work with the records of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. That study began in the 1930s and ran through the 1970s studying the effects of syphilis on African American men in Alabama. Working with the records of this similar, controversial study has provided both our agencies with an understanding of unethical, medical studies and how to provide public access to those records.

Despite our experience, we encountered a number of archival issues with these records including determining if we should accession them. The records were in the custody of the University of Pittsburgh. The study director, Dr. John C. Cutler, served on their faculty but also worked for the Public Health Service at various times. Was this study a university or federal project? The original records were sent overnight to the National Archives at Atlanta where they were appraised by NARA and CDC staff members on October 21, 2010. Given Cutler's position with the Public Health Service at the time of the study and the scope of the project itself, and based on the source of the funding for the study, it was determined that the records were federal, and they were accessioned into the custody of the National Archives.

The records are full of privacy issues. The National Archives has consistently redacted medical information unless it is clear that the individual is deceased. However, the type of medical information involved in these records, specifically venereal diseases, is the type of information that we would withhold in deference to the privacy of the families of the individuals. Given that these persons were unaware of the type of research being performed on them, it was an added reason to extend privacy to the families. In addition to printed records, the series is full of photographs. We decided to hold in full the "mug shot" photographs of the patients and only redact names and patient numbers from the photographs that could be considered medical research. We did not want the identity of the patients disclosed through use of the photographs. Close-up photographs of sores will not permit researchers to identify the individuals, so we left those open in the interest of research.

What kind of public access should be provided? Although all of the records in the custody of the National Archives at Atlanta are available in our research room, very few are available electronically, and even fewer are available on our web site. Given that this study was kept secret for more than 60 years, we decided to make these particular records widely accessible and place the entire digitized series on our web site. The posting of textual records was an easy decision, but the graphic photographs provided a new challenge for our agency. Should a federal agency post graphic photographs to the Internet? After a lively debate, we decided yes. We placed a warning at the beginning of the digital files that mentions the graphic photographs within the records. In this way the patron, not the National Archives, is able to make the determination what is or isn't worthwhile for their research. A redacted copy of all the records, textual and photographic, is now available online in full.



July 31, 1948

TO: Major Ingalls H. Simmons

FROM: John C. Cutler, Surgeon, USPHS

THROUGH: Chief, Caribbean Sector
Dr. W. F. Mahoney, Director, VDRL

SUBJECT: Photographs of Common Venereal Lesions

In keeping with your request for photographs of typical venereal lesions to be used for teaching film-strips, the first copies available are being sent. They will be forwarded as soon as the processing is completed. If they are not satisfactory, and if other specific pictures are needed, please inform me.

The data with respect to each photograph follows:

[redacted] - Primary syphilis chancre of 18 days duration.

[redacted] -Primary syphilis, chancre between 18 and 35 days duration.

[redacted] -Primary syphilis chancre between 18 and 30 days duration

[redacted] -Primary Syphilis, 19 days duration

[redacted] -Acute gonorrhea - 3 days duration

[redacted] -Chancroids with left inguinal adenitis, 10 days duration

[redacted] Basal penile ulceration, probably chancroids, of 15 days duration.

John C. Cutler
Surgeon, USPHS

Respectfully forwarded,

William J. McAnally,
Chief, Caribbean Sector

A redacted letter from John C. Cutler during the Public Health Service study.

Another new challenge was the political element surrounding the discovery and release of these records. With his election as President in 2008, Barack Obama strongly encouraged federal agencies to create an open and transparent government. In the midst of this movement, records of this secret government study came to light. The White House viewed this project as an example of how the administration was going to embrace openness and transparency. The National Archives was also under new leadership. David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, received this charge directly from the President, and he was going to prove that the National Archives could carry out that mission for the citizens of the United States. In 2011, the Archivist wrote, "President Barack Obama has designated NARA as one of the lead agencies in his Open Government Initiative to bring more participation, collaboration, and transparency into government. We accept this responsibility with enthusiasm." Thus delivering a quality product quickly became very important for us, and we could feel the political pressure.

We worked diligently to meet two deadlines. By December 31, 2010, we needed to provide the State Department, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the newly appointed Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues with a full, digital copy of the records. For the first couple months we focused almost entirely on digital scanning to meet the deadline. Those three entities received encrypted DVDs with the records in full on December 17. By March 1, 2011, we needed to be prepared to open the records to the public. Our work now focused on redaction to create a copy the public could access without violating the privacy of the patients. With consistent effort, and a collaborative approach with our project partners, we completed our work prior to both deadlines.

As archivists, we understand the charge given to us to safeguard and make available records that document our history and experience. This project gave us an opportunity to test that understanding by helping to end the secrecy of this study. The records are available online at *http://www.archives.gov/research/health/cdc-cutler-records/.*

Robert Richards is Director of Archival Operations at the National Archives at Atlanta. He can be reached at rob.richards@nara.gov.

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

The U.S. Army's Combat Studies Institute

History on the Frontlines

Anthony Carlson, Michael Doidge, and Ryan Wadle

The U.S. Army's Combat Studies Institute (CSI) is a military history think tank tasked with providing contemporary mission-related histories to the Army. In 2010, General David Petraeus, then-commander of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, commissioned CSI to create the Afghanistan Study Team (AST), a group of historians and editors responsible for capturing the history of recent U.S. tactical-level operations in Afghanistan. These histories would instruct deploying junior officers and enlisted personnel before they encountered combat and noncombat situations.

As employees of the U.S. Army, AST historians must preserve the Army's organizational history without compromising the service's ability to carry out its mission. In particular, AST historians must understand how to responsibly handle the classified data that contemporary Army operations routinely generate. For historians transitioning from academia into contemporary government history, the prevalence of classified material can be especially jarring. Academic historians do not work with or ever have an opportunity to handle classified material. Consumers of modern media may be accustomed to releases of classified information in the media or by Wikileaks, but these outlets' agendas and purposes differ radically from that of a contemporary government historian and are not bound by the same sorts of ethics and professional considerations.

The classification of sources influences the research and writing phases of the CSI's contemporary history projects, as well as those in other government agencies tasked with similar missions. This proved especially relevant for AST historians in their recent production of the *Vanguard of Valor* anthology series. That project included an intermediate step that required extra sensitivity. Prior to their public release, the studies featured in the volume were disseminated to soldiers in Afghanistan who desired more historical background on their area of operations or for particular situations they might encounter while on deployment. During this initial phase, the team had to balance telling the complete story of soldiers' actions without jeopardizing ongoing operations. As a result, each historian had to decide what pieces of information, whether seemingly trivial or perhaps found easily in open-source materials, remained crucial to expressing the key points and themes under study.

Working with classified data certainly creates challenges. First and foremost, while the AST sometimes has access to classified documents and information, no classified data can be used or cited in the AST's unclassified histories. A key concern for AST historians was preventing "spillage," which is the mixing of classified and unclassified data on a single system. This rule can sometimes have humorous results whereby obvious public data appears in a classified record trove. Nevertheless, team members, like other government historians, became more proficient in understanding technology and digital content in order to prevent problems. Yet classified data also proved helpful to AST historians in shaping each of the studies. Knowledge of the sources equips historians with a more complete understanding of their subject, such as the times and locations of key events under study. With short deadlines to complete their studies, the AST team aims to fully digest the classified sources in order to shorten the winnowing process involved in the research and planning phases of the writing project and complete the project on time.

