



# The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Summer 2014

**SHFG**  
www.shfg.org

## Members Meet Monthly

SHFG has a new social event. SHFG members and non-members have been meeting monthly following the Executive Council meeting at **Vapiano** in Chinatown, Washington, DC, at 5:30 p.m. (623–625 H St., NW). All SHFG members and nonmembers are welcome. It’s a great opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with historians, curators, educators, and others from the federal community. The gatherings have proved successful for bringing in new members and even enlisting new officers. We hope to see you there. The next gathering is tentatively set for August 13, but they will be announced via the eBulletin. Contact SHFG President Carl Ashley at [shfg@cashley.org](mailto:shfg@cashley.org) for more information.



## Indians at the Post Office: The Smithsonian American Indian Museum Addresses Native Themes in New Deal-Era Murals

Sandra Starr

The Wayne, Pennsylvania, Post Office displays a mural created in 1941 depicting an over-life-size “Mad” Anthony Wayne, who was recruited out of retirement in 1791 to become the commanding general of the newly formed Legion of the United States. (Fig.1) The mural looms over the heads of post office patrons, crowning the top of the postmaster’s door. Wayne, draped in a wind-swept cape, sword in hand, and pointing toward the heavens, is accompanied by an admiring American eagle. He seems to stride victoriously out of the frame after having just stepped over the body of a fallen American Indian. President George Washington, in an effort to open the Northwest Territory to American settlers, had sent General Wayne to do battle with the Shawnee, Delaware, and Wyandot Indians who were standing in Washington’s way toward acquiring their land, which constituted much of Ohio. By 1794 Wayne had his victory, and the Indians were left with one-quarter of their homeland. The postmaster at Wayne, PA, recounts the story of a teacher who brought her young class to the post office on a field trip. The children pointed out the “dead Indian” whom Gen. Anthony Wayne was stepping over depicted in the mural. “He’s just sleeping,” she reassured.

In Tallahassee, Florida, in the original post office, now repurposed as the Federal Bankruptcy Court Building, the Creek/Seminole Osceola negotiates an 1837 truce with Brig. Gen. Joseph Hernandez of the U.S. Army while a calumet pipe of peace floats in the sky above them. (Fig. 2) Not depicted is the ensuing chapter in which Osceola is deceitfully captured there and taken to prison. And in Cordell, Oklahoma, the post office mural setting is a cowboy with herds entering stage left into a bucolic scene of farmhouse, crops, plow, and oil rig, while an Indian on horseback exits stage right leaving behind the land, the tipi, and the buffalo.

See “Murals” cont’d on page 4



Fig.1 Anthony Wayne by Alfred D. Crimi, Wayne, Pennsylvania Post Office. Used with the permission of the United States Postal Service®.



Fig.3 Choctaw Ball-Play 1840 by Manuel Bromberg, Tahlequah, Oklahoma Post Office. Used with the permission of the United States Postal Service®.

## INSIDE

NMAI & Native Themes in New Deal-Era Murals.....	1
President’s Message, Carl Ashley.....	2
Editor’s Note.....	3
Blog Posts.....	6
Apollo 11 & Customs Inspection on Return from the Moon.....	7
The History Professional: Interview with John Fox.....	9
A Timeline of Federal History.....	11
History Office Profile: NARA’s Electronic Records Custodial Program.....	12
From the Archives: <i>The Occasional Papers</i> .....	14
Tracking Arctic Climate Changes.....	15
Digital History: The CIA Museum Website.....	16
Making History.....	18
Calendar.....	20

# The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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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 \$55, \$35 students, \$100 institutions and includes a subscription to *The Federalist*, *Federal History* journal, 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 a listing of articles, on the Society's web site at [www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org).

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

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## President's Message

By Carl Ashley

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Society of History in the Federal Government. Looking back on the challenges that catalyzed the creation of the organization in 1979, one is struck not only by how much has been accomplished, but by the familiarity of the challenges we face today. For more than three decades of budget woes, institutional reorganizations, bureaucratic snafus, and myriad other tests, the SHFG has served as a voice and advocate for federal historians, helped to shape policy debates, and ultimately created a true federal history community. As the incoming President I am honored to follow a distinguished roster of predecessors, and I am looking forward to doing what I can to move the Society in the right direction.

In an all-volunteer organization, you have to choose your battles carefully and establish ambitious yet achievable goals. This year we have set balanced strategic priorities, including improving our communication and outreach efforts and seeking ways to increase our membership rolls. Fortunately, we are blessed with a dedicated and enthusiastic group of creative thinkers on the Executive Council who are actively engaged in seeking ways to improve our programs. You may have noticed our new and improved E-Bulletin format, which will help keep you up to date on events and programs. We are expanding our publications with a new electronic-only newsletter, *Explorations in Federal History*, which will keep you apprised of projects and research of interest to history professionals. In addition to our usual events like the Hewlett Lecture and Holiday Party, our newly established Membership Committee is exploring ways to make the organization more useful for members and more relevant to those considering joining. Our monthly happy hour, for example, provides a great opportunity to make new friends and network with fellow historians. I am pleased to report that next year's Annual Meeting, April 24–25, 2015, will be once again hosted by the Robert C. Byrd Center in Shepherdstown, WV, and I encourage you to join us. Stay tuned to the

E-Bulletin for details about new programs and events.

Although we have made much progress in the last 35 years, I believe the future health of the SHFG lies in expanding our appeal to a wider range of professionals. Whether you are a federal historian, an archivist, park ranger, librarian, military historian, documentary editor, records manager, preservationist, museum curator, or involved in any number of vocations at the state and local level, the Society has something to offer. To help get our message out, we will sponsor a panel titled, *Federal Government: Careers Serving Policy Makers and the Public* at the upcoming American Historical Association meeting in New York, featuring Society members discussing some of the many roles federal professionals perform. We are also working to strengthen our ties to the public history community, partnering with National Coalition for Public History to hold a joint meeting in Baltimore in 2016.

Our challenge today is to grow the Society by appealing to wider range of individuals engaged in a broad swath of vocations, including those working outside the Washington area, in academia, and particularly among young professionals considering careers in the federal service. I welcome any comments or suggestions you may have for how the Society can meet this challenge as we move forward.

## New Officers for 2014–15

The SHFG membership has elected a new slate of officers for the 2014–15 year. The officers are

President – Carl Ashley

Vice President – Terrance Rucker

Past President – David McMillen

Secretary – Sara Berndt

Treasurer – Anne Musella

## Executive Council

Elizabeth C. Charles, Mattea Sanders, Lincoln Bramwell

*Will join continuing members:* Eric Boyle, Kristina Giannotta, Zack Wilske

## Nominating Committee

Eric C. Stoykovitz, Kristin L. Ahlberg

*Will join continuing members:* Eric W. Boyle, Jessie Kratz, Sejal Patel

## Letters

Thank you for sending me the publication. I and other members of our staff have enjoyed reading all the articles very much. What an excellent publication!

Mary Dixie Dysart  
Air Force Historical Research Agency

I was delighted to read the article by Chas Downs in the recent *Federalist* featuring Roger Anders as the first editor of the *Directory of Federal Historical Programs and Activities*. Anders carried a heavy burden in the early years of the Society. He had a strong board of advisors on his committee, but it was Anders who personally did most of the work compiling the *Directory*, including drafting the questionnaire, compiling the data, and writing up the entries. He received willing assistance from his committee, of course, but in the last analysis, it was Anders's project.

Anders and I were stunned by our success in getting Mack Thompson's support for the *Directory*. Up to that point, we had been largely ignored by the AHA. I can recall thinking at the time that the OAH gave us strong verbal support, but only the AHA came through with needed funds to complete this project.

Your recognition of Anders's contribution to the early development of the Society is well deserved and appreciated. He was truly an unsung hero at the time, and I was pleased when he received the first Maryellen Trautman Award.

Jack M. Holl  
Kansas State University

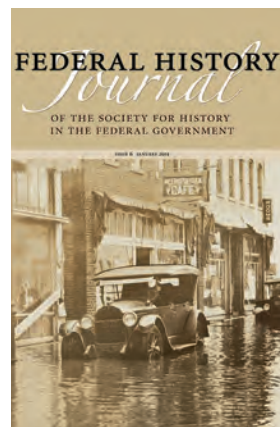
## Directory Update

The United States Postal Service Historian's office has been added to our *Directory* at <http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/directory-of-history-offices/>. It is listed as entry 467 under Executive Branch programs. Jenny Lynch is the new Historian; Steve Kochersperger is the Senior Research Analyst, Postal History; and June Brandt is Research Analyst, Postal History. The office is located in the USPS building at 475 L'Enfant Plaza, in Washington, DC. Primary duties include research and reference duties, maintenance of the historic record of postmasters, production of content for office webpages, and management of the Postal Service's Corporate Library, which provides electronic access to subscription information databases to postal employees nationwide and houses a collection of postal and postal-related publications and other information. Visit the USPS site at [about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/welcome.htm](http://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/welcome.htm)

## Editor's Note

Welcome to our summer issue. We've had good response to our blog post about the closure of the history office at DTRA over two years ago (<http://shfg.org/shfg/federal-history-work/military-history-2/>). Members have written to clarify and add information to the stories and uncertain fates of other history programs. We'd like to hear more from you about this central issue of the uncertainty at history offices. See our column in this issue. Other articles offer insights into the diverse duties of federal historians. In interpretive work, a multiyear project at the National Museum of the American Indian attempts to rectify the ethnocentric story of Native American history physically enshrined in Post Office murals. In a bit of detective work, we also learn of the NASA history office's research into and explanation of the famed customs form for the arrival of the Apollo 11 Moon rocks. An interview with FBI Historian John Fox discusses how he completes his unique and often sensitive duties, which include promoting knowledge of crime work and FBI history to the public. We also get a view of the challenging but cutting-edge work of the National Archives' Electronic Records Division. Other stories point to helpful information for researchers such as new records sources and our online timeline of federal history. Thanks for your support, and please send comments to me at [benjamin.guterman@shfg.org](mailto:benjamin.guterman@shfg.org).

— Benjamin Guterman, editor



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Federal History journal

*Federal History*, the journal of the Society for History in the Federal Government, seeks articles for upcoming issues.

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](mailto:editor-shfg-journal@shfg.org).

