



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Anthony Pitch The Hewlett Lecture—October 23

Join the Society for History in the Federal Government at the annual Hewlett Lecture and Dinner, featuring Anthony S. Pitch, Thursday, October 23, 2014, at Clyde's of Gallery Place, Washington DC, 6–9 p.m.

"The Joys of Researching A Work of Non-Fiction"

The Society for History in the Federal Government is honored to present distinguished historian **Anthony S. Pitch** as featured guest at the annual Richard G. Hewlett Lecture and Dinner. Author of many works on Washington, DC, area, including *The Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814*, and *They Have Killed Papa Dead!—The Road to Ford's Theatre, Abraham Lincoln's Murder, and the Rage for Vengeance*, Pitch will discuss "The Joys of Researching A Work of Non-Fiction." Embracing his works on the War of 1812 and others, Pitch will reflect on the creative process with an emphasis on the excitement of discovering historical materials in the Library of Congress.

Register at: <http://shfg.org/shfg/events/hewlett-lecture/>



"Co-Creating Narratives in Public Spaces" Symposium Looks at Transforming the NPS

By Benjamin Guterman

The National Park Service has been at a crossroads for some time, probing how to reinvent itself as a 21st-century agency. Its all-out campaign for change looks both within and without: how it hires and maintains a diverse and trained staff, and how it connects with park visitors at its nationwide sites. As its 2016 centennial nears, the NPS aims for relevancy in a radically altered public sphere that demands more comprehensive, accurate, balanced, and interactive interpretative presentations and visitor experiences. In 2013, the agency published the far-reaching report *The Imperiled Promise* (2012). It then opened debate on that report to NPS personnel, outside experts, and the public in a series of conferences at Rutgers University, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, and on September 17–18, at The George Washington University. This latest meeting, titled "Co-Creating Narratives in Public Spaces," was remarkable for both the breadth of its coverage and its candid conversations. Congratulations to NPS management and conference planners for an outstanding range of speakers and presentations from across the agency and from outside parties. The following summary of the proceedings is necessarily brief and incomplete, but more will hopefully follow in later issues of *The Federalist*.

Relevance and Learning

Program relevance was at the core of the discussions. In our age of smartphones, Twitter, and podcasts, and with the proliferation of historical information and the great demand for even more discussion and information, can the agency and its sites engage more effectively with park visitors and students across the country? Informed visitors expect more developed and nuanced historical narratives. The issue is not simply the use of technology but effective delivery of information and educational opportunities in ways now opened by technology—in the ways that many of us, including students, are now learning. Claudine Brown of the Smithsonian Institution stressed that 21st-century education will increasingly include



The "Broadening the Story" session discussed ways to produce fuller, more inclusive historical narratives.

technology-based resources as well as outside-the-classroom experiences. As the nation's most important storyteller, the NPS must begin reaching audiences through such methods.

Immersion and Interaction

Presenters stressed the need for an expanded NPS role as a facilitator for education. Laura Schiavo, professor at George Washington University, summarized that new role as a transition from traditional public service to "civic engagement." And others also stressed that park sites must now be places for dialogue. In the
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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.

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

One of the most rewarding experiences of my brief tenure as President of the Society has been the opportunity to work closely with the dedicated and generous group of volunteers serving on the Executive Council and various SHFG committees. These unsung heroes work hard to manage the day-to-day affairs of the organization, prepare our growing list of publications, and to organize the yearly season of events. I have had the pleasure of observing them develop an impressive schedule of social and scholarly events for the upcoming year. I would like to take this opportunity to let you know what we have coming up and to invite you to come out and participate. Perhaps most exciting, the Society is honored to present distinguished historian Anthony S. Pitch as featured guest at the annual Richard G. Hewlett Lecture. Widely recognized as an engaging and talented storyteller, Mr. Pitch is the author of several works on Washington-area history, including books on the burning of Washington during the War of 1812 and the assassination of President Lincoln. The Hewlett Lecture is a time-honored tradition of the Society, and I hope you will join us at Clyde's on October 23.

As part of our effort to expand SHFG activities, the Membership Committee has proposed a series of hiking events and agency tours. These excursions are intended to provide additional functions for members and networking opportunities for graduate students and young professionals considering careers in federal history. Beginning with a manageable program—so far we are planning tours of the Naval Heritage and History Command in Washington in the fall and the Alexandria National Cemetery in the spring—we will try to expand it in the future. One of the most popular Society gatherings is the annual Holiday Party. This year we hope to hold this event in the newly renovated Navy Hill headquarters of the Office of the Historian at the Department of State. If all goes according to plan, this will be a wonderful opportunity to visit the grounds of the historic Old Naval Observatory and the original headquarters of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Stay tuned to the e-Bulletin and

www.shfg.org for dates and details on how to register for the Hewlett Lecture, Holiday Party, tours, and other Society events.

Last fall the Society voted to amend the by-laws to create the position of Past President and vested in that individual the responsibility for organizing the Annual Meeting. The intention was to ensure that the person performing this challenging and time-consuming task would have the benefit of two prior years' experience in a leadership role. This decision has served us well. Thanks to the hard work of Past President David McMillen, the Society has already set the Annual Meeting date for April 24–25, 2015, at the Robert Byrd Center in Shepherdstown, WV. Those of you who enjoyed the hospitality of Byrd Center and scholarly sociability at the meeting last April know what an excellent facility and enjoyable experience it proved to be. I hope you will join us there and consider submitting a proposal. Please see the *Call for Papers* on our website. The submission deadline is November 1.

Our Publication Committee continues to keep us apprised of items of interest to the federal history community, producing the high-quality and informative publications we have come to expect. In addition to *The Federalist*, members can look forward to the next edition of our *Federal History* journal in January and to continued issues of *Explorations in Federal History*, our new online review publication covering a broad range of federal and nonfederal history work. As an additional ongoing project, we are creating an electronic version of the guide to internships in federal history. Please contact us if your office has an internship or other opportunity you would like to include. Thanks to the efforts of the newly formed Communications Committee, it is now easier to renew your membership and register for events online. I strongly encourage you to visit our website and take advantage of the new system to renew your membership at your earliest convenience.