The Afghanistan Study Team: (from left) Kevin Hymel, Col. Roderick Cox, Anthony Carlson, Michael Doidge, and Ryan Wadle

Using Oral Histories

Because the veil of classification prevents the AST from citing key documents about their topics, the team's historians relied primarily upon oral history interviews to craft their studies. Oral histories have gained increasing acceptance and importance in recent decades as the historical profession has developed new techniques and methodologies in the field. That said, most historians tend to view

textual sources as the foundational elements of historical inquiry and perceive oral history interviews as a supplemental source. AST historians learned that contemporary government historians cannot reject alternative methodological approaches to historical research out-of-hand and thus have adopted a flexible approach to data collection.

Contemporary government historians, as well as all other members of the historical profession, view history as a conversation with the past. In many respects, the emphasis upon oral history interviews only changes the method by which AST historians conduct their research and not the project's assembly or writing. Instead of searching and inter-relating a series of documentary sources for common threads, AST historians can directly converse with the participants in their studies. In the case of combat actions, the oral history interview can pinpoint important details or the personal interactions between soldiers that may not appear in the official record.

As with any method of historical research, AST historians must critically examine the oral history interview process to determine how the approach can affect the study. One key consideration concerns the methods used to interview soldiers—individually or in a group, face-to-face, over the telephone, or via e-mail—and to take into account the advantages and disadvantages of each of these methods and means of communication. The AST historian may not have full control over the choice and full use of these methods. Like other professionals, their time and resources are finite. Soldiers' schedules are also busy, often leaving only brief windows of time for interviews. With this in mind, understanding how different interview methods could subtly alter the information collected by historians will qualitatively improve the final product.

The reliance upon human memory also carries with it some methodological challenges. In the burgeoning subfield of memory studies, for example, Carol Reardon's *Pickett's Charge in History and Memory* describes how people's perceptions of historical events evolve and become distorted over time.[1] In their own work, AST historians interview soldiers who may suffer from post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries, which may influence the data collected during interviews. Awareness of these issues can help the historian address some of the methodological problems associated with oral history techniques.

Interdisciplinary Methodologies

"Those of us who study recent history *are* historians, and we are, in fact, grappling with some of the most vexed and long-standing theoretical issues in our field," writes Professor Renee C. Romano of Oberlin College in Ohio.[2] Romano's defense of the methodological and professional legitimacy of "recent" history is instructive for federal historians. Despite being unable to engage a robust historiography or benefit from hindsight and perspective, federal historians studying the recent past play a critical role in supporting the missions and agendas of their agencies.

One of the most exciting—and overlooked—aspects of writing history for the federal government is the widened perspective and opportunity available for interdisciplinary work. By employing an interdisciplinary research agenda, federal historians build bridges across diverse subfields and blur the disciplinary dogmas that limit a wider range of historical inquiry and examination.

AST are historians increasingly using interdisciplinary methodologies. In evaluating counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan, AST historians have blended methodological approaches from agricultural history, political theory, and environmental studies to more fully capture and describe the vast range of combat and noncombat functions performed by the contemporary U.S. Army. AST histori-

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Staff
2 editors (not including 2 Term editors),
1 Administrative Officer, 2 Military officers
(5X ASI), 1 Museum Director, 2 Museum Specialists

Office Activities and Responsibilities
The Combat Studies Institute publishes original interpretive research on historical topics pertinent to the current doctrinal and operational concerns of the U.S. Army; researches and writes the contemporary history of the Army's recent and ongoing operations; collects and archives recent operational experiences via an oral history interview program; assists in the development of a progressive program of military history instruction in the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) school system; develops and conducts Staff Rides for the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army at large; collects and preserves artifacts related to the Frontier Army and Fort Leavenworth; and chronicles the history of the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth.

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Web site: *http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/CSI/*

ans have described how Army soldiers and civilians have worked with local Afghan communities to address the tangible social, economic, and environmental imbalances that fuel insurgencies. From 2008 to 2010, for instance, the Army repaired Afghan irrigation canals, launched flood control initiatives, refurbished hydroelectric dams, studied groundwater quality, distributed sugar to Afghan beekeepers, provided veterinary services for diseased livestock, hosted workshops on vegetable pickling techniques for Afghan women, and started radio call-in shows for farmers and herders to seek assistance from trained professionals. Soldiers' experiences were just as diverse as the projects they sponsored. In addition to serving in combat units, they staffed Provincial Reconstruction Teams, Female Engagement Teams, Agribusiness Development Teams, and Human Terrain Teams. Small wonder that capturing the Army's full experience in Afghanistan required an interdisciplinary perspective.

Adopting an interdisciplinary approach empowers federal historians to chronicle the totality of their agency's involvement in social, economic, political, and environmental affairs and, when possible, build bridges between the federal and academic historical professions. Many academics continue to question the objectivity and historiographic value of agency histories. Yet by staying ahead of the technological innovations that are revolutionizing the historical profession and integrating an interdisciplinary methodology, federal historians can break down this professional divide and engage a wide and diverse audience.

The Digital Promise

The digital age has revolutionized the collection, housing, distribution, and access of information in ways that profoundly reshape the nature of the historical profession. Like all contemporary federal historians, AST historians continually search for solutions to the challenges digitization poses for access to records. By vastly increasing the volume of available information, digitization offers great promise to the historical profession, yet it demands methodological innovations as well. For example, military history detachments sent to Afghanistan from the U.S. Army Center for Military History assisted AST historians by transferring and indexing terabytes of data onto external hard drives. Within days, these hard drives arrived at CSI for AST historians to use as part of their research. Previously, official historians had to wait weeks or months for documents to arrive, after which they had to assemble them into workable collections. Still, the drives posed challenges of their own; AST historians had to create an in-house training regimen to inculcate knowledge and skills for every team member to properly access, install, and search the drives.

Digitization forces contemporary military historians to adapt their work processes in the production of scholarship in the digital and paperless world. Where most historians still study physical letters, agency memoranda, and correspondence, contemporary historians must also possess the technical skills and methodological flexibility necessary to open and research vast e-mail storage files. While historians of the pre-digital world must contend with an archive's constricted hours while wading through piles of journals and diaries, the contemporary federal historian may examine the modern day equivalent, the personal online blog, with the added convenience of a search feature.

Ultimately, digitization's onward development illustrates the need for historians and archivists to work together as responsible stewards of digital information for future scholars. Most contemporary federal historians understand the software and hardware necessary to access digital records that increasingly constitute their source base. An enhanced knowledge of digitization, however, will equip future historians to engage in debates where their informed voices will elevate discourse. With technological advances and new challenges, active debates on these issues will only grow in importance. Discussions will include such salient arguments as the right to access and distribute digital information, the digitization of paper records, the continued use of proprietary or outdated software, storage of digital files, software obsolescence, hardware compatibility, hardware's susceptibility to corrosion, and data degradation.