## Federalist Assistant Editors Needed

SHFG's *The Federalist* newsletter needs assistant editors to help refine and manage its expanding content. Areas of interest include specific federal history offices and their programs, as well as current initiatives in such areas as oral history, digital history, military history, museum work, declassification, archival work, interpretive work, education, and the history of science and medicine. These volunteer duties are entirely adaptable to available time and interests, and assistants will gain important insights into current work and trends in federal and public history. See past issues at <http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/the-federalist/>. Contact the editor at [benjamin.guterman@shfg.org](mailto:benjamin.guterman@shfg.org)



*“Murals,” continued from page 1*

It was in 2009 that I happened on the mural depicting Anthony Wayne during research concerning Indian treaties. This discovery launched a continued interest in finding every post office mural created during the New Deal era containing images of American Indians, and inspired the project *Indians at the Post Office: Native Themes in New Deal Era Murals*. I also was to learn that the town of Wayne played a part in the choosing of the subject of Anthony Wayne to “decorate” their post office through a federal competition titled the “48 States Competition” held in 1939 under Franklin Roosevelt’s Treasury Section of Fine Arts. Artists then submitted drawings for approval after conferring with the towns whose post offices would receive a mural. The mural creation and installation ran through 1943. Since the New Deal era, these images of American Indians and others in post offices across America have served as an enduring reinforcement, although subtle, to post office patrons and student tours, that our early nation was driven to gain territory through the concept of Manifest Destiny, even if that entailed the near extinction of the indigenous peoples residing there.

Published interpretations of these murals since their creation, written by non-Native scholars, discuss their place in art history and popular culture. Those critiques have considered the works as a “body” of cultural expression, not focusing on questions of specific minorities and their stereotyped place at any moment in American history. The singular long-range purpose for the *Indians at the Post Office* project would then be to provide a 21st-century, Native-informed critique for the research and writing of 21st-century art-historic, historic, and socio-cultural interpretation. The goal certainly reflects the mission described by the founders of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). These Native authors would not be restricted to Native “scholars,” but would include young and mature American Indians in the discourse around historic and contemporary imaging and imagining of Natives by non-Natives. These Native interpretations would be displayed at the mural location, providing the post office patron an additional and contemporary Native point-of-view.

To accomplish this, I sought and obtained the endorsement and collaboration of the National Postal Museum (NPM) and the United States Postal Service (USPS). The project could not have been accomplished without the three parties working together. Thomas Lera, Winton M. Blount Research Chair at the National Postal Museum, whom I had assisted with his 2009 online exhibition *American Indians on Stamps*, enthusiastically joined me in early 2012 and offered to host a dedicated website for an online exhibition of the images and essays. He also brought Dallan Wordakemper, the Real Estate Specialist/Federal Preservation Officer for the United States Postal Service, into the collaboration. We met in the summer of 2012. Through Dallan, I was able to obtain rare access to archived USPS discs containing copyrighted images of over 1,600 post office murals, all black and white save a small group reshot for the General Services Administration (GSA) in color. The enormity of the challenge then

became apparent. My little Research Department team then was composed of myself, RoseMaria Estevez (Zapotec), and my intern Meghan Navarro. We pulled in Krystal Adams, a Welcome Desk volunteer, to help us find (using magnifying glasses) images of American Indians in the over 1,600, 8½- by 11-inch, black-and-white mural printouts that RoseMaria had created from the USPS discs. We found exactly 360 such murals. Some murals illustrating Indian lifeways appeared to have been well-researched and beautifully executed by non-Native artists. (Fig. 3) Only 16 were created by American Indian artists (Fig. 4), all but one located in Oklahoma where most Southeastern tribes found themselves relocated after the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

By November 2012, we had cross-checked all the USPS database spreadsheets for locations and spelling, title irregularities, and artist names. We were developing notebooks based on the whole body of work and a subset of the 360 murals that included American Indians. We then re-worked the 360 to be bound in notebooks by state. Every page required a hand-created label. By that time, I had presented the possibilities for the project at conferences and meetings of the Society of American Indian Government Employees, the Department of Interior Parks Department’s National Society for Interpretation, the National Gallery, and within NMAI, and wrote an overview that appeared in the NMAI’s *American Indian Magazine*. We committed to the involvement of Native writers and to the acquisition of high-resolution photographs of 99 percent of the murals that were never recorded in color. The one percent had been shot by the USPS and held within their vault. One important recent development in linking with Native scholarship and education is a partnership with the Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. The photography project shows promise of being resolved through the efforts of local historical societies and their desires to preserve these precious works of art as well as assistance from the USPS in finding not-for-profit photographers. Although there is much photography of murals by citizen-photographers, we could not rely on such “crowd sourcing,” shot usually without permission from the USPS, and normally from the floor level of the postal facility, not directly at the mural, which requires a ladder and controlled lighting.

In early 2013, all collaborators agreed on the goal of launching the project on the NPM website by Native American Heritage Day, November 29, with an initial 27 murals and essays, to be followed with installments of 27 until all 360 had been published. We added NMAI staff member Patricia Jollie (Confederated Salish and Kootenai) and our Fellow, Rubin Noah (Choctaw/Kickapoo/Iowa) to the team. The online presentation would be ordered by the themes decided by the Research Department’s director, and our final editor, Dr. Jose Barreiro. The themes selected were Indian Lifeways and the Native Artist, Indian Lifeways and the Non-Native Artist, Encounter, Trade and Commerce, Evangelization, Conflict, Treaties, Local Legends and Myths, and the Myth of American Indian Extinction. Dr. Barreiro expressed that the project serves to “add a layer of



Fig.2 (left) Osceola in Conference with Hernandez by Eduard Buk Ulreich, Federal Bankruptcy Court Building, formerly the original Post Office, Tallahassee, Florida. Used with the permission of the General Services Administration. Fig.4 (below) Grand Council of 1842 by Walter Richard West Sr., Cheyenne Nation. Okemah, Oklahoma Post Office. Image by Krystal Adams. Used with the permission of the United States Postal Service®.

interpretation, deepening the historical and socio-cultural context. Together, they [the murals] are a rich, high-quality, eighty-year-old historical snapshot, capturing social attitudes, good, bad and ugly, toward American Indians.”

Led by Marty Emery, the National Postal Museum’s project manager, the exhibition went live online as planned on Native American Heritage Day, at <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/indiansatthepostoffice/index.html> and was instantly picked-up by FOX, NBC, ABC, CBS and 25 large-city newspapers and radio stations as far away as San Francisco. In January 2014, we presented the project at the National Postal Museum’s Coordinating Council meeting consisting of the NPM, Smithsonian Castle representatives, and the Postmaster General and staff.

The first stage was accomplished without grant funding. We have 370 more murals to inspect, research, write about, photograph, and translate to an online format at the NPM website ensuring at least another five years’ life to the endeavor *Indians at the Post Office*. We are particularly enthused by our partnership with history faculty and students at the respected tribal college, Haskell Indian Nations University, and our continued collaboration with the NPM and the USPS.



Inspired by a mural depiction of “Mad” Anthony Wayne 220 years after the Battle of Fallen Timbers, *Indians at the Post Office* grows now of its own momentum. Most importantly, we offer that this collaborative endeavor will alert the public to the art-historic treasures that are the post office murals, and encourage them to study them closely for their value as momentary tableaux of American history.

*Sandra Starr is the Senior Researcher Emerita of the National Museum of the American Indian. She currently writes from her own research business, Starr Research, in Boynton Beach, Florida. [starrresearch@gmx.com](mailto:starrresearch@gmx.com)*

## Osceola Mural—An Excerpt

In mural scene, Osceola in Conference with Hernandez, [Eduard] Ulreich portrays what appears to be a friendly visit on October 24, 1837 under a white flag of truce (not a calumet pipe as is depicted floating the sky) by Osceola, Maskoki-Creek warrior in his pursuit of a peace negotiation with Brig. General Joseph Hernandez of the U.S. Army. His tribal council as seen in the left background had agreed to the overture. A group of soldiers stand ready in the far right background, giving the viewer a feel for the authority asserted by Hernandez, and a hint at the imminence of a planned ambush. Their uniforms are colored in vivid blue, in contrast to the monochromatic grey used to color the Indians behind Osceola in the far left. The result of this attempt for peace near St. Augustine, and the ambush of Osceola, other head men, and

about eighty warriors, was a forced walk to their imprisonment at Fort Marion in St. Augustine. Within 2 months, Osceola, then ill, was shipped to Fort Moultrie, S.C. where he died a natural death. Osceola was then decapitated by his attending army doctor, who possibly kept the head to study or as war booty. The present location of his head is unknown. Another feature of the mural that should be noted is the presence of a calumet pipe suspended in the left of the mural’s background. Ulreich was probably trying to imply through this feature that the meeting he depicted was one of temporary peace, since calumet pipes were used as a token of peace. However, the white flag of truce that was far more likely present at Osceola’s arrest is not rendered here in the mural.

*Kathryn Dantzerward*



## Blogs at [www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org)

### HISTORY OFFICES NOT PROTECTED

<http://shfg.org/shfg/federal-history-work/military-history-2/>

Federal history offices face constant uncertainty. Do you have information on offices that are in danger of closure, loss of staff, or that have been enhanced?

Our online blog features a brief report on the closure of the history office of the **Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)** over two years ago. Several other agencies have also eliminated their programs, including the **Department of Agriculture**. Others have not rehired a historian, such as the **Department of Labor**. Many others have directed their historians' activities towards predominately public affairs work, without duties to include the research of office history. But others, such as the **National Archives** have created a history office in recent years. The SHFG's chief mission has always been the promotion of federal history programs for public knowledge and more efficient administration. Let us know your views on this, as well as any information you have on the state of other history programs. Comments are welcome at <http://shfg.org/shfg/federal-history-work/military-history-2/>

#### Recent Responses:

- SHFG had actively called for a history office at the **Department of Homeland Security** after the agency was created. The office of history did not last long after it was started in February 2004. Priscilla Jones, the first Historian, left for the **Air Force Historical Studies Office** in July 2007. While some component offices may perform select historical duties, we have received no word of the continuation of a history office for the agency as a whole.
- Victoria Harden reports that "**The Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum** did not rehire historians after Dr. Robert Martensen retired, and the postdoctoral fellowship program (jobs for young historians!!) was disbanded. At present, the Office staff comprises one archivist and two museum professionals. The Office was downgraded from reporting to an NIH Deputy Director to reporting to that person's public affairs specialist."
- Harden also states that "Some years ago (during the Clinton administration), a group of SHFG members worked with Page Miller (former head of what is now the National History Coalition) to get an Executive Order signed mandating history offices in all agencies. That effort was thwarted by then-Archivist John Carlin, who argued that history offices would duplicate and undermine records management programs."