One thing I've discovered is that managing the Society is a lot of work, but well worth the effort. Since June we have made tremendous progress toward our goals of updating communications outreach, improving services for members, and developing an enhanced program of networking opportunities. Although plenty remains to be done, the Society is well organized to move confidently into the new year.



Members Meet Monthly

SHFG members and nonmembers 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. We hope to see you there. The next gathering is tentatively set for early November, and will be announced to members via the eBulletin. Contact SHFG President Carl Ashley at shfg@cashley.org for more information.

Editor's Note

Several articles in this issue illustrate how federal history workers make important contributions to the successful operation of the federal government. The recent September 17–18 NPS conference offered an exciting and rich exchange of ideas by the very managers and workers nationwide who are responsible for changing that agency. It was an open and democratic event based on the premise that those individuals would return to their sites and innovate. We learn here how historians at the U.S. Marshals play a central role in planning commemoration of that office's 225th anniversary and helping to inform its future course. An article on Justice Department files held at the National Archives not only highlights the files' contents but invites historians to seek FOIA access to them. An interview with Richa Wilson provides insights into how architectural evaluation and planning takes place at the U.S. Forest Service. I'm grateful that we can enlighten readers about those historical duties. We also learn how the history office at U.S. Customs and Border Protection helps promote that mission. It's important that the Department of Homeland Security has reinstated many functions of that history office. We also recall how the SHFG made a contribution to the preservation and expansion of oral history projects in government. Thanks for your support of the SHFG through your membership, which enables us to explore such diverse historical contributions. Please send comments to me at benjamin.guterman@shfg.org.

— Benjamin Guterman, editor



Explorations highlights and reviews the broad range of federal history work and nonfederal work that promote the history of the federal government. It is sent by email to SHFG members three times per year: April, August, and December.

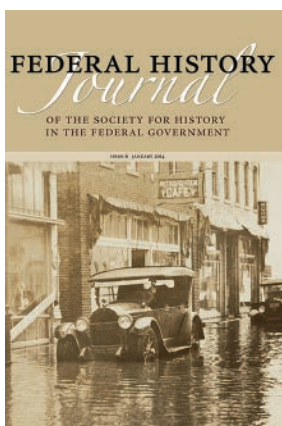
Recent topics: Intelligence, Public History, Military History, Foreign Policy, National Park Service, and Book Reviews. Articles are welcomed at explorations@shfg.org



Call for Papers

**SHFG Annual Meeting
"Across the Great Divide:
Historical Research in
a Digital World"
April 24–25, 2015**

Robert C. Byrd Center
for Legislative Studies
Shepherdstown, West Virginia



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.

The Society for History in Federal Government invites proposals for the 2015 Annual Meeting. The program committee encourages participants to broadly interpret the theme of Historical Research in the Digital Age. Topics might include the historiography of oral history practice and theory; the impact of technology on the practice and sharing of public history; the challenges of managing and distributing data in the digital age; the evolving relationship between public history and the web; oral history programs in federal history offices; and research in the history of the federal government. Information: <http://shfg.org/shfg/events/annual-meeting/>

“Symposium,” continued from page 1

decentralized park program structure, many parks have already embraced such inclusive programs. Kelli English discussed the several ways that the Rosie the Riveter National Historic Site engages local youth and the community, often as volunteers. That site is perhaps one of the most complex, incorporating historic buildings, student ambassador programs, museum exhibits, volunteers, and numerous community partners. Others used the term “validating the visitor,” in which their activities enable the visitor to find more personal and perhaps familial connections with the history of that site, as at the Holocaust Museum or the new Cesar Chavez site. Jesse Nickelson discussed how the U.S. Holocaust Memorial and Museum’s student ambassador program immerses students in the program and enables them to serve as international ambassadors against genocide. Naomi Torres related how the Anza Historic Trail similarly trains high school students on the trail’s history, building on their family connections to the area. The need for partnerships with the community and businesses was also an important part of these discussions, especially since historic properties are often in private hands.

Those connections with the public and visitors can also emerge from expanded historical content and artifacts. Paul Gardullo, curator at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, argued the need for a fuller, more nuanced history at museums—stories that are fully inclusive of all groups. In this sense, museums need to catch up to the decades-old social history movement and go beyond it to make even more personal connections. He discussed how his museum is seeking artifacts from private citizens, allowing an expanded view of the past through more personal extensions of the narrative. He stated that people make pilgrimages to museums to make personal connections with the stories there. Now more sites are needed for other ethnic groups. Ruben Andrade discussed progress at the new Cesar E. Chavez National Monument, the first site celebrating a modern-day Latino hero. Similarly, Joy Kinard explained the extensive work at the Bethune National Park to chronicle the work of black women, and the development of the Carter G. Woodson site. The results become “ever-widening circles of inclusion.”

Adding Discussions

Attendees were very interested to learn how park visitors could be brought into discussions and thus both immerse themselves in the content and advance public engagement, or “participatory history.” Many parks and other agency offices are already using such forums, but the questions always concern the risks of dealing with controversial topics, such as the riots at Ferguson, Missouri; the degree of appropriateness for government offices;

and the training and guidelines needed to manage such groups. Katherine Kane of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center discussed her center’s use of “salons” and the successes and pitfalls they’ve discovered. Salons are beneficial, she urged, for the connections and trust they encourage. Other presenters agreed by sharing their experiences. Naomi Torres, of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, stated that the best moments for learning at her site have been controversial ones in which the community was polarized. But others shared reservations about the appropriateness of forums, the challenges of remaining neutral (nonpolitical), and of managing charged discussions.