In the future, a deeper and fuller knowledge of digitization will reap additional benefits. As more digitally inclined scholars make their way into government service. They will help create a baseline of technical know-how and expertise that will become standard for future digital-age historians. They will use this knowledge to interpret digital records in new and innovative ways. In our rapidly changing profession, contemporary federal historians must be adaptable and innovative because they bear the unique challenge of reinventing how we gather and use evidence and produce a worthy record of the very recent past.

Working on the frontlines of contemporary Army history, CSI's Afghan Study Team engages some of the most pressing conceptual, methodological, and technological challenges facing the federal historical profession today. For more information, visit *http://usacac.army.mil/CAC/csi/INDEX.asp*

Anthony Carlson, Michael Doidge, and Ryan Wadle serve as Army historians on the Afghan Study Team at the Combat Studies Institute, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. They are also adjunct assistant professors of history for the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

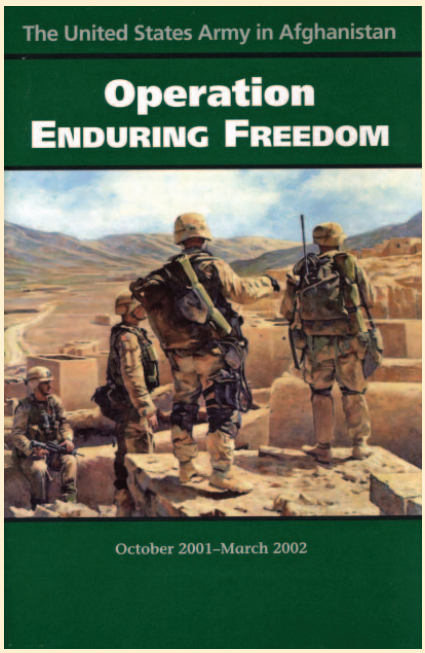
[1] Carol Reardon, *Pickett's Charge in History and Memory* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997).

[2] Renee C. Romano, "Not Dead Yet: My Identity Crisis as a Historian of the Recent Past," in *Doing Recent History: On Privacy, Copyright, Video Games, Institutional Review Boards, Activist Scholarship, and History that Talks Back,* eds. Claire Bond Potter and Renee C. Romano (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2012), 42.

TEACHING CONTEMPORARY MILITARY HISTORY

Brian F. Neumann

Military history continues to be one of the most popular course offerings by history departments throughout academia, yet teaching such topics during wartime often raises the appropriateness of addressing contemporary events. Many historians believe that the study of history requires a certain distance from the past in order to ensure factual accuracy. Contemporary topics, as the argument goes, fall more under the framework of journalism or political science where the margin for error is seemingly greater (though I am sure that journalists and political scientists would strongly disagree). So, should historians take on the task of teaching contemporary military history?



In the interest of full disclosure some brief biographical information is in order. For the past two years I have been employed at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, working as a historian within the Histories Division's Contemporary Studies Branch. In this position, I write about contemporary events or on topics of contemporary interest. Prior to this, I taught a variety of courses, including numerous ones on military history, at a community college, a small Catholic liberal arts university, a major research university, and a service academy. At each of these institutions I taught courses that enabled me to teach on contemporary issues. My views, therefore, are based upon a wide array of experiences both writing and teaching contemporary military history.

The primary difference between studying past versus present events boils down to two issues: the availability of accurate sources and our ability to influence those events. The first of these is the one most often cited by opponents of contemporary studies, but it is also the easiest to dismiss. Historical understanding is built upon primary documents. Those materials, by their very nature, are contemporary in regard to the topics they cover. The task for historians is to gain access to this information. The fact that new evidence and new interpretations continually emerge to alter our collective understanding of the past illustrates that this is a continuing process. If it was not, then historians writing about the Punic Wars or the campaigns of Napoleon would be out of work. Historians must continually seek out new sources of information to further develop our understanding of events. They must also keep themselves continually apprized of the work of others to ensure that their own interpretations are based upon the most current information available. These principles apply to studying and teaching both past and contemporary events. Whether in written form or in the classroom, historians should present the most accurate version of events that they can based upon the evidence available. They need to be able to weigh conflicting material, assess credibility, and piece together the best account possible. They must also be willing to be wrong should new information arise that contradicts their previous understanding.

The second issue is more problematic. We agree that teachers should not use their position to advocate a particular interpretation of current events. This is a seemingly unique stricture in the teaching of contemporary history. No matter how one feels about the Civil War or Vietnam they cannot alter the course of those conflicts. This is not the case regarding contemporary topics. An instructor may influence students' views on a variety of topics, such as the current war in Afghanistan or the American defense policy debate regarding China. But critics noting this potentiality miss a fundamental point. Teachers should not ignore facts or interpretations in order to advocate a preferred version of events, just as historians should not ignore evidence that contradicts their argument. That is simply bad teaching and bad history. However, constraining teachers to topics that seemingly have no relevance to the modern day undercuts the very nature of historical education. We study the past in order to understand the present, which enables us to influence the future. Again, the critical element is the process used. Whether they are focusing upon the American invasion of Mexico in 1846 or current drone strikes in Pakistan, historians should base their interpretations upon a broad understanding of events and as much evidence as possible.

Good teachers don't teach their students what to think, but rather how to think. They help students to develop the ability to locate sources, to read critically, and to formulate an argument based upon evidence. From the pragmatic academy cadet to the casual community college auditor, students seek to find meaning in a subject. This requires teachers to display a nimble, flexible approach that strikes a balance between a facts-laden, nuts-and-bolts narrative

and a more nuanced, analytical discussion of context. With such a charged topic as contemporary military history it is often easy for instructors to retreat into focusing solely on the micro level (what happened) to the detriment of context and relevance. Or the ambitious academic may overload students with the macro level (why it happened), without providing the necessary material to understand and connect events. Effective teachers, no matter the environment or audience, find ways to bridge the divide between these two approaches that broaden and deepen comprehension and understanding.

It is difficult to specify exactly how an individual instructor can achieve these goals as each must play to his or her strengths and comfort level. For my part, I found that engaging students directly through classroom discussion to be the most rewarding and productive technique. I would propose a question, often simply asking what the class thought about a certain topic. Once they offered up a starting point, I would use a question-and-answer style, or rigorous questioning, to illustrate holes in an argument or to force students to flesh out and refine their positions. It is important to explain the process to students as you go. Most students, and people in general, become uncomfortable when speaking up in front of a group, and more so when they run the risk of being publicly wrong or shown to have a poorly formed position. To prevent this situation, teachers can poke holes in an argument but allow students to refine their positions. The key is that everyone knows what is happening, focusing more on the process than the specific answer or interpretation arrived at.

To summarize, teachers who avoid contemporary topics, especially in military history, deny their students the opportunity to see why historical knowledge is relevant to their understanding of the modern world. For example, students cannot explain the current state of relations between the United States and Iran without some knowledge of the past. And along the same lines, why should students study the Korean War if they cannot draw some connection to the present? This is the very essence of studying history. Simply providing students with knowledge of the past without drawing lines of connectivity to the present (or at least illustrating how to do so) is akin to explaining how to hit a baseball without letting students swing a bat. Teaching contemporary military history, grounded in sound academic principles and techniques, is therefore not only desirable but essential. It provides students with the ability to incorporate history into their daily lives and provides the historical profession with the social relevance that it so richly deserves.