#### Follow Up:

We should elaborate here on the original blog post's descriptions of the DTRA historians' duties, which were quite extensive. The duties included researching, writing, and

publishing books for the government and the public. They recorded several hundred interviews with treaty inspectors from the U.S., Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Germany, Great Britain, France, Poland, and many other nations. For the agency, they taught in every treaty inspector/escort training course for more than 20 years, and they presented lecturers at national military academies and national universities in the United States, Russia, and several other nations. Among the publications: *On-Site Inspections under the INF Treaty* (Washington, 1993), *Creating the Defense Threat Reduction Agency* (Washington, 2002), and *Responding to War, Terrorism, and WMD Proliferation: History of DTRA, 1998–2008* (Washington, 2009). Also, the historians lectured at numerous universities, military academies, and at institutes and conferences abroad, including in Russia, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Ukraine, Germany, and China.

On the non-reinstatement of the DTRA history program, it was a DTRA managerial decision. In part, the OSD Historian's Office had general oversight of the DTRA office but showed little interest in it. The DTRA managers' idea was that the Internet and technology would supply information on current activities to the media. Such coverage would not record or preserve information about important long-term programs and policies. Consequently, historical accounts of and reports on DTRA missions and activities, including many oral histories, all of which historians are qualified to produce, will not be undertaken in the near future.

### MUSEUM STANDARDS

<http://shfg.org/shfg/federal-history-work/exhibitions-3/>

In January 1997, SHFG's Executive Council adopted a statement of Museum Exhibit Standards, that are now posted on the SHFG website (<http://shfg.org/shfg/programs/resources/other-documents/>). The standards aimed to guide museums in the wake of the serious professional issues raised by the 1995 Enola Gay exhibit and the contentious debate that followed. At stake were questions of curatorial integrity but also divergent audience viewpoints and priorities. Read the story and let us know if or how curatorial efforts and approaches have changed.



*Museum Exhibits Committee Presentation at Harpers Ferry Annual Meeting 1996. From left: Cecilia Wertheimer, Bureau of Engraving & Printing; Victoria Harden; Dwight Pitcaithley, NPS; Richard Mandel, Independent scholar.*

## Historians' Declaration: Apollo 11 Astronauts Not Subject to Customs Inspection on Return from the Moon

*Stephen Garber, David McKinney, and Jennifer Ross-Nazzal*

Forty-five years ago astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins achieved one of this nation's greatest accomplishments: landing on the Moon and safely returning home. After completing their historic mission, *Columbia* and its crew splashed down into the Pacific Ocean, about a thousand miles southwest of Pearl Harbor. Fearing the men might have brought back lunar germs that would threaten life on Earth, NASA quarantined the astronauts along with physician William Carpentier and John Hirasaki of the Manned Spacecraft Center's Landing and Recovery Division (LRD). Until arriving at the Lunar Receiving Lab in Houston they resided in the Mobile Quarantine Facility (MQF). When in Pearl Harbor the crew reportedly received a customs declaration form that they were to sign.

This form and the requirement for returning Apollo astronauts to go through customs after returning from the Moon has become popular urban legend. Google "Apollo 11 Customs form," and you'll find thousands of hits. The *Atlantic* and MSN have printed the story. Countless blogs and other websites have repeated the details. Even the U.S. Customs Service's bicentennial history included a copy of the form, highlighting the event as a momentous occasion of note in the Agency's history. The event and signed form have therefore become part of Customs' lore. Within NASA, by contrast, the form was assumed to be a joke or a gag.

Over the past six months the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Chief Historian, the Johnson Space Center (JSC) Historian, and NASA Headquarters History Office worked in coordination to determine if, in fact, U.S. Customs required the Apollo 11 crew to sign the form upon their return. The JSC Historian had previously responded to an early query on the matter and was asked to weigh in again late last year when the NASA Chief Historian requested her assistance. Believing Customs had deposited the original form at the Treasury archive, NASA sought the assistance of the CBP Chief Historian. (CBP is the successor to the U.S. Customs Service.)

Attempts by the three offices to find an absolute answer have taken many routes, and we think that we have a definitive answer that comes from a later lunar landing. Along the way, we encountered a number of obstacles, dead ends, and red herrings. First, the original document is nowhere to be found, so the 1969 form cannot be examined. (Many copies that were printed by the U.S. Customs Service are in circulation, and the CBP History Program has the camera-ready version for this printing.)

JSC's archival collection in Houston contains no correspondence between the two agencies. Interestingly enough, when asked recently about signing the form, astronaut Mike Collins



*A 1971 photo shows Alan Shepard (left), commander of the Apollo 14 mission, handing the customs declaration to the Customs Regional Commissioner for Houston, Texas, who accepted it all in good fun.*

did not recall anything about the matter. JSC's historian also reached out to many NASA retirees who worked in the LRD for the Apollo missions. Hirasaki remembered that Customs' forms were signed, but he had no specific details or procedures to share. The declaration form, he recalled, was not signed in the MQF. John Stonesifer, head of the Recovery Systems Branch, did not recall the historic signing of this form but was able to recount other notable events from Gemini and Mercury missions involving Customs and other associations.

No mention was made of the historic signing in the 1969 issues of *Customs Today*, the quarterly magazine for the U.S. Customs Service. In addition, Ernest Murai, Customs' District Director for Hawaii who is credited with approving Apollo 11's cargo and forwarding the form for the crew's signature, is no longer living.

An Associated Press wire story dated October 1970 has provided the closest piece of documentation we have to a contemporary account. The story is based on an interview with Murai. The article states that Murai went to a public event at Pearl Harbor and brought the declaration to get it signed by the astronauts. Since the astronauts were still in quarantine, Murai sent the form to Washington, DC, to be signed by the crew, not Houston where the astronauts live and work.

All these issues led us to closely examine the form, which we have found to be riddled with problems. The crew was never at Honolulu Airport nor were they in port on July 24 as the form

GENERAL DECLARATION			
(Outward/Inward)			
AGRICULTURE, CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH			
Owner or Operator NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION			
Marks of Nationality and Registration U.S.A.		Flight No. APOLLO 11	Date JULY 24, 1969
Departure from MOON (Place and Country)		Arrival at HONOLULU, HAWAII, U.S.A. (Place and Country)	
FLIGHT ROUTING			
("Place" Column always to list origin, every en-route stop and destination)			
PLACE	TOTAL NUMBER OF CREW	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS ON THIS STAGE	CARGO
CAPE KENNEDY	COMMANDER NEIL A. ARMSTRONG		
MOON	<i>Neil A. Armstrong</i>	Departure Place:	MOON ROCK AND MOON DUST SAMPLES CARGO Manifests Attached
JULY 24, 1969 HONOLULU	COLONEL EDWIN E. ALDRIN, JR. <i>Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr.</i>	Embarking: NIL Through on same flight: NIL	
	<i>Michael Collins</i> LT. COLONEL MICHAEL COLLINS	Arrival Place:	
		Disembarking: NIL Through on same flight: NIL	
Declaration of Health		For official use only	
Persons on board known to be suffering from illness other than airsickness or the effects of accidents, as well as those cases of illness disembarked during the flight:		HONOLULU AIRPORT Honolulu, Hawaii ENTERED <i>Ernest S. Murai</i> Customs Inspector	
NONE			
Any other condition on board which may lead to the spread of disease: TO BE DETERMINED			
Details of each disinfecting or sanitary treatment (place, date, time, method) during the flight. If no disinfecting has been carried out during the flight give details of most recent disinfecting:			
Signed, if required		Crew Member Consented	
I declare that all statements and particulars contained in this General Declaration, and in any supplementary forms required to be presented with this General Declaration are complete, exact and true to the best of my knowledge and that all through passengers will continue/have continued on the flight.			

The customs declaration with signatures of the Apollo 11 astronauts is likely an unofficial one, created by the Customs Service's District Director for Hawaii.

## SHFG DIRECTORY

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says; they arrived in Pearl Harbor two days after the date on the form and flew out of Hickam Air Force Base. Neil Armstrong's signature appears to take up four lines, which seems very uncharacteristic for a person who was known to be very modest. Also, the general declaration only requires the captain's signature—not all members of the crew. This leads us to the conclusion that the signatures were autopenned or photocopied.

What we believe to be the definitive answer comes from another signed customs declaration. When Alan Shepard, commander of the Apollo 14 mission, returned to Ellington Air Force Base on February 11, 1971, he completed a customs declaration. There are two pieces of evidence that indicate that the 1971 declaration is bogus. The first is that John Hirasaki signed the declaration as "Customs Inspector." Hirasaki was a NASA employee and would have not been authorized to sign as an inspector. The second is a photograph taken by the *Houston Post* that is now in the CBP History Program's collection. The photograph shows Shepard handing the declaration to the Customs Regional Commissioner for Houston, Texas. On the back of the photograph, a typed caption reads ". . . Cleburne Maier accepts the *all in fun* declaration from Alan Shepherd [*sic*]. . . ." (Italics added.)

Thus, we have concluded that the Apollo 11 document was completed afterward and is not an official, executed customs general declaration. The form may well have been Murai's attempt to secure the autographs of the astronauts. Murai, the AP reported, was one of 25,000 people greeting the crew at Pearl Harbor, and there is no indication he acted in his official capacity as Customs' District Director.

The recent synergy between the NASA History Offices and the CBP History Program prompts us to share two lessons we learned with other federal historians. Historians usually know to treat secondary sources with caution, but this episode points out that sometimes we should even question agency primary sources. It is easy to take our records at face value, but as we have learned, they may not always be authentic. It is easy to assume that even agency-published histories are 100 percent accurate, but clearly this is not always the case.

Now we need to publicize our conclusions. But, are we fighting an uphill battle? Why does this particular anecdote persist in public memory? Perhaps surprisingly for such a high-profile event, apparently no one previously has taken the time to analyze this form.

*Stephen Garber is a historian in the NASA History Program Office at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC. David McKinney is the Chief Historian at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC. Jennifer Ross-Nazzari is the Historian for the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.*



## The History Professional

An Interview with John Fox

*John Fox has been the Historian at the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington, DC, since 2003. He earned a Ph.D. in Modern American History from the University of New Hampshire in 2001. Dr. Fox contributes histories of the FBI and its field offices to numerous journals and publications and for the agency's website at [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov). He has co-authored *The FBI: A Centennial History* (2008) and regularly serves as the FBI's subject-matter expert for documentaries and news services on such critical questions as the agency's role in the Cold War, intelligence and counter-intelligence, and law and justice.*



Interview by Benjamin Guterman

John Fox

***What were your primary historical interests in graduate school? Were they related to law enforcement issues in any way?***

I entered graduate school with an interest in political/civil rights history having written my master's thesis on the political thought of Frederick Douglass. As I pursued my classes, I became more interested in the Progressive Era in a broad sense and moved afield from a focus on civil rights history. While walking out of my oral exams, one of my professors suggested that I didn't seem too enthused with my dissertation topic and offered me his collection of files on an old FBI spy case. I was hooked.