Personnel Issues

Personnel questions were central to the above issues. First, NPS staff nationwide must reflect the ethnic and racial diversity necessary to tell an expanded and balanced history. The agency remains predominately white despite recent efforts at diversity. Retention of new hires is a major problem, we learn, primarily because their low pay grade and often part-time schedules make it difficult for them to stay on long enough for promotions.

But is the low application rate of minorities also a symptom of something deeper? Professor Mickey Fearn, a former deputy director and now professor at North Carolina State University, stated that blacks have “biophobia,” a culturally conditioned indifference to natural settings. Conditioned over decades of impoverished inner-city life, they don’t pursue the park lifestyle. In that argument, only far-reaching socioeconomic changes will make a difference in application rates.

Looking Ahead

Directors Julie Washburn, Stephanie Toothman, and Michael Reynolds concluded the conference with their commitment to progress. They urged the various parks to take risks in making their programs relevant, to continue to build partnerships, and to keep the dialogue going. The sessions documented that public engagement is not only educationally vital but most beneficial in expanding and enriching local historical narratives. But not all community engagement will be easy because of local divisions and opposition—that is part of the process of producing “shared meaning” at historic places. And, management promised to address diversity and pay issues.

While the conference highlighted many of the promising strategies and directions that the NPS has been taking and can continue to take, it was very apparent that the highly decentralized structure of the park system will make for uneven progress. As park sites differ in their historic resources and potential educational messages, their outreach programs and innovations must be unique to themselves. Park leaders and workers must continually educate themselves on how they can create new meaning for their sites. The impressive open exchange of ideas at this recent conference, and undoubtedly many more to come, offers the best hope that our parks will become the best open classrooms we can make them. For more information, visit http://www.nps.gov/history/narratives_in_public_spaces.html ❖

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Investigating Civil Rights: Class 144 Department of Justice Case Files

Tina L. Ligon

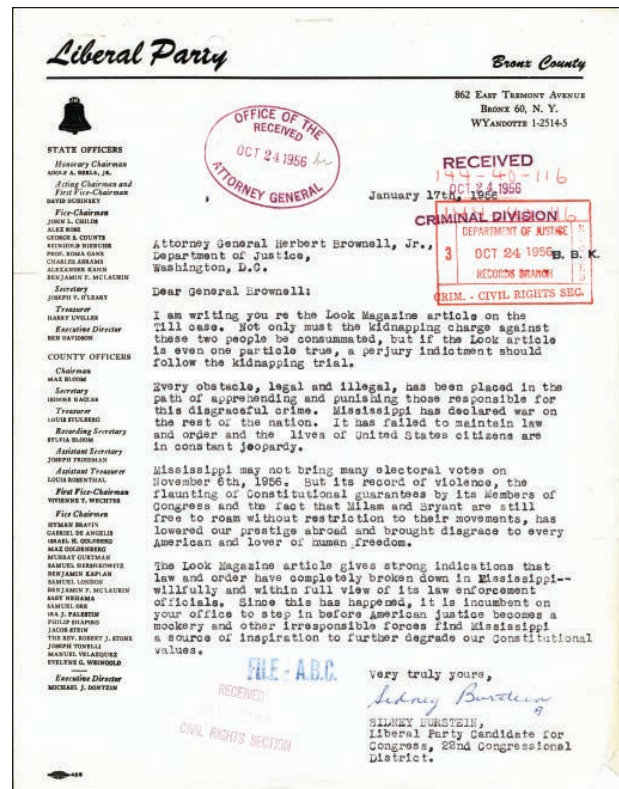
Class 144 (Civil Rights) Litigation Case Files, 1936–1997 (National Archives Identifier 603435), now processed at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), have great potential value for researchers of the modern civil rights movement and of the federal government's legal efforts to secure those rights. The content of each case file in this series was compiled by the Department of Justice (DOJ) with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and local law enforcement agencies to bring suit on the behalf of individuals whose civil rights had been violated. This article intends to bring attention to the wealth of information found in the case files relating to the civil rights movement, the Black Power movement, social injustice, student protest, and prison conditions.

The struggle for individual civil rights has long been a part of the quest for justice in America. People have protested, boycotted, and used the court system to fight against social injustices across the country. African Americans, mostly those in the South, had to endure segregation, lynching, discrimination, and disenfranchisement during the first part of the 20th century. In 1957, the federal government took action to right some of the wrongs that violated individual civil rights. After the public crisis in Little Rock, Arkansas, where nine African American students were denied entrance into Central High School, President Dwight D. Eisenhower encouraged the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957. This act established the Civil Rights Division in the DOJ, where agents would monitor incidents of discrimination based on race, sex, disability, religion, and national origin. The authority of the Civil Rights Division was strengthened when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This act authorized the Civil Rights Division to initiate lawsuits on behalf of individuals whose rights were violated.

The bulk of the case files in the series deals with civil rights violations that occurred during the 1960s and 1970s. There is some documentation that dates back to the 1930s, but it is primarily background information to support the investigations. The Civil Rights Litigation Case Files series consists of correspondence, memorandums, investigative reports, legal briefs, pamphlets, and newspaper clippings as relevant to each case. The case files involve suits to implement court-ordered school desegregation, complaints of racial discrimination on interstate common carriers, and allegations of brutality by local police officials against African Americans and members of other ethnic minority groups.

Early Cases

The fight for civil rights in the American South was often dangerous for those who wanted to change the Jim Crow system and unjust social customs. Courageous individuals involved in social change were unfairly arrested, physically assaulted, and



A letter to the Attorney General concerning the Emmett Till case, January 17, 1956.

even killed during the 1950s and 1960s. Several of the case files in the series concern incidents that occurred prior to the creation of the Civil Rights Division. Due to the brutal nature of the crimes, DOJ and FBI agents applied the authority of the Civil Rights Acts to reopen the investigations of several unsolved murders. Two major cases were reexamined by the DOJ prior to the passage of the Civil Rights Acts. The first was the murders of NAACP leader Harry T. Moore and his wife Harriette (file #144-18-205). Moore was influential in fighting for equal pay for black teachers and basic rights for African Americans in Mims, Florida. The couple was killed on Christmas morning in 1951 when a bomb exploded under their home. The second case was the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till in 1955 (file #144-40-116). Till, who was from Chicago, broke southern custom when he flirted with a white woman at a local store in Money, Mississippi. He was murdered, and his body was found in the Tallahatchie River. (The Emmett Till case has been screened and is available to the public). Other early cases found in this series was the explosion at Port Chicago in 1944 that killed nearly 300 African American sailors (file #144-12-012), and the abduction and murder of Mack Charles Parker in 1959 (file #144-41-304).