Brian F. Neumann is a historian in the Histories Division's Contemporary Studies Branch, U.S. Army Center of Military History, Washington, DC. He can be reached at brian.f.neumann.civ@mail.mil

FOIA Matters

The National Archives and Records Administration has some 10 billion records—that's 1 followed by 10 zeroes—the majority of which have not been reviewed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). That doesn't mean they're not available. The bulk of the Archives' holdings are accessioned records that Federal agencies, following records control schedules, send to the Archives after a proscribed period of time, generally 30 years. Once the records are accessioned, legal custody of the records is transferred to the Archives; an estimated 95 percent of such records are available without having to make a FOIA request.

FOIA enters the picture for two categories of records at the Archives: accessioned records that the agency has identified containing sensitive information as outlined in the Archives' General Restrictions and records that are in the Archives' physical custody and stored in 17 Federal Records Centers.

Sensitive information is defined as information generally exempt from FOIA including national security-classified information, trade secrets, and information that would invade the privacy of a living individual. Archives staff lets researchers know if the information they seek falls into this category and a FOIA request is required to obtain access.

Records stored in the Records Centers are in Archives' physical custody, but the agency from which they came retains legal responsibility, including the obligation for responding to FOIA requests for such records. A FOIA request for records stored at the Records Centers should be sent to the originating agency, which then requests the records from the Archives, processes the documents, and responds directly to the requester.

Unsure about whether FOIA applies to documents you seek? Presume records at the Archives are unrestricted and no FOIA is necessary until told otherwise. Happy researching!

OGIS
Office of Government Information Services

Need FOIA assistance? The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) is here to help. Created by Congress in 2007 as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and housed at the National Archives, OGIS provides mediation services—ranging from formal mediation to facilitation to ombuds services—to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. For more information, visit *www.ogis.archives.gov* OGIS can be reached at *ogis.archives.gov* or at 202-741-5770.

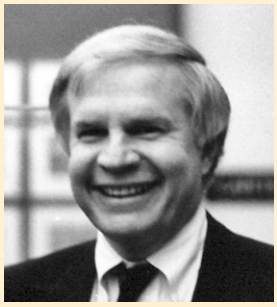
FROM THE ARCHIVES
CONCERNS OVER THE ETHICS REFORM ACT

Charles Downs, SHFG Archivist

A front-page article by Gerald Haines and Judson MacLaury titled "New Law and Rules on Government Ethics" in *The Federalist*, Winter 1990, alerted readers to the impact of part of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989. The act restricted honoraria received by members of Congress and high government officials for job-related activities and writings. The Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued guidance on the act, broadening it to include all government employees, and any activities or publications, except for books, works of fiction, or artistic performances. Haines and MacLaury contended that the act "will have a chilling effect on the professional development of historians, archivists, and museum curators," and "impede intellectual freedom and professional scholarship." It also "blatantly discriminates against the segment of government employees who write or lecture," while not affecting those who earn fees as outside consultants. The authors concluded that, "The Society recommends that the Act be rewritten to eliminate discrimination against federal employees." On the next page, President Roger Trask noted that the Society's Professional Development Committee, chaired by Gerald Haines, held a series of meetings on the act, and made recommendations to the Executive Council, expressing its reservations.

In the same issue, in the "Federal Report," Page Putnam Miller provided a discussion of the concerns of the major historical associations on the impact of the act. Miller was the long-time Director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (1980–2000), and compiled the Federal Report articles for *The Federalist* from winter 1989 until summer 2000. Two strategies were being pursued to counter the act, one judicial and one legislative. The National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) had jointly filed a class-action lawsuit challenging the act as a violation of the First Amendment. The other was a legislative amendment to clarify the distinctions between payment for legitimate personal and professional activities, and those wherein payment was an attempt to improperly influence an individual's performance of their duties.

In the spring 1991 issue of *The Federalist*, President Trask discussed SHFG's actions and responses. The Executive Council debated and approved the report by the Professional Development Committee and transmitted it to OPM, the OGE, and congressional committees, and coordinated its efforts with those of the SAA, OAH, and AHA. The



Gerald Haines, Chair, SHFG Professional Development Committee, and past SHFG President.

Page Putnam Miller, Director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History

Council decided not to participate in the ACLU-NTEU lawsuit. In addition, the Society's annual meeting had a plenary session chaired by Page Miller devoted to the honoraria controversy. On page five of the same issue, Miller discussed the status of legislation introduced to reverse the honoraria ban, which while on "a fast track," may be delayed by attempts to extend the ban to the Senate. She reported that the legislation was "still awaiting action."

Then, in the summer 1993 issue of *The Federalist*, Miller reported that U.S. District Court Judge Thomas P. Jackson "had overturned the honoraria ban" but stayed the decision to allow a possible appeal by the Justice Department. She noted that Congress had been slow to move on Ethics Act amendment legislation, but that there was "still hope that the courts would provide corrective action," since, in October, the D.C. Federal Court of Appeals would hear the Justice Department's appeal of Judge Jackson's decision and possibly find that the ban was overly broad and unconstitutional.

In the fall 1993 issue, Miller reported that the Court of Appeals denied the government's request for a rehearing of the appeals panel agreement that the honoraria ban was unconstitutional. The government was barred from forcing compliance with the ban. It appeared that the Supreme Court would review the case by the end of May. Miller also reported on confusion caused by OGE guidance on the honorarium ban, and that whatever the final outcome, the ban would not be retroactive. In fall 1994, Miller updated the status of the honoraria case, which had been heard by the Supreme Court on November 8, 1994. The judges had questioned a discrepancy in the act that prohibited payment for a single article or speech, but allowed payment for a series of presentations or articles. They also tried to determine if

there was "any specific evidence that Federal employees in the past had abused the right to receive honoraria." A decision from the Court was expected in early 1995.

In early 1995, the Supreme Court upheld the lower courts' rejection of the ban, finding it to be an excessive burden on expression, and an abridgment of free speech under the First Amendment. The Court limited its decision to the parties who brought the suit, representing lower-level government employees, saying that the salaries of senior executives offset the burden of not receiving honoraria. The Justice Department determined that the Court's decision made the honoraria ban provision in the Ethics Act invalid. The Society had served its members well by quickly taking a lead position to protect their rights and the rights of other federal employees. For more information on the SHFG Archives, contact *chasdowns@verizon.net*

NDC Releases Berlin Wall Documents

Among the hundreds of thousands of documents that the National Declassification Center has declassified and released are over 4,800 textual pages related to the Berlin Wall Crisis of August 1961. In the 50th year since the crisis, on October 27, 2011, the Center celebrated its declassification efforts with a symposium and a publication to highlight what the newly released documents reveal concerning that crisis. The symposium was held at the National Archives in Washington, DC. The project was a partnership of the Historical Collections Division of the CIA, the National Declassification Center (NDC) at the National Archives, the Department of State, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), and the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH). Speakers included David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States; Joseph Lambert of the Central Intelligence Agency, William Richard Smyser of Georgetown University; Donald P. Steury of the CIA; Donald A, Carter of the CMH; Hope Harrison of Georgetown University; Lou Mehrer, CIA, retired; and Gregory W. Pedlow of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

The tensions of the era come through in the newly declassified State Department's eight-part study (600 pages) covering November 1958–December 1962. It examines the important issues of the day; the discussions between the British, French, Germans, and NATO; and exhibits the contemporary perceptions of the U.S. and its allies. Other documents discuss the insufficient level of conventional western forces in Germany, the move away from contemplating use of nuclear weapons, discussions over NATO and authority for military planning, the special training and preparation of U.S. Army forces in Berlin, CIA intelligence and reports surrounding the crisis, and developing U.S. plans for defending U.S. "interests." Newly released photographs shed new light on military and personal experiences, and declassified maps provide more detailed evidence on the boundaries of the Wall, and locations of forces and resulting tensions.