***On your arrival at the FBI, how did you identify and organize your program priorities and goals? Were there any specific and urgent needs?***

I entered the FBI in 1999 as a FOIA disclosure analyst and hoped that I could convince the Bureau that it needed a historian; they hadn't had one since 1992, when Dr. Susan Rosenfeld left. I was surprised when the Office of Public and Congressional Affairs, as it was then called, reopened the hunt for a historian soon after I started and completely unaware of my hopes. I applied and didn't get the job as I hadn't yet finished my dissertation. However, I was offered a job organizing a collection of historical material, with the chance to work with the historian when hired: I jumped at the opportunity. They didn't find an appropriate candidate, and reopened the search a couple of years after I defended.

At first, we did not have a specific history program here. Over the years, I have built one up, working from what Dr. Rosenfeld and others had done. This has included re-writing the *Guide to Conducting Research in FBI Records* and updating short histories, chronologies, and a number of heritage and leadership materials. I also played a central role in preparations for the Bureau recognition of its centenary in 2008 and preparation of transition materials for changing leaders, and provided subject-matter expertise on new and revised training programs and many similar projects.

***What are your core responsibilities, and in what ways might your historical duties be unique or require particular care?***

My position is in the Office of Public Affairs, so its primary purpose is to explain the work of the FBI in historical context to audiences inside and outside of the Bureau. These duties range from assisting students working on their History Day projects to

advising academics researching their latest monograph to the public wanting to know more about a case or person in FBI history—sometimes UFOs, but more often interesting and complex historical questions.

I also deal with the media on a periodic basis. When Mark Felt came out as “Deep Throat,” or when some other history matter makes the news, I provide context and background to a wide range of journalists.

I pursue research projects, small and large, for internal groups. Some of these are projects on my own initiative, like the history of the pre-Hoover Bureau that I am writing. I regularly write stories for *FBI.gov*; liaise with our Records Information Dissemination Section and many others trying to work through the FBI FOIA process; and, give talks to diverse groups ranging from history students, to alumni organizations, to academic conferences.

***You serve as a subject-matter expert and liaison to the ongoing “G-Men and Journalists” exhibit at the Newseum, in Washington, DC. What are your contributions there?***

In 2007, the FBI was beginning to prepare for its centenary anniversary. Our public tour had been closed for some time, and we wanted a venue to display some of our most significant artifacts. We looked at several options, but length of time to develop the project and proposed costs eliminated them from consideration. The Newseum, a 501c3 organization, was interested in hosting a temporary exhibit, and their proposed schedule and ability to carry the costs of producing it met our needs. I became part of the FBI team that provided subject-matter expertise, advice in the development of the exhibit, and related audio/visual material. It was so successful that it is still running there, more than four years longer than originally planned.

***What have you learned about the pre-Hoover Bureau, prior to 1924—its identity and general functions?***

My research has suggested a number of things about the Bureau's origins that will be of interest to historians. First, the Bureau was not founded contrary to congressional will and as a blight on American liberties, as often portrayed. It was created in the midst of a power-struggle between the President and Congress in a settlement more about ego and political payback, during which serious issues of government power and American rights were

raised in passing. Teddy Roosevelt was a lame-duck President looking to tweak the nose of Congress on his way out; Congress, smarting from TR's enlargement of executive power at its expense, was not in the mood to be slighted as the President left office. It had little to do with how the Department of Justice used detectives and only a bit to do with the questionable use of U.S. Secret Service detectives by other agencies. The FBI was born from a small organizational experiment to deal with a political impasse. Had Roosevelt not insulted Congress, the agency's birth would have been accepted without issue or the executive/legislative mud-fight that accompanied it. The later historical gloss of how Congress feared "systems of espionage" and Napoleonic abuses of rights and liberties is overdrawn and tertiary to the matter.

Second, improved understanding of the early Bureau sharpens our insights into its evolution—which aspects of Hoover's tenure built upon earlier foundations and which ones he innovated.

***How should we view the legacy of Director J. Edgar Hoover and his lasting effect on the Bureau?***

Hoover's tenure was unparalleled in U.S. bureaucratic history, and explaining his impact, good and bad, is a significant part of what I do. On the one hand, he guided the growth and maturation of the Bureau into the preeminent law enforcement and national security organization in the world. On the other, his abuses, especially in the 1960s, set a warning point, a marker, beyond which the FBI can seriously violate constitutional protections and harm the interests of the American people. Looking at Hoover's successes and failures (and those of the organization that he led for 48 years) is key to understanding wider truths about the unique nature and dynamics of American government and the desires of the American people for liberty and security.

***You've researched the changing applications and capabilities of FBI intelligence analysis over time. Undoubtedly, we've seen revolutionary changes there, correct?***

The FBI has been involved in U.S. intelligence matters since its creation and has played an important part in the growth of American intelligence collection and its application. Unlike at the CIA, though, intelligence analysis did not develop into a significant discipline in the FBI. It was handled tactically, providing support to FBI case actions, rather than for building a strategic picture of the threats the Bureau faced or contributing to the efforts of the wider intelligence community to do the same. After 9/11 the FBI made major strides in remaking its approach to analysis and integrating it across the Bureau, thus building on its historical ability to collect and act on intelligence, while building a professional analytic capability to help the Bureau and the wider intelligence community to better see the threats they face. How much is revolution and how much is evolution, I think, is a matter to settle at a later vantage point.

***The FBI has always been tasked with domestic law enforcement yet was secretly involved in counter-intelligence work on the VENONA Project from 1943 to 1980. Generally, what were the agency's contributions there, and how well did it work with the CIA?***

The FBI's work on counterintelligence was not secret, though aspects of its work, like Venona, most certainly were. Venona is the name that we use for a joint Army/FBI, later NSA-CIA-FBI-British-Canadian-Australian effort to decrypt and decode USSR telegrams sent during World War II. The ability to read a portion of those messages was a counterintelligence bonanza for the United States and its allies.

The issue of FBI-CIA cooperation has been much written about, and usually negatively. My research suggests that, more often than not, the two agencies worked pretty well together over the course of the Cold War. There were certainly periods of conflict—the beginning of the CIA and in the early 1970s for instance—and there were certainly differences in the organizational cultures and missions of the two agencies. Such differences are to be expected: the CIA's purpose is to gather intelligence outside of U.S. borders, while the FBI's is to enforce U.S. laws here at home. That said, there are significant overlaps and areas wherein cooperation is necessary and beneficial—e.g., when the FBI unearths a foreign spy here whose activities are of interest to the CIA in understanding what the spy's agency wants to know about us. Or from the other side, the work of the CIA often reveals information about criminal activities occurring overseas that impact U.S. interests here and abroad.

***Post-9/11, do you think that the FBI's domestic counter-terrorism duties have permanently redefined the agency's work and mission?***

The FBI had declared counterterrorism as a top priority in the late 1970s, and its work over the 1980s and 1990s showed many successful investigations following from that focus. 9/11, though, revealed areas of FBI policy and practice that needed to change, and significant reform followed. The scope of the 9/11 investigation was unparalleled, and the pace of change was rapid (though not unique in Bureau history). Although I can suggest areas that are likely to prove historically significant—like improving the status and treatment of intelligence analysts as third-class employees (i.e., agent, analyst, and professional support)—we are still working through these changes, and so I will leave their historical significance to be noted by those who come after me and can look back on the changes with greater historical perspective.

***To what extent, and in what kinds of duties, do you use classified FBI records in your work, and what precautions must you observe?***

Although my position is in public affairs and much of my research is on unclassified matters, I do need to use unreleased, sensitive, and even classified records from time to time. If I have needed a record to pursue the question I am seeking to answer, I

have been able to get access to the records that I need. Unlike many of my fellow historians in the Intelligence Community, much of what the FBI does is not classified, and so I tend to have more opportunity to talk about full range of things the FBI has been involved in over the last 106 years.

***Do you have two or three research projects that have interested you the most?***

I became interested in the FBI because of one of its old spy cases, and so the history of intelligence/counterintelligence has been my primary interest. I have also been returning to my graduate school roots in the Progressive Era and its politics through my study of the Bureau's creation and early growth. That said, the FBI has such a wide range of responsibilities that I am asked to explain, provide context on, or conduct research in something different every day. On one day, I work on counterintelligence in the early Cold War; on another, Civil Rights enforcement in the 1960s; and on another, serial killers in the 1980s. Next week it will be different, and I look forward to what will be asked of me.

***Your website has become an important outreach tool. What are the most important resources and informational aids that you provide on the site?***

The key collection of digitized FBI files on the FBI's web site is our electronic FOIA reading room, The Vault ([vault.fbi.gov](http://vault.fbi.gov)). It has hundreds of thousands of pages of old and new FOIA-released FBI files, from the 1920s Osage Indian murder investigation to documents that talk about our use of GPS tools in surveillance today. There are also a number of other useful sites that post old FBI records. *Governmentattic.org* and *archive.org* both have large collections of FBI FOIA releases. And the National Archives and its branches have millions of pages of FBI records, many of which are available for immediate access. As the FBI did not accession its non-current records to NARA for many years, even more of what NARA now holds is not immediately available, but will be in the future. There is material enough to occupy the research interests of generations of historians and students, even if it will take some time to access.

## Employment Notes

A sampling of recent listings at [USAJobs.gov](http://USAJobs.gov).

**Smithsonian Institution, Supervisory Museum Curator**  
Job Announcement Number: 14A-MR-299567A-DEU-NMAH  
GS-1015-14 Open through August 18, 2014

This position is located in the Division of Medicine and Science within the National Museum of American History (NMAH). The employee serves as the Division Chair (Medicine & Science) and is responsible for carrying out the research, collections management, exhibitions development and education to meet the mission of the museum.

**Department of the Air Force, Assistant Professor of Military and Strategic Studies**

Job Announcement Number: 14-23DFMI

The incumbent will be expected to teach one and possibly both of DFMI's two core (required) courses, Airpower and the Military Profession and Joint Operations Strategy and Technology. Airpower and the Military Profession provides sophomore cadets their professional cornerstone course in military air, space, and cyberspace strategy and operations.