Civil Rights

During the late 1950s and 1960s, the push for civil rights was intensified with boycotts, marches, sit-ins, and voter registration drives. Prominent cases in this category include the attack on the Freedom Riders in Anniston, Alabama, on May 14, 1961 (file #144-1-554), where civil rights activists were attacked by an angry mob while trying to integrate restaurants and waiting rooms in bus terminals. Another significant case was the church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, that killed Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, and Denise McNair on Sunday, September 15, 1963 (file #144-1-906). The young ladies were preparing for church service when a bomb exploded in the building. Also found in this series is the case file on the murder of Viola Liuzzo, who participated in the March on Selma in 1965 (file #144-2-470). Liuzzo was killed by four Ku Klux Klan members who shot at her while she was transporting marchers back to Montgomery. Additional case files regarding the civil rights movement are the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 and 1956 (file #144-012-23); the integration of James Meredith into the University of Mississippi in 1962 (file #144-40-254); the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963 (file #144-16-574); and the murder of civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner in 1964 (file #144-41-686).

Black Nationalist Movements

There are several case files in this series that pertain to the Black Nationalist movements in the United States. These files include surveillance accounts, informant inquiries, and law enforcement reports on Black Power leaders, Black Student Unions (BSUs), and local-level pro-black organizations. Select case files in this series include the March against Fear in 1966 (file #144-40-570) in which demonstrators protested against racism and discrimination that continued after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. During this march across the state of Mississippi, protesters, with encouragement from Stokely Carmichael, began using the term “Black Power” and started to self-identify themselves as black. A second important case in this series was the murder of Black Panther Party members Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in 1969 (file #144-23-971). With information from an informant, Chicago police fired on and killed the Panther members as they slept. Other important case files in this series regarding Black Power are the murder of Black Panther Robert James “Lil’ Bobby” Hutton in 1968 (file #144-11-562) and the Wilmington Ten, who were wrongfully convicted of arson and conspiracy in 1971 (file #144-54-407).

Protesting Social Conditions

During the 1960s and 1970s, African Americans protested against poor living conditions, overcrowding, crime, police brutality, unemployment, and failing schools in most urban areas. The DOJ and the FBI investigated those uprisings that turned violent for unlawful behavior, property damage, injuries, and deaths. Some of the case files regarding urban unrest in this series were the Philadelphia Race Riot in 1964 (file #144-62-649); the Harlem Riot in 1964 (file #144-51-547); the Watts Riot in

1965 (file #144-12-1102); the Detroit Riot in 1967 (file #144-37-509); the Glenville Shootout in Cleveland, Ohio (file #144-57-311); and the Washington, DC, Riot in 1968 (file #144-16-986).

Housing and Vietnam War Protests

During the 1960s and 1970s, college students protested against inadequate conditions at their institutions and the Vietnam War. A week after the Kent State shootings in Ohio, James Earl Green and Phillip Lafayette Gibbs were killed and 12 were injured when city and state police fired on Vietnam War protesters at Jackson State University in Mississippi on May 15, 1970 (file #144-41-1597). In 1972, students at Southern University in Louisiana (file #144-32M-9) protested for better housing, improved classrooms, and a share of financial resources closer in line to that given to Louisiana State University (LSU). During the protest, two students, Denver A. Smith and Leonard Douglas Brown, were shot and killed by local law enforcement. In both of these cases, the DOJ investigated whether or not the students’ civil rights had been violated by campus and local law enforcement officials.

Prison Protests

Several case files in this series deal with complaints from prisoners around the country about the poor conditions of prisons, physical and sexual abuse, segregation, health care, and diet. One of the more infamous prisons during the 1960s was the Mississippi State Penitentiary, also known as Parchman Farm (file #144-40-879). The mostly black prison population was subject to harassment, racism, and mistreatment by guards. In the early 1960s, DOJ investigated the treatment of Freedom Riders, who were sent to Parchman Farm for their participation in desegregating southern facilities. The Freedom Riders were strip-searched and left naked for hours, and some were placed on chain gangs. Several of the grievances regarding Parchman led to the Supreme Court decision in *Gates v. Collier* (1972) on cruel and unusual punishment. Another notorious prison with complaints to the DOJ in the series was the Louisiana State Penitentiary, also known as Angola (file #144-32M-10). Prisoners at Angola complained about their living conditions and the culture of gang-rape and sex slavery that was permitted in the prison.

Access

Prior to use by researchers, the case files in this series have to be screened for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) restrictions that may include personal information and law enforcement activity. Types of restricted information found in the case files are informant identification, medical/health status of people involved, techniques used by FBI and law enforcers, and grand jury testimonies. Researchers interested in accessing these records should contact the FOIA staff at the National Archives. More information about filing a FOIA request can be found at <http://www.archives.gov/foia/>.

Tina L. Ligon is an archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration at College Park, Maryland. tina.ligon@nara.gov.

Centennial Commission Promotes WWI Commemoration

Thomas I. Faith

The United States World War One Centennial Commission held a conference and trade fair in Washington, DC, at the office of Jones Day on June 14, 2014. The Commission was established by the World War One Centennial Commission Act, signed by President Obama on January 16, 2013. The mission of the Centennial Commission “is to provide opportunities to the people of the United States to learn about the history of World War I, the United States’ involvement in that war, and the war’s effects on the remainder of the 20th century, and to commemorate and honor the participation of the United States and its citizens in the war effort.” At the meeting, Commissioner Edwin L. Fountain explained how this mission will be achieved over the next few years.