The volume that accompanied the conference includes essays by presenters and project participants, historical background, maps of the Berlin Wall and city sectors, images, media files, and a DVD containing image files of the released documents and photographs. The volume, images, and full conference proceedings are available at *http://www.archives.gov/research/foreign-policy/cold-war/1961-berlin-crisis/2011-conference.html* Questions: e-mail *berlin.1961crisis@nara.gov*

American Tanks were brought up to Friedrich Strasse on October 25, 1961, after two U.S, army buses were refused entry into East Berlin for a sightseeing tour.

BOOK REVIEW

Benjamin Guterman

ORAL HISTORY AND PUBLIC MEMORIES

Edited by Paula Hamilton and Linda Shopes. Temple University Press, 2008

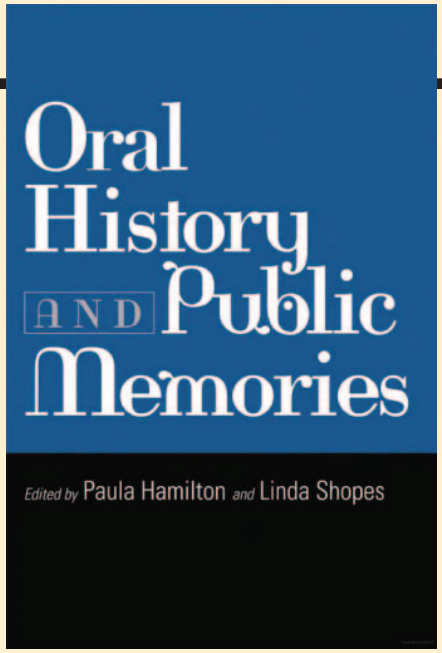
The editors of this impressive volume, years in the making, have assembled 14 stories of international, community-based projects that combine oral history work with larger investigations of cultural and national commemoration. They note the gulf between oral history work and memory studies in recent decades, and intend this collection to show various ways the two approaches are being connected in practice. Oral history tends to be highly particular and individual, and used in documentary and democratizing efforts. Memory studies typically take a more analytical turn, investigating public memorials, monuments, places, and rituals. As these articles reveal in dramatic detail, private testimonials and public memories are intertwined; testimonials, as contributor Horacio N. Roque Ramírez states, become a "living archive" that serves to build community.

The context, aims, and procedures of the projects are remarkably diverse, and the stories are moving and compelling. They suggest at least three important connections. First, oral histories serve to help people understand their experiences, sometimes quite traumatic, and use those remembrances for healing and for constructing a renewed basis for community or cultural identity. In an investigation of Kaori "gum stories" of New Zealand, Senka Božic-Vrbancic investigates the ways that three different groups recalled their experiences around the gum-extraction industry from the late-19th to mid-20th centuries. British immigrants recalled an ethnocentric vision of hard work and patriotism, upholding conceptions of racial superiority and social power. Immigrant Croatians and native Kaori recalled varying perspectives of self-reliance, racial segregation and discrimination, and intermarriage. All these viewpoints were reflected quite differently in three separate museums. Silvia Salvatici reported on a study of Kosovo women and their traumatic experiences during the Balkan conflict of the 1990s. With the loss of so many husbands and brothers, many women assumed more "active resistance" for survival, experiences that altered their views of gender roles. In another essay, Pilar Riaño-Alcalá describes how the disappearance of so many people in Colombia from the 1960s through about 2002 at the hands of military factions created great anguish and suffering for displaced families. Riaño-Alcalá's memory workshops encourage participants to share painful memories "to solve the problem of meaning and ultimately to affirm the coherence of experience." The aim is a new, "more inclusive social history."

Second, oral histories can form the basis for social activism to redress wrongs and establish traditions of commemoration and public memory. Daniel Kerr recounts the Cleveland (Ohio) Homeless Oral History Project (1996–2002). A program of oral histories involving the homeless inspired the participants to unite against the redevelopment plans of developers and local government, and to advocate better day worker conditions and pay. Gail Lee Dubrow's article discusses how Japanese Americans contributed to several oral history projects between 1969 and 2000, by relating their World War II relocation experiences. The public gained a fuller account of that story, and the testimonies ultimately made possible a presidential apology in 1988 and restitution from Congress. Horacio N. Roque Ramírez recounts a movement he was closely involved with to collect oral histories of homosexuals in the San Francisco area in the 1970s and '80s. The movement was very instrumental in unifying the queer community and inspiring such annual commemorations as Proyecto ContraSIDA.

Third, oral histories can inform personal and national views of justice, citizenship, and government, either for democratic or authoritarian regimes. Kevin Blackburn reviews how in Singapore the People's Action Party's state-run Oral History Centre used its extensive collection of oral testimonies selectively to fabricate a civic narrative of patriotism and anticolonialist struggle in its recent past. The Oral History Unit "constrained interviewees from giving full voice to the full complexities of their lives," allowing curators to create a "top down" construct of the national past. In contrast, when Parks Canada involved the First Nations more unrestrainedly in oral history programs in the 1970s and '80s, the Inuvialuit, like other Aboriginal groups, learned more from their elders about traditional land management, wildlife, and cultural traditions. Through that awakening, as author David Neufeld writes, the project demonstrated that "cultures frame meaning" and thus that the Aboriginal view of the nation's past could not be subsumed into the "Laurentian" view of Canadian development based in British economic expansion and colonization. As a result, the two parallel perspectives faced accommodation, a "broadened understanding of communication," in what was essentially a democratization of national identity.

The essays also impress on us the subtleties and complexities in these issues. Private memories differ widely, making it difficult to achieve a consensus narrative needed to define the work of a museum or intention of a memo-



rial. Sean Field found that former residents under apartheid in District Six in Cape Town, South Africa, held differing memories, ranging from painful to joyous, of the community that was demolished for redevelopment. The District Six Museum curators have had trouble devising a unified theme of past life in that neighborhood. Field concludes that we must accept the "contestation" of memories and that new interpretations will emerge in future generations—"We cannot be sure what future the past will bring."

This volume demonstrates that oral histories are conditioned by culture and that individuals observe and remember from within cultural reference points. We also learn how individuals under duress absorb experiences and remembrances that can change their cultures in ways large and small. We have much more to learn about the psychosocial "inter-dynamics" between individual testimony and the social construction of memorials and commemorations that embody public memory. This exceptional volume provides many rich contexts and implications for exploring those dynamics.