**Department of The Interior, Multidisciplinary (Cultural Resources), GS-0170/0193-11 (DEU)(LL)**

Job Announcement Number: BR-MP-2014-216

Prepares or oversees the preparation of cultural resources sections of environmental documents including categorical exclusions, environmental assessments, and environmental impact statements. Prepares context statements, site records, determinations of eligibility, and other reports for historic structures, buildings, features, and sites affected by Reclamation programs.

**Department of the Army, U.S. Army Medical Command Exhibits Specialist**

Hiring Organization: HQ MEDCOM

Job Announcement Number: NCFR149997591157484D

Work involves planning, constructing, installing, and operating exhibits, the preparation of gallery space for exhibits, the preservation of historic buildings, or the restoration of items to be exhibited. Uses a combination of artistic abilities, technical knowledge and skills, and ability to understand the subject matter concepts, which assigned exhibits projects are intended to convey. Plans and designs museum exhibits, prepares exhibits, displays, publications and presentation materials and assists the Museum Curators with security, conservation of collections as an Exhibits Specialist.

## A Timeline of Federal History



A timeline of dates important for federal history work is now online at <http://shfg.org/shfg/programs/resources/timeline-of-federal-history/>

Please send comments and suggestions for additional dates to [webmaster@shfg.org](mailto:webmaster@shfg.org).

*The National Archives under construction, May 1, 1934*



## Federal History Office Profile

The *Federalist* profiles a different history office in each issue. Please direct texts, comments, and inquiries to the editor: benjamin.guterman@shfg.org

## NARA's Electronic Records Custodial Program: A Decade in Review and a Look to the Future

Theodore J. Hull

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has supported a custodial program for born-digital federal electronic records since 1968. The history of the first 30 years of that program is documented in *Thirty Years of Electronic Records*, published in 2003 and edited by former NARA staff member Bruce I. Ambacher. Since its publication, numerous developments have occurred that continue to impact and evolve the electronic records custodial program. Among them are new approaches to the scheduling and appraisal process, the development and deployment of the Electronic Records Archives (ERA) and other automated tools, exploding volumes of electronic records, and an expanded variety of electronic records formats.

NARA's Electronic Records Division (RDE) was established in March 2014 and is the custodial unit under the Executive for Research Services that accessions, processes, arranges for preservation, describes, and provides access to the born-digital federal records scheduled for permanent retention in the National Archives. The Division consists of a Processing Branch with 11 permanent staff and a Reference Branch with 5 permanent staff. The staff is supported by an Information Technology Specialist, administrative assistant, and four student interns.

### Negotiating Transfers of Permanent Electronic Records

One of the primary responsibilities of Processing Branch archivists is working with federal agencies on for the transfer of electronic records series scheduled for permanent retention in the National Archives. The Division tracks 1,583 permanent series, and in FY 2013 received transfers against 122 of them, or 7 percent. In 2009, the process of transferring physical and legal custody of agency records became automated with the Electronic Records Archives (ERA) Transfer Request (TR) and Legal Transfer Instrument (LTI) business objects. The use of the TR/LTI to replace the SF-258 form became mandatory at the beginning of FY 2013. These records come to NARA through direct offers and involve negotiating acceptable electronic records formats and media.

With the publication of NARA Bulletin 2004-04: Revised Format Guidance for the Transfer of Permanent Electronic Records, on February 4, 2014, the range of acceptable formats increased 10-fold over those previously accepted since 2003. Federal agencies transfer many types of electronic records to the Division including structured data files, geospatial data, web sites, and born-digital textual records including reports, publications, and e-mail. These records range from fully open,

unrestricted records to National Security–classified records up to the Top Secret, compartmentalized level.

While NARA can accept transfers of records via secure File Transfer Protocol (FTP), the majority of transfers continue to occur on removable media, including computer magnetic tape, CD-ROM and DVD, and external hard drives. These media are registered, and the contents are reviewed and inventoried upon receipt to validate the records' conformance to the records schedule item cited on the TR. The transfer details are recorded and the media tracked in the Division's Accessions Management Information System (AMIS) workflow system deployed in 2004.

### Processing and Preserving Born-Digital Records

Another primary responsibility of the Processing Branch staff is to review the contents of the approved transfers using a variety of systems and tools. Processing born-digital electronic records involves carrying out a systematic series of actions to prepare the electronic records in an accession for verification and preservation. Based on the accession project plan, processing may involve digital file arrangement, records restriction identification, file transformation, and other tasks using the Division's internal systems and computer tools or applications.

Staff verify the records received to compare the content of the electronic records to the records disposition schedule and agency documentation. Verification can involve content review using the Archival Electronic Records Inspection and Control (AERIC) utility for structured data files and text, or manual review using computer tools or applications. Because of the increased scope and variety of formats designated in Bulletin 2014-04, the Division established a "Tools Group" in FY 2013 that actively seeks COTS and custom software to support review and processing. Tools testing and deployment is supported by the "RDE Lab" established in FY 2014.

Preservation involves the preparation of the files for preservation, submitting files for preservation, and confirming that the files are successfully ingested and available in the digital repository. With the deployment of the Electronic Records Archives (ERA) in 2009, the Division moved from a previous tape-based preservation paradigm support by the Archival Preservation System (APS) to ingest of an accession's digital files to the ERA digital repository. APS, administered by the Digital Preservation Operations Branch under the Executive for Information Services, continues to be used for the preservation of security-classified records. Over its 45-year history, the electronic records custodial program has received 3,507 transfers of born-digital records and completed 2,856, with 449 currently in the processing queue. In FY 2013 alone, the Division received 204 new transfers, and through the end of the 2nd Quarter of FY 2014, an additional 137.

### Providing Access to Born-Digital Records

The Reference Branch has responsibility for providing information about and access to NARA's accessioned electronic records holdings. NARA has fully processed and accessioned records in 932 series from over 100 federal agencies. The holdings consist of well over 750 million unique files and over 320 Terabytes. The Reference Branch prepares digital files for online public access in two NARA systems, answers customer reference requests (1,901 in FY 2013), and fulfills customer orders for copies on media.



The Access to Archival Databases (AAD) system, launched in 2003, provides public access to search the content of a small selection of historic databases where the records identify specific persons, geographic areas, organizations, and dates. AAD includes over 100 million records from 63 series and 691 files. AAD supports access to structured data files or text files wherein record-level retrieval is appropriate. Among the popular series available through AAD are the Central Foreign Policy Files, 1973–1977 (or State Department Cables); World War II Army Enlistment Records; Federal Assistance Award Data System, FY1981–FY2003; and Korean and Vietnam war casualty records. (See <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/>)

As an additional means for providing access to electronic records holdings, since FY 2011 the Division has provided online download access to files via NARA's Online Public Access (OPA) system. Providing files for direct download by researchers involves scanning related textual materials, mainly technical documentation for structured data files; preparing technical metadata for the records to support researcher use of data in software products; and preparing and uploading copies of the related data files to OPA. As of April 1, 2014, the Division provides 2,351 files in 50 series, with 11.6 billion records through OPA. In addition to many of the same files available through AAD, OPA includes such popular series as data from the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA), Records of the Federal Reserve System (Record Group 82).

### The Future

NARA's electronic records custodial program has undergone many changes and advances since the publication of the seminal *Thirty Years of Electronic Records* in 2003. Advances in the coming decade will be largely driven by full implementation of NARA's Presidential Records Management Directive (PRMD) in 2019 and NARA's FY 2014–2018 Strategic Plan. Recent trends in records management and in technology raise increased expectations of the Division's service to agency and researcher customers.

To begin responding to this need, during FY 2013, NARA launched a new initiative to, in part, address the agency-wide

need for an integrated information system to support the streamlined ingest and processing of born-digital electronic records and preservation of those records. Termed the Optimized Ingest Framework (OIF), and based on the Open Archival Information System (OAIS), the OIF includes the development of a Digital Processing Environment (DPE) to support streamlined ingest and processing of born-digital records; a Digital Repository (DR) as the preservation repository for those records; and a direct link to Online Public Access (OPA) to “push” records to the public as appropriate. Integrating these processes is key to the future and key for NARA to support the custodial functions at the heart of its mission.

*Theodore J. Hull is Director of the Electronic Records Division, National Archives at College Park, Maryland (Theodore.hull@nara.gov)*

### Electronic Records Division (RDE), Research Services

National Archives at College Park

8601 Adelphi Rd., Rm. 5320, College Park, MD 20740-6001

**Director:** Theodore J. Hull

**Staff:** 23

**Office Activities and Responsibilities:** NARA's Electronic Records Division (RDE) is the custodial unit under the Executive for Research Services that accessions, processes, arranges for preservation, describes, and provides access to the born-digital Federal records scheduled for permanent retention in the National Archives.

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## From the Archives The Occasional Papers

Chas Downs

Once the Society for History in the Federal Government had established itself as a viable and productive organization, the next logical step was to serve its members and the federal historical community by producing a scholarly journal. A journal would provide a forum for Society members and other scholars and would also serve to introduce other scholars and interested readers to the variety, uses, and importance of federal history. Papers presented at its annual meeting were a ready and possible source for suitable papers. The Society had an existing Publications Committee that had guided the publication of *The Federalist* and the *Directory*, which had gone through a number of editions. The major obstacle for a journal was the cost of printing and distribution, concerns that had dogged the Society's other publications as well. It was not until the SHFG was into its third decade that the Society could contemplate taking on what would be thousands of dollars for printing a journal. Many were concerned about the pressure that its volunteer editors would face in meeting a regular production schedule. In what seems a stroke of brilliance, it was decided that the journal could appear irregularly, thus relieving or at least mitigating the concerns of both cost and schedule.

Roger R. Trask was the driving force behind the creation of the *Occasional Papers* and its first editor. In a memorandum dated August 13, 1997, "Report on the SHFG 'Occasional Papers' project," Trask noted that a small planning group had met in April 1997 after the SHFG's annual meeting to discuss the establishment of an *Occasional Papers* publication, possibly using some of the papers presented at the annual meeting. In addition to Trask, the planning group included Rebecca Cameron (SHFG President), Kevin Ruffner, Martin Gordon, and Fred Beck. The planning group "agreed that the aim of the project was to publish scholarly papers written by members of the SHFG." The papers were to be evaluated to assure high quality, and "papers not meeting such standards would be rejected. We wish to apply standards typical of scholarly journals." Trask followed up with the chairpersons of the annual meeting panels and began to line up papers for submission. He also agreed to be the initial editor of the *Occasional Papers*, relying on the assistance of the planning group, other interested members of the Society, and especially Fred Beck, then editor of *The Federalist*.