The Centennial Commission is planning a series of academic conferences to take place at a variety of locations in the United States from 2014 through 2019. They have partnered with A&E Network and the History Channel to produce WWI-themed programming and online educational content targeted to high school and middle school students. The Centennial Commission is also asking Congress to authorize a national WWI memorial at Pershing Park on Pennsylvania Avenue and is raising funds for its



Commissioner Edwin L. Fountain addresses the World War One Centennial Commission meeting, June 14, 2014.

development. At the conference, the Commission emphasized its efforts to work with partners and affiliated organizations, such as the American Battle Monuments Commission. Communicating with inter-

ested groups and assisting their WWI projects, where possible, is an important way for the Centennial Commission to facilitate outreach and achieve its goals. Representatives from historical preservation associations, educational organizations, the Library of Congress, the Douglas MacArthur Memorial, the WWI Historical Association, and the National Museum of American History also presented information about their planned exhibits and activities related to the Centennial.

The Centennial of the First World War is an opportunity for history programs in the federal government to engage their stakeholders and the public. Events and outreach over the next few years will generate interest in WWI-related projects that many federal history offices are in a position to launch pursuant to their mission. More information on the World War One Centennial Commission and its projects can be found at their website: <http://worldwar-1centennial.org>.

SHFG Online New at www.shfg.org

- Latest federal history news
- Video of Trask Lecture 2014
- Recent publications from federal history offices
- *The Federalist* past issues
- Registration for SHFG Directory
- Calendar of conferences
- *FEDERAL HISTORY* journal



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- **Diplomatic History**—Department of State online resources on WWII U.S. diplomats and Franco-American relations
- **Digital History**—Preservation of and access to the diary of Alfred Rosenberg, of the Third Reich’s *Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg* (ERR)
- **Declassification**—Katyn Forest Massacre Documents Release
- **Medicine & Science**—Using ships’ data to understand changing weather and climate change.

Review our blogs at www.shfg.org. Comments and contributions are welcomed.



The Rosenberg ERR diary (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum)

The U.S. Marshals at 225—A View of Agency Anniversary Programming

David S. Turk

Government agencies look to their historians and other public affairs professionals for key elements of anniversary programming. With their special skills and institutional memory, they serve as invaluable resources for any successful endeavor in planning and executing celebratory activity for a federal agency. Planning celebrations relies heavily on commitment from management, decisions on the type of programming, and the targeted audience. In the case of the U.S. Marshals Service, our history is an integral part of our existence and of our celebration.

On September 24, 2014, the U.S. Marshals will be 225 years old. Our historical highlights are varied, as exemplified by the Whiskey Rebellion, the Tombstone (or O.K. Corral) gunfight, and the integration of schools in the American South. The recollection of these highlights, those known and seldom recalled, is only one part of a historian's job. The harder part remains—how to communicate the importance of the agency to others. Most know the names of the Earp Brothers and their famous 1881 showdown in Arizona Territory, but how many realize the importance of our 1979 Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to our current job? While less nostalgic, this document created the modern-day investigative program of the U.S. Marshals. Anniversaries are an opportunity for public historians to chisel out these vital moments in agency history. Our 225th plans to do just that.

Internal Planning

Our agency is fortunate that most of our leadership has been with the agency for decades. Director Stacia A. Hylton began her career with the U.S. Marshals Service in the early 1980s as an intern. Associate Director Dave Musel was the agency's first chief of staff over a decade ago. Both Deputy Director David Harlow and Chief of Staff Donald O'Hearn served in the field as deputies. Knowing there is already a solid base of institutional knowledge, our 225th has built-in importance. An executive 225th committee, appointed by Director Hylton and chaired by

Assistant Director Carl Caulk, brings together the media and ideas. The Office of Public Affairs, represented by Chief Drew Wade, coordinates messaging and works directly with the committee as a member.

Early on, the committee decided that a long series of linked events was better than trying to squeeze everything in a day or a week. A year ago, we launched the first internal messages as “weekly moments in history.” These served as preparatory reminders as well as historical highlights. As the date loomed closer, a media plan developed. With its implementation, the agency initiated the novel 225th website on our intranet. This was developed as a scrolling bulletin board where our 94 districts can post their accomplishments. Several governors have issued proclamations on the 225th anniversary; others plan small-scale district exhibits; and some plan to celebrate locally or with the courts, which share our birthday. It connected the entire agency together, while at the same time allowing for districts to celebrate their own local heritage.

The U.S. Mint Commemorative Coins

One of the earliest anniversary ideas came from two Judicial Security Inspectors from Tennessee: Scott Sanders and Oscar Blythe. They contacted our headquarters, and from there produced a white paper on the value of an official commemorative coin set. The idea was pursued by counterparts and interested congressmen, and from this came the United States Marshals Service Commemorative Coin Act, or Public Law 112-104. The act called for the design of a five-dollar gold piece representing our fallen deputies; a silver dollar depicting our role in the American West, and a clad half-dollar symbolizing the change in our duties and impact on society.

This was only the beginning of a long and interesting process. The U.S. Mint adhered to the language of the act right down to the letter. Any symbol, language, or idea must adhere to the act. As



Former deputies stand before the U.S. Criminal Court in Fort Smith Arkansas, in 1908. Judge Isaac C. Parker presided there, 1875–1896.

with every commemorative, the Mint's artists create designs for approval by the Secretary of the Treasury. Representatives from the U.S. Marshals worked directly with the U.S. Mint staff, and then attended two February meetings with the Citizens Advisory Coin Committee and the Committee of Fine Arts. The Mint finalized the designs, and Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew signed his approval of the recommendations. On July 23 an unveiling of the selections was held at the Department of Justice with Attorney General Eric Holder, U.S. Mint Deputy Director Richard Peterson, and Director Hylton.