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NCPH Internship Guidelines Are Online

History offices considering offering an internship can find a best practices statement on the National Council on Public History web site at *ncph.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/Internship-Best-Practice.pdf.* It outlines the importance of internships to up-and-coming public historians and provides a list of recommendations on how best to conduct an internship.

As the document states, "Internships are an important part of public history education that allow students to gain new insights into the nature of public history practice by engaging in meaningful work under the mentorship of experienced and knowledgeable public history professionals." Such work allows students to move beyond their studies and learn to deal with the realities of working in a history office.

The recommendations include the suggestion that the nature of the work given to the intern should be challenging, professional-level work, and that interns should have the opportunity to produce a significant work product as evidence of their efforts and abilities.

Also, a system should be set up to evaluate the work of interns and to make sure there is regular communication with all the supervisors involved. This will provide feedback to the interns and make sure they are getting the most out of the experience and not being overburdened.

These factors and any salary should all be laid out in an internship agreement that is signed off on by all the interested parties. A clear set of guidelines for the internship will help prevent misunderstandings and promote a successful experience for the interns and their hosting history office.

SHFG DIRECTORY

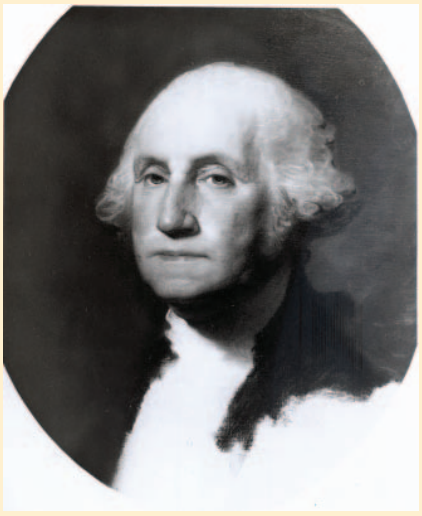
SHFG is compiling the Directory of Federal Historical Programs online. Visit *http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/directory-of-history-offices/* to complete and submit a directory form.
Send form to *webmaster@shfg.org*

SHFG's E-BULLETIN

Send announcements to
shfg.ebulletin@gmail.com

The bulletin is a service to SHFG members

FOUNDERS ONLINE NOW AVAILABLE



A major project is underway to make the papers of the Founding Fathers available online at no cost to the public. These are the papers of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison.

Editorial projects at several institutions, such as the University of Virginia (for Washington), and the Massachusetts Historical Society (for Adams), have been collecting, editing, and publishing these papers for decades, so this undertaking has required not only extensive negotiations for cooperative licensing agreements but new technical advances that allow users to search across the various collections.

The project emerged from congressional hearings of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary *(http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/hearing.cfm?id=e655f9e2809e5476862f735da1330d6f)* in 2008 that directed the Archivist of the United States to expedite public access to these founding documents through online publication. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) partnered with the University of Virginia because of its leadership in exploring digital publication of the papers of several figures of the American Founding Era through its electronic imprint, Rotunda *(http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/index.php?page_id=Founding%20Era%20Collection)*. An NHPRC grant to the university's Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and its developmental program Documents Compass enabled the transcription and posting of 5,000 unpublished documents from the *Papers of James Madison* and the *Papers of John Adams (http://documentscompass.org/projects/papers-of-the-founding-fathers/)*. That successful pilot program provided valuable lessons for the larger project.

The Commission then planned, through cooperative agreements with the University of Virginia, for the launching of a "Founders Online" web site by June 2012 that would make available all published material for the six Founders (about 120,000 historical documents) as well as all the unpublished and in-process materials (about 68,000 documents) over the next three years. Researchers could view transcribed, unpublished letters as they were being researched and annotated by the editors and staff. When fully processed, those letters and materials would be added to the published collection. Users could thus have full access to all that was available. They would also have access to all annotations and background material and be able to search and identify materials across collections. Some 188,000 documents are projected to be on the Archives' Founders Online site by early 2015. This project promises to be of immense value for the public's ability to understand the world and intentions of the Founding Fathers. It will also provide a bold economic, educational, and technical model that will provide important lessons as we plan future efforts for online publication of historical materials.

2014 RICHARD W. LEOPOLD PRIZE — SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2013

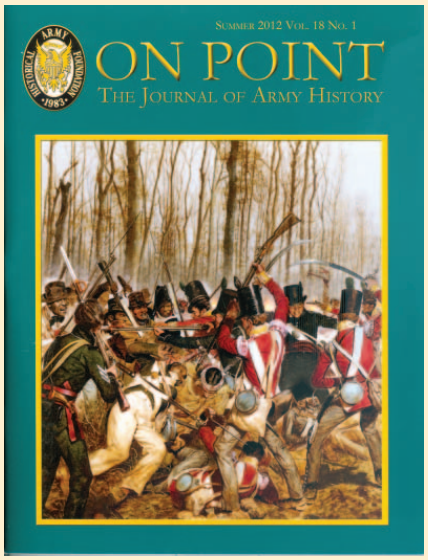
The Richard W. Leopold Prize is given biennially by the Organization of American Historians to the author or editor of the best book on foreign policy, military affairs, historical activities of the federal government, documentary histories, or biography written by a U.S. government historian or federal contract historian. These subjects cover the concerns and the historical fields of activity of the late Professor Leopold, who was president of the OAH, 1976–1977. The prize was designed to improve contacts and interrelationships within the historical profession where an increasing number of history-trained scholars hold distinguished positions in governmental agencies. The prize recognizes the significant historical work being done by historians outside academe. Each entry must be published during the two-year period January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2013. — The award will be presented at the 2014 OAH Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, April 10–13.

Submission Procedures: One copy of each entry, clearly labeled "2014 Richard W. Leopold Prize Entry," must be mailed directly to the committee members. See "Submission Policy." *http://www.oah.org/awards/awards.leopold.index.html* for full details.

MAKING HISTORY

Army Historical Foundation

The summer 2012 issue of *On Point: The Journal of Army History* is available. Articles include "The Battle of Stony Point" (July 15–16, 1779), by Eric Anderson; "Henryk 'Frenchy' Szarek," by Bob Seals; "The 339th Infantry Regiment," by Patrick Feng; "Benedict Arnold: American Hero, American Villain," by Jessica Robinson; and "Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont," by Brig. Gen. Raymond E. Bell.



Atomic Heritage Foundation

The Foundation, based in Washington, DC, works with the Department of Interior and the Department of Energy to preserve historic sites related to the Manhattan Project. Congress received recommendations on July 13, 2011, for a Manhattan Project National Historical Park at the three major Manhattan Project sites of Los Alamos, NM, Oak Ridge, TN, and Hanford, WA. The Foundation's web site at *www.atomicheritage.org/* provides information on the history of these sites and attempts to preserve them. There is also information on other, related sites; key individuals in the atomic energy field; and on news events related to preservation of atomic energy sites.