Roger R. Trask at the 2002 SHFG Annual Meeting

The possibility of publishing either in hard copy or on the SHFG website, or both, was discussed. Trask noted, "My assumption is that initial activity for the Occasional Papers project will be modest, but the effort could result in the long run in a regular scholarly papers publication program for the Society."

Some members of the SHFG raised concerns about publication and distribution methods and costs. For example, Roger Launius wrote to Cameron and Beck, "I do believe that one of the worst things that could happen is to produce this publication and then have a basement full of them that have not been sold." But Launius still favored the publication, and overall, SHFG members were supportive.

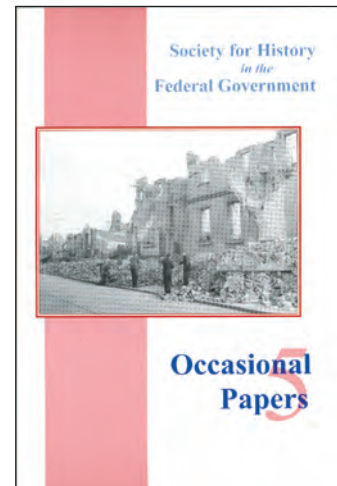
Cameron stated in her "President's Column," (*The Federalist*, Vol. 19, Spring 1998) that, "The newly inaugurated *Occasional Papers*, of which I am especially proud, demonstrates, as our publications guru Fred Beck noted, that we are at base an 'intellectual enterprise.'"

In the editor's introduction to the first *Occasional Papers* volume, dated 1997, but actually published in January 1998, Trask wrote:

In sponsoring the publication of a series of *Occasional Papers*, the Society for History in the Federal Government seeks to advance its goals of presenting high-quality documented research completed under the auspices of federal history or related professional programs. *Occasional Papers 1* inaugurates the series with three papers centering around the theme of the early Cold War era.

Trask went on to edit the next two volumes of *Occasional Papers*, which appeared in 1999 and 2000. Rebecca H. Welch edited Issue 4 (2003) and Issue 5 (2005); and Fred M. Beck served as editorial assistant. Issue 5 was the last published volume of the *Occasional Papers*. Inability to recruit a new editor, as well as funding concerns, delayed any subsequent issues. After a three-year hiatus, *Occasional Papers* was supplanted in 2009 by a new, yearly publication, *Federal History*, under the editorship of Benjamin Guterman and Terrance Rucker.

You can read the first three *Occasional Papers* online (Issues 4 and 5 will follow), at [www.SHFG.org](http://www.SHFG.org). There you can also view its successor, *Federal History*, the first three volumes of which are online only, with successive editions both online and in print. To learn more about the SHFG Archives, contact Chas Downs at [chasdowns@verizon.net](mailto:chasdowns@verizon.net)



Occasional Papers 5



## Tracking Arctic Climate Changes

How do we reach back in time to gain a longer perspective of climate variations? It turns out that U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships' logs since the early 1800s hold hourly recorded data about temperature and weather conditions worldwide. A group of scientists and archivists have teamed up with interested citizens and are working together on the Old Weather project (<http://www.oldweather.org/>) in an effort to recover that information, create datasets, and produce computerized "visualizations" of climate variations over the decades. Research Scientist Kevin R. Wood, with the Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean (JISAO), says that the project seeks "to transform old data to big data."

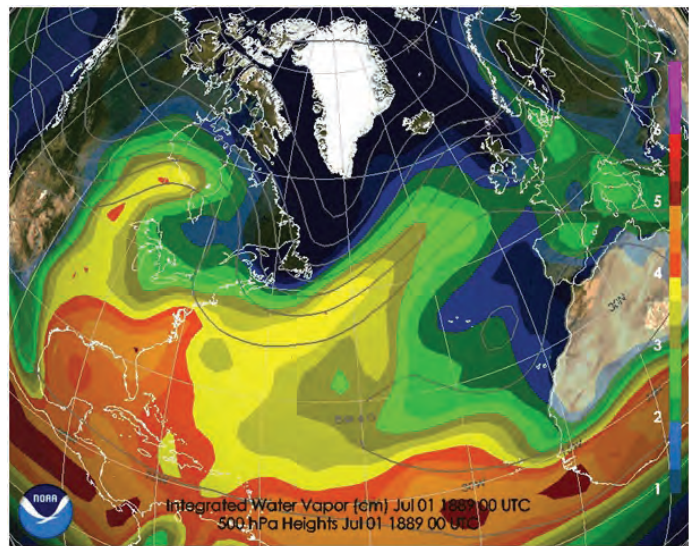
The main objective of the project is to foster better understanding of changing climate conditions over the long term, in the Arctic and worldwide. In the Arctic, the annual cycle of sea ice freezing and melting is now out of balance, and the old sea ice, once 3½ meters thick, is disappearing. Wood is one of the lead scientists of the project, made possible by a joint venture between the U.S. National Archives, which preserves the logs and hosts the digitization efforts, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Thousands of citizen volunteers are participating in Old Weather worldwide, transcribing the hand-written weather data and tracking particular events recorded in the logs, and creating detailed ship histories. Each ship's log transcription is cross-checked at least three times before being added to one of the global data sets managed by the U.S. National Climatic Data Center. The project also captures details of historic events from the logs, such as the dire circumstances of the USS *Jeannette* in its 1879–1881 attempt to reach the North Pole via the Bering Strait, and its eventual destruction in the ice. Thus far, the project has completed the logs of 43 ves-

sels, digitizing 350,000 pages, and transcribing well over one million old (but new to science) weather reports. The results have been impressive, and supercomputers can now, for the first time, use historical data like this to reconstruct weather-related events in the past like the extraordinary melting of the Greenland ice cap in 1889. (See the visualization at <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/repository/entry/show PSD+Climate+Data+Repository/PublicVisualizations/Images+an+AnimationsJuly+1889+Atmospheric+River+over+Greenland?entryid=8c07c264e36-4882-bfb7-e8c53e70e770>)

The project is helping us understand weather's impact on human societies. The data has enabled production of "long-period reanalysis datasets" and visualization

for the period 1871 to 2012 that will "place current atmospheric circulation patterns into a historical perspective." Such visualizations will permit analysis of weather and climate events in the past, such as for example, heat waves, impacts of El Niño, and anomalous winter conditions in the United States and elsewhere around the world. See the Twentieth Century Reanalysis (<http://go.usa.gov/XTd>). Join the effort to recover historical weather data at [www.oldweather.org](http://www.oldweather.org) and view detailed ship histories and historical photographs at [www.naval-history.net](http://www.naval-history.net). A video of the project is at <http://player.vimeo.com/video/15388983>. Press release: <http://www.colorado.edunewsreleases/2014/04/24cuboulder-researchers-find-common-factors-behind-greenland-melt-episodes>

— Benjamin Guterman



July 1889 Atmospheric River over Greenland

LOG of the UNITED STATES Arctic Steamer *Jeannette* Rate Guns  
*Back in the Pack about 116 miles N.W. of Herald Island, Arctic Ocean*

Hour	Course	Compass	Ship Head	Magnetic	True	Barometer	TEMPERATURE	State of the weather	Form of Clouds	Force of Wind	State of the Sea	Record of the sail the vessel is under at end of watch.
					Height in fathoms	Time, 24 H.	Air Dry Bulb, Air Wet Bulb, Surface					
A. M.												
1		SW 2 W.	East	2.1	3026	-5		bc	St. by		9	
2		"	East	3	25	-5.5		"	"	"	"	
3		"	East	2.7	25	-5		"	"	"	"	
4		"	East	2.7	25	-3.5		"	ci. St.	"	7	
5		"	"	4.1	25	4.5		"	"	"	6	
6		"	"	7	24	7		"	ci. Low St.	"	"	
7		"	"	6.5	24	9		"	"	"	"	
8		"	"	10.1	23	11		bc	St. by St.	"	0	
9		"	"	9.7	23	12		"	"	"	"	
10		"	"	9	21	13		bcy	"	"	"	
11		"	"	8.9	22	12.5	28.5	bc	"	"	"	
Noon												

Distance run by Log since preceding Noon: \_\_\_\_\_ knots, \_\_\_\_\_ fathoms.  
 Latitude by D. R. at Noon: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Longitude by D. R. at Noon: \_\_\_\_\_

Log entries from the *Jeannette*, May 15, 1880

## DIGITAL HISTORY

### The CIA Museum Website

The CIA established its museum in 1972 under the direction of William E. Colby, then the Executive Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. It is located in the agency's Headquarters campus in Langley, Virginia, and for security restrictions, is not open to the public. The Agency's website at <https://www.cia.gov/about-cia/cia-museum/experience-the-collection/index.html>, however, allows a relaxed view of this very revealing collection.

The online visitor can explore the collection through three interconnected portals: "Collections," "Stories," and "Timeline." These sections highlight selected artifacts and chapters of CIA history, so one should not expect a unified or narrative history of the agency. In that respect, the online museum mirrors the actual one in its deliberate effort to focus on and celebrate the CIA's dangerous and vital service to the nation. We gain general insights (without revealing trade secrets, of course) into how the agency fulfills its mission, which is, to "Preempt threats and further U.S. national security objectives by collecting intelligence that matters, producing objective all-source analysis, conducting effective covert action as directed by the President, and safeguarding the secrets that help keep our Nation safe." Integral to the site's central message is the agency's tribute to those who have fallen in service to that mission. The web museum, then, uses artifacts and stories of select episodes in CIA history to provide a general picture of the CIA's challenges, adaptability, creativity, and successes from its founding to the present. The serious student of CIA history will have to seek additional information for a fuller and analytical view of the CIA's role in international events and developments.

The "Collections" section uses thumbnail images of artifacts that open into larger images, brief historical summaries, and notes on related artifacts. The range of artifacts is astounding, and the items convey not only the danger and intrigue of spy work but the fact of the CIA as an important center of technical innovation. We can view a miniature spring-wound 35-mm film camera in a modified cigarette pack, specialized knives, waterproof maps, and survival kits. We view a "gap-jumping antenna" that transmitted data without a physical electrical connection and an M-209 Cipher Machine for coding and decoding message in World War II. There is a camera that was mounted to a pigeon. An insect-sized vehicle (insectohtoper) was designed as a "miniaturized platform" for intelligence collection, and a modified pipe receiver that would enable the user to hear sounds by "bone conduction" from the jaw to the ear canal. The CIA's research on lithium-iodine batteries in the 1970s was of great aid to the medical community's later use of heart pacemakers. We're reminded through various

artifacts from Afghanistan that CIA personnel were on the ground there 15 days after 9/11. There's also an al-Qaeda training manual captured outside Kandahar. Other artifacts highlight the CIA's secret purchase of Civil Air Transport (CAT) in August 1950, which continued to fly commercial flights in Asia while providing airplanes and crews for secret intelligence operations. The museum also has Osama bin Laden's captured weapon, never fired.