The U.S. Marshals Museum

The agency continues to strive toward a 2017 opening for its museum. Although we originally announced in January 2007 our intention to build in Fort Smith, Arkansas, our 225th anniversary will have the groundbreaking for the museum. This ushers in the "bricks-and-mortar" period in the private-public partnership.

Among those attending the groundbreaking on September 24 will be members of the U.S. Marshals Service Association. Because of the event, the annual convention will be held in Fort Smith. The National Association of Deputy United States Marshals last met at Fort Smith in August 1964. In this more formal occasion, Director Hylton, members of Congress, tribal leaders, and representatives connected with the forthcoming museum will address the public event on the banks of the Arkansas River.

Perhaps one of the most intriguing activities will be the September 22 re-creation of a famous photograph of former deputies taken in 1908. The original photograph was a reunion of deputy U.S. marshals who served under U.S. District Judge Isaac "Hanging Judge" Parker. These were the deputies who inspired books and movies—notably *True Grit*. In fact, the aforesaid National Association of Deputy United States Marshals published an image of the famous photograph in the newsletter that announced the 1964 convention. Local photographer J. P. Bell will take on the task.

Publications

As with most agencies, publicizing our story through books and articles is crucial. For our 225th anniversary, we have a two-pronged effort with internal publications. The first piece is an inclusive volume—a "memory book" to be produced by the U.S. Marshals Service Association. Personal accounts and vignettes will highlight this publication. The second book is more intricate—an overall, modern history that will detail the era from Civil Rights to the present as a companion volume to Frederick Calhoun's 1989 book *The Lawmen*. The new book is 10 years in the making—with over 50 interviews—and will be the last piece of our 225th anniversary celebration.

Our 225th anniversary is a milestone. Although of interest internationally, our anniversary plans found a home with local and regional publications in Arkansas and Oklahoma. An extensive overview of our common story with the Fort Smith community is featured in September's *Entertainment Fort Smith*.

Sponsoring History Day Award

The Society sponsored a special prize at National History Day, held June 14–18. SHFG President Carl Ashley presented the award for the category History in the Federal Government to Maximilian Chang (accepted by a student representative). Chang, from Saratoga High School, Saratoga, CA, produced a website titled "*Miranda v. Arizona: Rebalancing Rights and Responsibilities*." In a thank-you letter to the Society, Chang wrote, "History Day is an amazing opportunity, and I do not think I can convey with enough depth how appreciative I am that people like you make this program endure. . . . [the project] has led me to pursue a topic I am now seriously considering as a potential career path: the study of Constitutional Law."



SHFG President Carl Ashley presents a special award for Maximilian Chang to a student representative.

However, districts across the nation have their own local presses as well. In addition, interested outlets in print and electronic format will also be notified of the event.

Room for Future Events

Overall, extending the anniversary over a full year allows projects in process, such as that of our modern era, to fully bloom. Other possible events include a reunion between the U.S. Marshals and Civil Rights icon Ruby Bridges in New Orleans. Deputies walked with her to classes to integrate the schools in November 1960, but few of her escorts are alive today. Still, several could attend the recreation and dedication of a special statue.

By the time September 24, 2015, arrives, the year-long celebration will have built on its ancestor, our bicentennial in 1989. In celebrating those deputies and related personnel who rode in the saddle, and those that drive city streets or provide support, this is for America to share.

David S. Turk is Historian of the U.S. Marshals Service in Arlington, Virginia. David.Turk@usdoj.gov

From the Archives Subcommittee on Oral History

Chas Downs

While oral history interviews have become increasingly important in federal history programs, a major obstacle has always been the interviewee's concern over federal agencies' inability to control access to the oral history interview. This lack of control could inhibit donor responses, prompting less candid and complete discussions. Until the late 1980s, it was unclear if agencies could accept donor restrictions on oral history tapes and transcripts, thus leaving oral history interviews accessible under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) regulations. James Currie, historian with the Department of Education, ran into such a problem in 1981 when the outgoing Secretary of Education limited the scope of her interviews because they would not be guaranteed immunity from FOIA. Currie presented his concerns at the annual meeting of the Society for History in the Federal Government in April 1982, and the membership passed a resolution for the SHFG Executive Council to study the problem of oral history restrictions and FOIA exemptions.

Richard Baker, chair of the Committee on Historical Programs, appointed his colleague, Don Ritchie, to head a subcommittee on oral history. Ritchie was an oral historian with the Senate Historical Office and active in the Oral History Association. The subcommittee rejected trying to seek a possible FOIA exemption for oral history out of concern it might be a precedent for erosion of FOIA's essential functions for historical research. Subcommittee member Trudy Peterson of the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) suggested amending the Federal Records Act (FRA) so that the National Archives could accept oral histories with restrictions as gifts from the interviewees, as was already the case with NARS' Presidential libraries. While the SHFG Executive Council accepted this proposal, SHFG needed support from historical organizations such as the OHA and AHA, which was not forthcoming. Some historians either did not believe that there was a problem or found the need overstated. Baker and Ritchie did not agree with these views and became frustrated by the inaction of these outside groups.

Baker and Ritchie tried again in 1984, asking Hank Schorreck, National Security Agency, to chair the oral history subcommittee, which grew to 14 people. They met with Archivist of the United States Robert Warner who urged them not to revise the FRA but to define oral history to fit under existing regulations. At the suggestion of FBI historian Sue Falb, the committee consulted with Library of Congress General Counsel John Kaminski. He advised the group that



Frank Burke



Don Ritchie, 1992

by claiming copyright on interviews and donating them as gifts, interviewees could place restrictions on their donations. This process took care of the problem for federal agencies allowed by law to accept gifts. Those agencies that could not do so could be covered by an arrangement in which interviews would be donated through the National Archives. Under this option, the Archivist would accept the donation to be deposited in the holdings of the National Archives by deed of gift. A working copy of the oral history materials would be provided to the agency for its use as long as it had current value for the agency's historical program, after which they would be returned to the National Archives.