Department of State

The Office of the Historian at the U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce the release of its third set of public beta FRUS e-books. See full list of titles at *http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/ebooks*

The 151-year-old FRUS series presents the official documentary historical record of major foreign policy decisions and significant diplomatic activity of the U.S. government. This release includes 10 volumes from the Nixon-Ford subseries, including 4 volumes documenting the Vietnam War:

History Associates

History Associates Incorporated has been contracted by The Maritime Administration to inventory and catalog all if its heritage assets at the campus of the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) in Kings Point, NY. Professional collections managers from History Associates will inventory an estimated 5,000 artifacts located at the USMMA, including items within the American Merchant Marine Museum. Aside from the museum's collection, assets include paintings and ship models that are on display in administrative offices and buildings throughout the campus. Each heritage asset will be photographed, cataloged and barcoded for inventory control, and assessed on its condition. The American Merchant Museum serves as a repository for the USMMA's extensive and valuable collection of marine art, ship models, and nautical artifacts. In addition to these artifacts, History Associates will assess the museum's collection of archival material, comprised of ship plans, maps, personal letters, posters, yearbooks, photographs, postcards, and other maritime-related documents and ephemera. The first phase of the project is already underway. Collections managers from History Associates have begun work identifying and cataloging heritage assets in the museum. The entire project is slated for completion this summer. For more info: *www.historyassociates.com.*

Historical Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense

The Historical Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, with the collaboration of the history offices of the Joint Staff and the military services, has initiated the Department of Defense History Speaker Series. The presentations serve as professional military education, promote historical awareness among those charged with developing and influencing national policy and strategy, and also honor those who have served before us in defending the nation. The latter goal is especially important as we enter a period commemorating the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, the 150th of the Civil War, the 100th of World War I, and the 50th of the Vietnam War. The presentations will normally start at lunchtime in the Pentagon Auditorium and last about an hour. Schedule permitting, the program will air live on the Pentagon Channel or webcast, so that those who can't attend in person can still see it.

The first speaker, in April, was Dr. Ethan Rafuse, a professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. A noted expert on the Civil War, the topic of his talk was "'A People's War': The First Months of the Civil War." In May a panel presentation introduced the OSD Historical Office's latest publication, "Rearming for the Cold War: 1945–1960." In June, Robert Krick, the retired chief historian of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, spoke about "Stonewall" Jackson's rise to prominence as a result of his Shenandoah Valley campaign in 1862. Future presentations in the series include: Christopher George on the opening months of the War of 1812, 17 July; Dr. Andy Birtle and General Tony Zinni on the advisory program in Vietnam, 28 August; Dr. Mark Snell on the Battle of Antietam, 4 September; Dr. David Coleman on the Cuban Missile Crisis, 23 October; and Dr. Allan Millett on the Chinese Intervention in the Korean War in November 1950, 3 December. For more information on the series, please visit the OSD Historical Office web site at *http://history.defense.gov/.*

Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO)

The Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) recently released its Report to the President for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. The Report is online at *www.archives.gov/isoo/reports.* The Report profiles data on the government-wide security classification program during Fiscal Year 2011. Highlights include the following: Classification–Agencies reported to ISOO that they assigned classification duration of 10 years or less in 70 percent of their original classification decisions; Executive branch agencies reported 2,362 original classification authorities. This is the lowest number ever reported, and a 43 percent decrease from FY 2010. Declassification–Under automatic, systematic, and discre-

tionary declassification review, agencies reviewed 52,760,524 pages and declassified 26,720,121 pages of historically valuable records. Agencies reviewed 493,372 pages under Mandatory Declassification Review, and declassified 285,312 pages in their entirety, declassified 143,421 pages in part, and retained classification of 64,639 pages in their entirety.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA has published *Rockets and People, Volume IV: The Moon Race*, by Boris Chertok (NASA SP-2011-4110). This is the last of the four-volume set of memoirs by Soviet Academician Chertok on the Soviet space program from 1968 to 1974. The e-book is available online at *http://www.nasa.gov/connect/ebooks/rockets_people_vol4_detail.html*. Hard copies can be purchased for $25 from the NASA Technical Information Service at *http://www.ntis.gov* and for $79 from the Government Printing Office.

Women worked as human "computers" at the Glenn Research Center and Langley Research Center from 1935 to 1970. The Centers sought women with college degrees to primarily read film, run calculations, and plot data. During wind tunnel tests, for example, manometer boards measured pressure changes using liquid-filled tubes. The "computers" then read photographic films of the readings and recorded the data on worksheets. The work was done by hand, using slide rules, curves, magnifying glasses, and basic calculating machines. Their work was critical in devising computing methods and techniques specific to aeronautics and aerospace research. See a fuller story an images at *http://crgis.ndc.nasa.gov/historic/Human_Computers*

Women working at manometer boards at Glenn Research Center, undated.

National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives at San Francisco recently opened to the public over 40,000 case files on immigrants to the United States, and dedicated its research room to the late U.S. Representative Tom Lantos who was a leading force in having these files re-designated as records of permanent historical value. These immigration files, known as "Alien Files" (commonly referred to as "A-Files"), were transferred from U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). They are among the first of millions of case files that will eventually be opened to the public. The National Archives at Kansas City also will receive files from this series.

The regional archives have several ongoing exhibits. At the National Archives at Seattle, "Faces of the Pacific Northwest"; the National Archives at Kansas City, MO, "'They're Not Going to Get Me': Crime in the 1930s," through Aug. 18, 2012, and "School House to White House," through Feb. 23, 2013; the National Archives at Boston, "America Votes: Our Pivotal Right," through Jan. 21, 2013; and the National Archives at Atlanta, "Ellis Island: The Lost Mural," through Dec. 31, 2012.

National Institutes of Health

The Office of History at the NIH held its fourth annual Stetten Day on June 6, 2012. In a well-attended event, Stetten Fellows who have been working in the History Office during the past year gave presentations. The event, held in Wilson Hall, Building 1, was well attended. Stetten Day allows the NIH community to learn about the research that is ongoing in the History Office. Fellows at the Office of History use the resources found across the campus of the National Institutes of Health for in-depth research. Presentations:

– Sejal Patel, "The Benevolent Tyranny of Biostatistics. Biomedical Research, Accountability, and the Political Economy of the NIH." Commentator: Carl A. Roth, (NHLBI)

– Grischa Metlay, "Federalizing Scientific and Medical Approaches to Substance Use Disorders." Commentator: Kenneth R. Warren, (NIAAA)

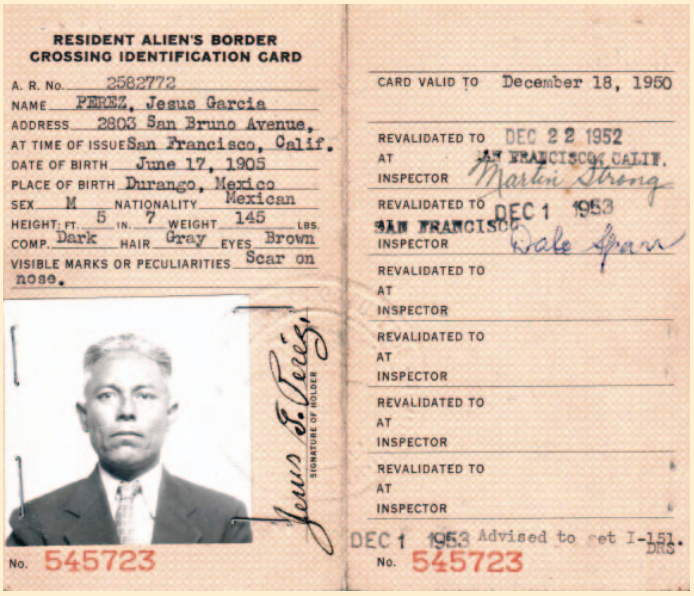
– Eva Åhrén, "Fighting "The Great Disturbers of the Body Politic:" Joseph Kinyoun and the Origins of the NIH." Commentator: David M. Morens, (NIAID)