The "Stories" section highlights several key episodes in CIA history. We learn about a joint project of the CIA and British Secret Intelligence Service (MI-6) in 1954 that completed a tunnel with cables from a warehouse in West Berlin to the Soviet sector of Berlin, where they tapped into underground communication lines. Another major event, of course, was the operation to capture or kill bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The site contains a summary with good background information, diagrams of the house and surroundings, and related artifacts.

Also included through artifacts is the story told in the film *Argo* about the rescue of six stranded American diplomats during the seizure of the United States embassy in Tehran, Iran, on November 4, 1979. CIA specialists created the "Studio Six Productions" company with disguises and helped rescue the diplomats from Iran in 1980.

The treatment is uneven, with some stories more developed than others. Some stories provide links to additional background readings, related artifacts, and videos. The background information is generally balanced, providing some insights into CIA shortcomings and compromises to Soviet intelligence. Some documents could have transcriptions.

The Timeline portion provides intelligence milestones from the 1940s through the 2010s. These are both world events and "intelligence events," with images and brief narrative for each event. Clicking a date and caption opens a longer background story. Tabs bring up related artifacts and, for some dates, additional readings.

Overall, the site has a fragmented effect—a collection of fascinating items and stories to be scrolled through. The sections work together, allowing easy transition between them. But the overall experience is to highlight the artifacts, selected stories, and the most important events. We get a carefully planned, generally idealized picture of the CIA's role and place in Cold War history and beyond. But the end result is nonetheless a fascinating glimpse inside CIA operations—a

tribute to CIA creativity, readiness, responsiveness, and service to the nation.

See an ABC News video of the CIA museum at <http://www.nbcnews.com/video/nightly-news/52570207#52570207>

— Benjamin Guterman



*Developed by CIA's Office of Research and Development in the 1970s, this micro unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was the first flight of an insect-sized vehicle (insectohtoper) intended to prove the concept of such miniaturized platforms for intelligence collection. It had a miniature engine to move the wings up and down. A small amount of gas was used to drive the engine, and the excess was vented out the rear for extra thrust. The flight tests were impressive. However, control in any kind of crosswind proved too difficult.*



## SOURCES

### Humanities + Design

Humanities + Design, a research program at Stanford University's Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA), is developing online tools that turn information about historical documents into useful and visually impressive maps, charts and tables. The methods and tools they are creating will be important to any historians researching with documents or correspondence.

Dan Edelstein and Paula Findlen, the primary investigators at Humanities + Design, previously developed technology to analyze the circulation of people and documents important to the European Enlightenment. Called Mapping the Republic of Letters, Edelstein and Findlen's work gave scholars new perspectives on the social networks that connected the intellectuals of the 17th and 18th centuries. During their work, however, the project members recognized the lack of available tools for visualizing historical data.

According to Humanities + Design, historians who use data visualization tools to search and study historical documents "face a number of challenges. The network visualization tools that are currently available have a steep learning curve and are ultimately of limited help for humanists. These tools rest on assumptions about the completeness and empirical value of data that often do not hold true for humanities research." Modern digital visualization tools are designed for more modern, comprehensive, data sets, but information collected from historical documents and other primary sources can be vague or incomplete.

With that in mind, Humanities + Design is creating online tools intended to "allow users to analyze the geographic breadth, historical shape, and social composition of intellectual networks of any time period." A recent grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities has allowed Humanities + Design to launch Palladio (<http://palladio.design-humanities.org/>), an exciting online visualization tool for historians and humanities researchers. Users input information about historical documents they would like to explore into Palladio, such as authors, recipients, dates, locations, and other keywords, organized into spreadsheet rows and columns. Palladio can be used to compare multiple spreadsheets with related data. Users can assign the information they enter to a variety of interconnected visualizations. The information can be superimposed on a map of the

world; incorporated into timelines and charts; and displayed within network maps. Palladio's facets function allows users to rapidly search primary source data and adjust the interactive visualizations they create.

Humanities + Design is creating visualization tools that are relatively simple to use, and are versatile enough to work with a variety of historical data. Interactive network maps and charts will allow users to see historical information in new and revelatory ways, and to analyze the gaps in the data. Palladio is still in the beta testing phase, and Humanities + Design will be releasing new versions of the tool through December 2014. According to Humanities + Design's NEH Grant application, "the source code and documentation will be made publicly and freely available online through GitHub for download, distribution, and for continued contributions and modifications." In Palladio, Humanities + Design has innovated one of the most useful and versatile online tools for historical researchers yet created.

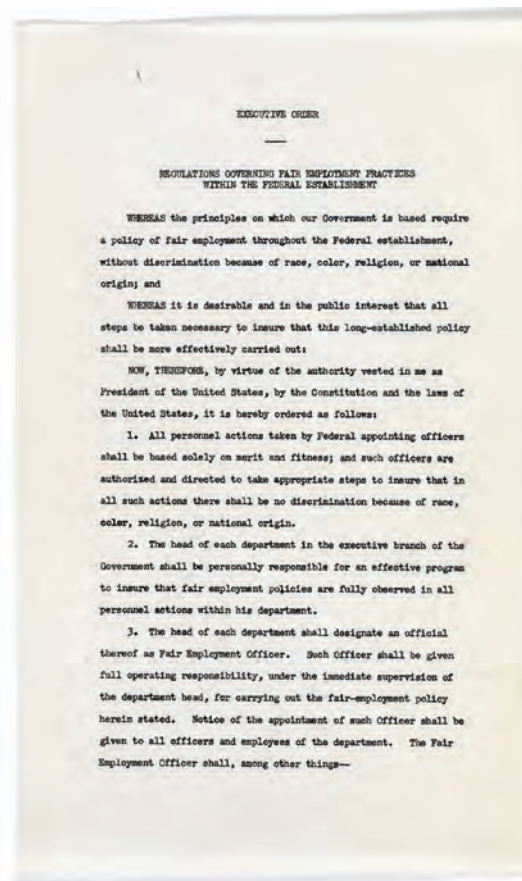
— Thomas I. Faith

### Online Public Access

Online Public Access is the National Archives' online search database for records and reference research. Records can be searched by keywords, record type, and facility within the National Archives' facilities. The main page is at <http://www.archives.gov/research/search/>. New entries are continually being added, and researchers can zoom in on the image and download a copy.

Two new entries include

- Executive Order 9980, Dated July 26, 1948, in which President Truman sets Regulations Governing Fair Employment Practices within the Federal Establishment, 07/26/1948. Record Group 11: General Records of the United States Government, 1778–2006 (National Archives Identifier: 7873508)
- Letter to Judge John J. Sirica from Richard Nixon Declining to Obey the Subpoena to Produce for a Grand Jury Certain Tape Recordings as Well as Certain Specified Documents, 07/25/1973. Record Group 460: Records of the Watergate Special Prosecution Force, 1971–1977 (National Archives Identifier: 7582825)



*Executive Order 9980*

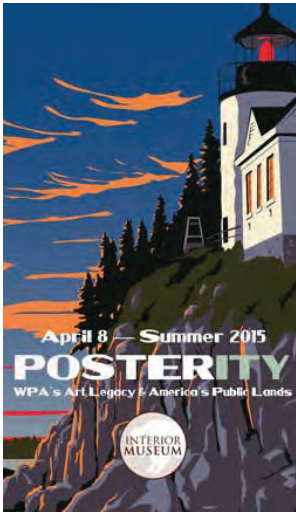


## Making History

### Army Historical Foundation

At its 17th Annual Members' Meeting, held June 18, 2014, at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA, the Army Historical Foundation recognized six books, one book series, and three articles as outstanding achievements in writing on U.S. Army history. The awards included *Pacific Blitzkrieg: World War II in the Central Pacific*, by Sharon Tosi Lacey. Denton: University of North Texas Press (Operational/Battle History); *Battalion Commanders at War: U.S. Army Tactical Leadership in the Mediterranean Theater, 1942–1943*, by Steven Thomas Barry. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas (Institutional/Functional History); “Arthur L. Wagner: Military Educator and Modernizer.” by MAJ Wilson C. Blythe, Jr., USA (*Army History*, Winter 2013) (Army Professional Journals); and “Eating Soup with a Spoon: The U.S. Army as a ‘Learning Institution,’” by COL Gregory Daddis, USA (*The Journal Military History*, January 2013) (Academic Journals).

### Department of the Interior Museum



The Museum's current exhibit “POSTERity: WPA's Art Legacy and America's Public Lands” is on view until Spring 2015. From 1938 to 1941, the National Park Service employed artists via the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to produce silk screened promotional posters for national park sites. The U.S. Department of the Interior Museum has united for the first time six WPA originals and a full complement of the contemporary designs by Doug Leen that follow the tradition of the WPA poster project, for this visually stunning retrospective. Featured are nearly 50 classic posters associated with 36 national parks, the Arctic National Wildlife

Refuge, and the Interior Museum. For information, visit <http://www.doi.gov/interiormuseum/posterity.cfm>

### Israel State Archives

“Making Peace—the Story of the Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt, July 1978–March 1979.” The Israel State Archives presents for the first time, from the meetings behind closed doors, the voices and the pictures from the drama that led to the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt. Includes 67 documents and a rich collection of photographs, caricatures, video clips, and other material covering the period from Camp David to the signing of the treaty, presented for the first time in three forms: a free app for Tablet and the Internet in Hebrew and an English publication online at [http://www.archives.gov.il/ArchiveGov\\_eng](http://www.archives.gov.il/ArchiveGov_eng)

### National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA offices have started preparations for celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) to be celebrated on March 3, 2015. Work has begun on new publications, including a popular history of NACA/NASA. Oral history efforts of former NACA employees at the Johnson Space Center are being collected by Rebecca Wright, Jennifer Ross-Nazzal, and Sandra Johnson. They are recording previously overlooked stories,

have visited with veterans of the Langley Research Center, and will soon visit with veterans of NACA facilities in Ohio and California.

The Marshall Space Center History Office is conducting interviews with program participants on NASA's Great Observatories. They will speak with participants from Marshall Space Flight Center, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Pennsylvania State University, and the National Space Science and Technology Center.