For this to work, oral histories had to be defined very strictly with language approved by the Archives. It took a year for the Archives to act, delayed by the need for legal consultation. The agreement was also reviewed and concurred with by the Justice Department, which found that section 44 USC 2111, authorizing the Archivist to accept donations of restricted historical materials, could be viewed as a statute that would exempt such material from access through FOIA. Finally, in August 1987, Acting Archivist Frank Burke sent letters to federal history offices explaining the agreement and enclosing suggested procedures and sample deeds of gift.

While not a perfect solution, the Archives agreement addressed a concern over access to oral histories without resorting to possibly risky or unlikely legislation. Even those who had doubted the seriousness of the problem applauded this solution, made possible by the perseverance and ingenuity of SHFG members. As noted in *The Federalist* (Fall 1987) article titled "National Archives Adopts Oral History Plan," the implementation of this solution to the problem of protecting oral histories "marks the culmination of a five-year effort" by the SHFG. Baker, Ritchie, and the other members of the Subcommittee on Oral History had good reason to be pleased with the results of their efforts, which demonstrated how the Society could serve federal historians and the historical community at large by addressing a difficult and controversial problem and providing a viable solution.

For a more detailed discussion of these events, see "Oral History Restrictions," pages 24–28 of *The First Decade of the Society for History in the Federal Government*, by Dennis Roth, on the SHFG website. To learn more about the SHFG Archives, contact Chas Downs at chasdowns@verizon.net

The History Professional

An Interview with Richa Wilson

Richa Wilson has been an architectural historian with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) since 1998, and since 2001, has served as the Regional Architectural Historian for the Intermountain Region in Ogden, Utah. She earned a Bachelor of Architecture from Kansas State University and an M.S. in Historic Preservation from the University of Oregon. She focuses primarily on evaluating USFS administrative facilities in the national forests for historic preservation, among her other assignments. She has written and presented widely on such topics as historic architecture, documentation work, early building materials, and administrative sites.



Interview by Benjamin Guterman

Richa Wilson

Your original professional interests were in architecture and historic preservation. What drew you to those disciplines?

At age 17, I entered college with a vague interest in art and drafting. After several classes in both, I chose architecture because, to me, it represented a balance of the humanities and sciences, of design and technology, of the abstract and the tangible. The architectural history courses appealed to me most, and I was drawn to places as representations of cultural memory and the past. My favorite projects involved historic buildings, especially when they required archival research and field investigations. Historic preservation seemed a natural next step but certainly not the last one. My interests and work have transitioned from historic architecture to architectural history to public history.

As a Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi, Africa, 1995–97, how were you able to apply your educational training? And, looking back, how do you think those experiences have inspired or influenced your career goals and options?

My placement as a volunteer was atypical, as I was assigned to the Blantyre City Planning Department where I drew directly from training in architecture and historic preservation while working with urban planners and building inspectors. The most rewarding project was researching and writing a historic context statement for the city. After I left, my Malawian counterpart used it when applying to the World Bank for funds to develop a comprehensive plan. He also told me the document provided names of former chiefs and headmen that proved useful in a street-naming exercise. I also implemented a records management process with checks and balances to ensure that building plans and other documentation were not accidentally or intentionally lost.

My Peace Corps experience steered me away from historic preservation as a means of protecting an individual building to a broader goal of managing cultural resources, whether they are places, records, artifacts, or traditions.

You evaluate USFS administrative facilities in national forests for historic significance and preservation. Can you discuss a recent site and what kind of work was involved? What criteria do you use to help decide a structure's enduring value?

A recent site visit to the Colton Ranger Station in the Ashley National Forest was typical. After photographing each building, I described its architectural features on a standard survey form. I

looked for clues to its evolution such as ghost marks of former molding or writing on the interior studs of the fuel shed. (It's not unusual to find calculations, dates, and names of CCC men or employees who distributed gasoline from these.) I drew a site plan to show the spatial relationships of buildings, corrals, the pasture, the flagpole, vegetation, and topographical features.

Site visits are important, but historical research is essential to identifying the facility's association with important events and people, and assessing the significance of its design and construction, as well as its information potential. We use the National Register of Historic Places criteria to determine historic significance.

Looking at historical research for this site, for example, what kinds of sources and people were you able to work with?

Lands status records are an important starting point because they document the station's official designation as an administrative site, usually by executive order, presidential proclamation, or public land order. I then searched our regional collection for forest and ranger district histories, oral histories, photos, site plans and architectural blueprints. I travelled to the forest headquarters and ranger district offices to research engineering, real property, and heritage files. While there, I got the names of "old timers" – long-term employees, retirees, or local people – who have knowledge of the ranger station's development, use, and past staff. Finally, I visited the local library and historical society to review local histories, photo collections, and materials related to the early rangers, who often were local men.

Without getting too technical, what are some architectural features that you have found to be unique in Forest Service buildings in the western United States? I assume styles and construction were influenced by such factors as local building materials and even local traditions.

Most Forest Service ranger stations built before the New Deal era can be classified as "vernacular architecture." They reflected local materials, skills, preferences, and environment. In the 1930s, Forest Service regions were encouraged to adopt standard architectural designs that reflected their identities. The Rocky Mountain Region, headquartered in Denver, developed plans for Rustic Style buildings made of stones and large-diameter logs. Many of the ranger stations in the Southwestern Region, which covers New Mexico and Arizona, were in the Pueblo Revival style.

The fire lookout is a unique building type and a good example of “function over form.” The ability to transport materials to remote peaks by mule train meant that some were built from a standard kit of parts. Other considerations affecting their design included the need for 360-degree views of the terrain, lightning protection, and the reflectivity of interior paint colors to decrease eyesight strain.

What kinds of materials does your office collect and maintain in your history collection?