– Judith Friedman, "The NIH and the Enduring Puzzle of Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy." Commentator: Kenneth H. Fischbeck, NINDS)

Social media and online outreach: The NIH Library along with the National Library of Medicine are found on Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr, just to name three. Options for viewing images of NIH can be found at the NLM's Images in the History of Medicine, *http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/ihm/* and on the Flickr site from the NIH Library and Office of History at *http://www.flickr.com/photos/nihlibrary/collections/*.

National Park Service

On April 19, 2012, the National Park Service announced the formation of the Lewis and Clark Trust, Incorporated. The Trust, based in Omaha, Nebraska, will help secure financial assets for the preservation and promotion of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail through partnerships, philanthropy, and



RESIDENT ALIEN'S BORDER CROSSING IDENTIFICATION CARD

A. R. No. 2582772
NAME PEREZ, Jesus Garcia
ADDRESS 2803 San Bruno Avenue,
AT TIME OF ISSUE San Francisco, Calif.
DATE OF BIRTH June 17, 1905
PLACE OF BIRTH Durango, Mexico
SEX M NATIONALITY Mexican
HEIGHT: FT. 5 IN. 7 WEIGHT 145 LBS.
COMP. Dark HAIR Gray EYES Brown
VISIBLE MARKS OR PECULIARITIES Scar on nose.

SIGNATURE OF HOLDER

No. 545723

CARD VALID TO December 18, 1950

REVALIDATED TO DEC 22 1952
AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
INSPECTOR Martin Strong

REVALIDATED TO DEC 1 1953
AT SAN FRANCISCO
INSPECTOR Dale Spann

REVALIDATED TO
AT
INSPECTOR

REVALIDATED TO
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INSPECTOR

DEC 1 1953 Advised to get I-151.
No. 545723

A border crossing identification card from an A-file at the National Archives at San Francisco.

education. It will work to preserve the full length of the coast-to-coast, 3,700-mile Trail. Stephanie Ambrose Tubbs, daughter of the late historian Stephen Ambrose, is the Chair of the Board for the Trust. She noted at the press conference that aside from the major goal of stewardship, the Trust will aim to actively involve young people and students in the preservation work. She emphasized the need to place the Trail in the proper context "so that students are continually learning the lessons the Expedition can teach us about teamwork, leadership, and enlightenment science."

The Trail's Resources Stewardship division is working on an inventory of "assets" along the route from Rulo, NE, to Pickstown, SD. Assets include interpretive signs and panels, statues, monuments, plaques, historic markers, and public access sites that represent the Expedition. This survey will update a 2007 survey and will use GPS coordinates and digital photographs allowing 360-degree views.

The Newberry Library

The Newberry Library in Chicago has issued a call for papers for a scholarly colloquium to be held on March 29–30, 2013, on the topic of improving instruction in Native American history. The organizers write that, "Despite the large number of faculty trained in American Indian history very little has changed and most college level students who enroll in large survey courses in U.S. history learn about Indians during the initial stages of encounter and then, Indians are often depicted as succumbing to epidemic diseases or being pushed off their lands by westward expansion." The seminar is intended to produce expanded resources for improved and more inclusive instruction. The organizers hope the seminar will yield an expanded resource with syllabi for instructors that will be posted on a new web site. Web: *http://www.newberry.org/03292013-why-you-can-t-teach-us-history-without-american-indians*

U.S. Army Center of Military History

The U.S. Army Center of Military History publishes *Army History* (ISSN 1546-5330) quarterly for the professional development of Army historians and as Army educational and training literature. The 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 summer 2012 issue is available at *www.history.army.mil/armyhistory/index.html* Articles include "Rommel's Lost Battalions" by Douglas E. Nash; and a review essay titled "In Pursuit of the Great White Whale: Lewis Sorley's Westmoreland: The General Who Lost Vietnam." by Andrew J. Birtle.

United States Mint

The U.S. Mint is reopening the public galleries and tour at the Philadelphia mint on July 3. This involves all new case work, interpretive materials, and a new artifact selection. In August 2010, the United States Mint embarked on a major endeavor to completely renovate the public tour experience at the Philadelphia facility. Approximately 250,000 people visit the Philadelphia Mint each year. The last time the public tour exhibits were upgraded was over 40 years ago. The new tour route and exhibits will proudly tell the American public about the role the Mint plays in the financial fabric of our nation. The new displays will showcase the Mint's numerous artifacts; tell the story about the history and current structure of the Mint; and explain the evolution of the coin minting processes and operations.

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Federalist Calendar

Sept. 15, 2012. The Lincoln Group of Washington, DC. Symposium, "Lincoln, the War, and the Constitution." E. Berry Prettyman District Court, Washington, DC. Visit *www.lincolngroup.org/lincolnconstitution.html*

Oct. 4–7, 2012. The Society for the History of Technology, Annual Meeting, Copenhagen. *Visit http://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual_meeting.html*

Oct. 10-14, 2012. Oral History Association (OHA), Annual Meeting. "Sing It Out, Shout It Out, Say It Out Loud: Giving Voice through Oral History." Visit *http://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/2012-call-for-papers/*

Oct. 18–21, 2012. Historical Society of Washington, DC. 39th Annual Conference on DC Historical Studies. Washington, DC. Visit *http://www.historydc.org/events/historicalstudiesconference.aspx*

Oct. 25–26, 2012. NASA Symposium. "Solar System Exploration @ 50." Washington, DC. Visit *www.nasa.gov*

Nov. 15–18, 2012. American Studies Association *Annual Meeting.* "Dimensions of Empire and Resistance: Past, Present, and Future." San Juan, Puerto Rico. Visit *http://www.theasa.net/annual_meeting/*

Nov. 2012. Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Symposium. "Astride Two Ages: Technology and the Civil War." Washington, DC.

Jan. 3–6, 2013. American Historical Association (AHA). Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. "Lives, Places, Stories." Visit *http://www.historians.org/annual/next.htm*

Jan. 25–29, 2013. American Library Association, Midwinter meeting. Seattle, WA. Visit *http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/upcoming*

Mar. 19–23, 2013. Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Meeting. "Natural Resource Distribution and Development in the 21st Century." Denver, CO. Visit *http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2013.html*

Apr. 17–20, 2013. National Council on Public History (NCPH) Meeting. "The Significance of Audiences in Public History." Ontario, Canada. Visit *www.ncph.org.*

June 27–July 2, 2013. American Library Association, Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. Visit *http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/upcoming*