### National Archives and Records Administration

As part of ongoing budget adjustments, Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero has announced the permanent closure of three National Archives facilities. By the end of September of 2014, the National Archives facility in Anchorage will be closed and two facilities in Philadelphia will be consolidated. In FY 2016, facilities in Fort Worth will be also be consolidated. These closures and consolidations will result in estimated annual cost savings of approximately \$1.3 million.

The National Archives at Atlanta will hold a symposium titled “Valley of the Dams: The Impact and Legacy of the Tennessee Valley Authority” on September 20, 2014. The facility is in Morrow, GA. Registration information is at <http://www.archives.gov/atlanta/tva-symposium/>

Tim Nenninger, Chief of Textual Records Reference, has been awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel presented the award to Nenninger on April 5 at The Society for Military History's annual meeting in Kansas City, MO.

The Nixon Library has been without a director since Timothy Naftali left in November 2011. The Nixon Foundation has input into the decision and is likely seeking a candidate who will curate future exhibits related to Vietnam, détente, and other aspects of Nixon's career from perspectives favorable to its viewpoints. Former director Timothy Naftali has asked, “should we really let Nixon loyalists write the script for the library's story of Vietnam, which thousands of Americans will view?” He has written in the *Los Angeles Times* that “directors need to be advocates for openness,” and he fears that a new curator could also revise the historically balanced Watergate exhibit that he supervised.

The William J. Clinton Presidential Library has made five releases of records since February 28 totaling 20,430 documents. They relate to a wide range of issues including Clinton's final year in office, White House attitudes about the press, meetings with dignitaries, and Supreme Court nominations. Concerns in the records included the desired end of the Department of Commerce, Monica Lewinsky investigations, Rwanda genocide, policies toward gay men and lesbians serving in the military, the Oklahoma City bombing, and Vice President Al Gore's 2000 campaign for president. Also included are Hillary Rodham Clinton's attempt as first lady to overhaul the health care system and discussions over Clinton's first nominee to the Supreme Court.

### National Institutes of Health

The Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum highlighted “Early Computers at NIH” on their webpage at <http://history.nih.gov/exhibits/computers/index.html>. The site examines how scientists at the National Institutes of Health have taken advantage of the best computing technologies of the day. Starting with an abacus used by Dr. Wallace Rowe and extending to the IBM ThinkPad laptop used by Dr. Richard Nakamura, these electronic devices trace the history of technology used at NIH. All of the objects are held within the NIH Stetten Museum collection.

Building 7, once a state-of-the-art biocontainment facility, has been slated for demolition. Opened in 1948, Building 7 was used by NIAID scientists performing virology research until 2001, when a more up-to-date biosafety facility was constructed for them in Building 50. Researchers from NEI used Building 7 from 2003 through 2009 while renovations were performed on their previous facility.

### U.S. Army Center for Military History

The Summer 2014 issue of *Army History* is now available. The current issue, as well as the complete collection of back issues of *Army History*, can be viewed online at: [www.history.army.mil/armyhistory/index.html](http://www.history.army.mil/armyhistory/index.html). The current issue contains the articles “The Last Civil War Volunteers: The 125th U.S. Colored Infantry in New Mexico, 1866–1867,” by Russell K. Brown; “Paratroopers of Overlord: Col. Howard “Jumpy” Johnson’s M1911 Pistol,” by Dieter Stenger; and “The EVOLUTION & Demise of the MASH, 1946–2006: Organizing to Perform Forward Surgery As Medicine and the Military Change,” by Sanders Marble. Those individuals and institutions that do not qualify for free copies may opt for paid subscriptions from the U.S. Government Printing Office. The cost of a subscription is \$20 per year. Order by title and enter List ID as ARHIS. To order online, go to <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>. To order by phone, call toll free 866-512-1800 or in the DC metropolitan area 202-512-1800.

The CMH has been designated the “sole repository for all operational records for the combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq,” writes Chief of Military History Robert J. Dalessandro. The new policy will enable the Army to gain control of the enormous expansion of records in digital format and the difficulty of gaining information from them. Dalessandro writes that the Army has 120 terabytes of information, but with the lack of finding aids, the office is working to develop “document-level keyword searches, enhanced with sophisticated search filtering.”

### U.S. Postal Service History Office

Jenny Lynch is the new Historian and Corporate Information Services Manager. Megaera Ausman, the previous USPS historian, retired in November 2011.

### U.S. Forest Service

The Forest Service is participating in *Wilderness50*, a coalition of more than 30 entities commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The Act, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on September 3, 1964, designated 9.1 million acres of National Forests as wilderness. Throughout the country, the agency has sponsored film festivals, displays, hikes, lectures, photo contests, and stewardship projects.

The Forest Service is also celebrating Smokey Bear’s 70th birthday by partnering with the National Agricultural Library on a traveling art exhibit that highlights the Smokey Bear Collection. It includes the work of Rudolph Wendelin, an illustrator with the Forest Service from 1933 to 1973. Wendelin spent most of his career creating posters, stamps, and other materials to support the Smokey Bear campaign.

The Green River Drift, a cattle trail connecting winter and summer grazing ranges in Wyoming, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 20, 2014. Ranchers have used the 57-mile long trail continuously since the 1890s. It crosses Bureau of Land Management and private lands, eventually ending on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Heritage staff of the Payette National Forest recently revised an auto and walking tour that interprets part of Idaho’s mining history. The 44-mile tour starts in McCall and ends at the historic townsite of Warren, an 1862 gold rush community. Revisions included updates of

the audio portion of the tour, accompanying brochures, and tour signage.

### Department of Veterans Affairs

The National Cemetery Administration’s (NCA) History Program is hosting two 2014 summer interns to research certain “notable burials” dating to the Civil War. Eric Gonzaba, a George Mason University doctoral student, is researching African American veterans interred at Riverside National Cemetery, CA, and victims of the 1917 Houston Race Riot reinterred at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, TX. Sesily Resch, a University of Maryland-College Park masters student, is researching veterans of Native American, Alaskan, and Hawaiian descent, including World War II Navajo code talkers. Several projects commemorating the Civil War sesquicentennial have recently concluded or are ongoing including the Lodge & Rostrum Study (NCA partnered with the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS), National Park Service; all records will be available to the public through the Library of Congress (<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2009632512>). The Confederate Cemetery Historic Study is slated for completion in 2014. A project to research, design, and install 191 interpretive signs at Civil War national cemeteries and soldiers’ lots is ongoing. In June, NCA Historian Hillori Schenker led a tour of Alexandria National Cemetery, Va., established in 1862. Lectures have included the partnership with Ancestry.com to digitize NCA’s burial records; historical scholarship on American Indian and African-American military service; the USS *Monitor* recovery project. This educational series continues through April 2015.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) History Office’s “Blacks in Blue—the USCT Legacy” and “Civil War—A New Era in Veterans Benefits” traveling exhibits were displayed at the Civil War symposium held in Salisbury, North Carolina, in April. A book written by History Associates, Inc., Senior Historian Jamie Rife, highlighting the 1990s transformation of VA health care, is nearing publication with a late summer/early fall release anticipated. VHA Historian Darlene Richardson spearheaded an effort to establish a VA-wide history office and archives with History Associates, Inc., conducting a study; the final report and recommendations are due this fall.

VA’s Historic Preservation Office’s study of 2nd Generation U.S. Veterans Hospitals (hospitals built for World War I veterans) recently concluded with 30 VA hospitals listed on the National Register of Historic Places and one as a National Historic Landmark. A study of 3rd Generation hospitals (for World War II veterans) is underway. Goodwin & Associates, Inc., is preparing a booklet on the history of Pershing Hall for publication.

### Wilson Center

The Center has a new digital quarterly that explores life in Afghanistan as the United States military winds down its involvement there. Its stories look at “the lives changed, promises made, and ideas shaped by war.” The Spring 2014 issue includes stories from Afghan women on progress and signs of loss of gains, women’s accounts of voting and violence, firsthand accounts from veterans, and prospects for the months ahead. The quarterly is designed to work with all online platforms. The magazine is produced by the Communications Department of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, located at One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC, 20004-3027.

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

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# The FEDERALIST

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## Federalist Calendar

**Aug. 10–16, 2014. Society of American Archivists (SAA), CoSA, and NAGARA.** Joint Annual Meeting. Marriott Wardman Park. Washington, DC. Visit <http://www2.archivists.org/conference>

**Aug. 28–31, 2014. American Political Science Association (APSA).** Annual Meeting & Exhibition, “Politics after the Digital Revolution.” Visit [https://www.apsanet.org/content\\_77049.cfm?navID=1063](https://www.apsanet.org/content_77049.cfm?navID=1063)

**Sept. 20, 2014. National Archives at Atlanta.** Conference: “Valley of the Dams: The Impact and Legacy of the Tennessee Valley Authority.” Visit <http://www.archives.gov/atlanta/tva-symposium/>

**Oct. 8–12, 2014. Oral History Association (OHA).** 48th Annual Meeting. “Oral History in Motion: Movements, Transformations, and the Power of Story.” Madison, WI. Visit <http://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/>

**Nov. 6–8, 2014. American Society for Legal History (ASLH).** Annual Meeting. Denver, Colorado. Visit <https://aslh.net/2014-annual-meeting-call-for-proposals/>.

**Nov. 13–16, 2014. Southern Historical Association.** Atlanta, Georgia. Visit [http://sha.uga.edu/meeting/call\\_for\\_papers.htm](http://sha.uga.edu/meeting/call_for_papers.htm)

**Jan. 2–5, 2015. American Historical Association (AHA).** Annual Meeting. New York City. Visit: <http://www.historians.org/annual-meeting/future-meetings>

**Apr. 9–12, 2015. Society for Military History (SMH).** “Conflict and Commemoration: The Influence of War on Society.” Montgomery, AL. Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa. Visit <http://www.smh-hq.org/conf/futuremeetings.html>

**Apr. 15–18, 2015. National Council on Public History (NCPH).** Annual Meeting. Nashville, Tennessee. Visit <http://ncph.org/cms/conferences/2015-annual-meeting/>

**Apr. 16–19, 2015. Organization of American Historians (OAH).** Annual Meeting. St. Louis, MO. America’s Center Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel. Visit <http://www.oah.org/?it=meetings-events/annual-conference/future-annual-meetings/>

**July 16–19, 2015. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR).** 37th Annual Meeting. Raleigh, North Carolina. Visit <http://www.shear.org/future-conferences/>

**Aug. 16–22, 2015. Society of American Archivists (SAA).** 79th Annual Meeting. Cleveland Convention Center, Cleveland, OH. Visit <http://www2.archivists.org/conference>  
Additional listings at <http://shfg.org/shfg/category/calendar/>