The collection includes administrative histories, oral history tapes and transcripts, field programs, manuals, directories, and reference materials. We also have historic materials that our specialists and other staff use: grazing reports, lands status maps, building plans, and thousands of photographs and slides. Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl items, uniforms, wooden snowshoes, tree-boring instruments, and other artifacts are available to Forest Service units and partners for display and interpretive purposes. When I began managing the collection, I found it necessary to use volunteers, many of whom are retirees, to help with cataloging, scanning, transcribing, and other activities. This has made it possible for me to respond more quickly to queries and to open the collection to researchers. The number of queries and visits from academic researchers increases every year.

You’ve been involved with a lawsuit about road ownership in a national forest. What was your role?

Revised Statute 2477 of the Mining Law of 1866 gave states rights-of-way on federal land.

The statute was repealed in 1976, but the repeal recognized valid existing rights. Those rights often were unrecorded, so claims can be controversial. My role in this particular lawsuit was to research the development and use of the road, with an emphasis on determining if it existed in any form (such as a trail) prior to the area’s designation as a national forest. I then presented my findings in court.

What special duties did you have in your collaborative work at Fort Ross State Historic Park in California?

I worked with historic preservation and interpretive specialists from Russia, the National Park Service, and the State of California to develop a furnishing plan for the Rotchev House, a log building

erected by the Russian American Company in 1836. We used the historic structure report that I had previously completed, archival sources, and additional on-site examinations to identify period-appropriate furniture and interior finishes. The plan enabled the Fort Ross Interpretive Association to furnish the Rotchev House as accurately as possible.

You’ve been assigned to firefighter fatality investigations. What were your duties?

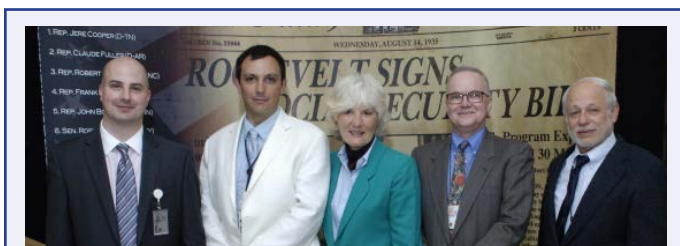
As part of an interdisciplinary team, I served primarily as documentation specialist and writer/editor. The work was emotionally difficult but meaningful, and I employed skills of the history profession: interviewing, gathering and synthesizing a variety of source materials, developing a chronology, and using these to chronicle the incident. We followed a process known as “Facilitated Learning Analysis,” which relies on interviews, photographs, videos, and other records to develop a narrative. This storytelling, which incorporates different perspectives, helps others to understand the events leading up to the accident. It seeks to deter counterfactuals and hindsight bias by showing why actions made sense, at that time, to those involved. In the past, traditional accident investigations resulted in a lot of blaming, shaming, and an increasing wariness of those involved to share information. The Forest Service realized that learning is far more important than punishment if the goal is to change perceptions of risk and safety and to decrease accidents.

It seems that your work occasionally takes you outside the United States. What was your most interesting foreign assignment?

In 1991, I was honored to be chosen as an intern for the International Council on Monuments and Sites. They sent me to the Soviet Union where I worked and lived with counterparts in Russia and then Lithuania. It was a priceless opportunity to meet and learn from restoration experts at premier sites such as the Hermitage in St. Petersburg. Of greater significance was the chance to witness firsthand the coup d’etat that preceded the dissolution of the USSR. I’ll never forget watching people use sledgehammers on the statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky, founder of the Soviet secret police, in front of the KBG headquarters in Moscow. One stroke caused a small piece of granite to land at my feet. It was amazing, as I picked up the unexpected souvenir, to realize I was watching history in the making.

Are you involved in any outreach work, and is your research ultimately available to the research public?

My outreach work tends to be informal, rather than part of an established program. It has ranged from discussing Forest Service history and architecture at a salon of professors from our local university to creating a display about an early ranger for a small visitor center. I’m regularly involved with Forest Service retirees through social activities and their “Old Timers Club.” Our website has been the best forum for reaching people. I saw a significant increase in public queries after posting my papers, as well as diary transcriptions, oral histories, and forest histories. With the help of volunteers, I’ll continue expanding the website with content that is in high demand or that will have broad appeal.



SHFG DIRECTORY

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

A Focus on Indian Treaties

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington, DC, has opened an exhibit that explores the legacy of U.S.–American Indian diplomacy from the colonial period through the present through the history of treaties. Treaties have been loaned from the National Archives, but the exhibit will also feature stunning artifacts and images associated with the treaty experience. The Museum's website features a sampling of these artifacts at <http://nmai.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/item/744/>

A recent article by Larisa K. Miller titled “The Secret Treaties With California Indians” in *Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration* (Fall/Winter 2013) recounts the special history of 18 unratified treaties with Native American clans and groups in that state and their suffering. The Senate did not ratify the treaties, claiming confusion from early Spanish claims, resulting in loss of lands by Native Americans without compensation. The Gold Rush with its influx of miners and settlers also created a struggle for land. The treaties remained unratified and “secret.” Lawyers and activists from the Northern California Indian Association (NCIA) and other groups campaigned for compensation, including sending petitions to Congress. Charles Kelsey, a lawyer and



Indian agent, helped map the location of every Indian group in the state and worked with both Senator Thomas Bard and an agent to locate the treaties at the Department of State. They were able to secure some compensation and homesteads. But the story provides a revealing look into the fate of Indian groups and treaties in the second half of the 19th century. See <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/>

What changes have you seen in recent years in the preference for or adaptation of original building materials in preservation work, and what is your involvement in that area?

Honestly, I haven't seen any changes. The challenges of historic preservation within an agency with limited infrastructure funds have remained consistent. Our building managers want to stretch dollars by using the cheapest and easiest products. For example, we often see requests to replace historic wood shingle roofs with standing seam metal roofs, which would adversely alter the color, texture, reflectivity and other characteristics. It's my job to help them understand that replacement of a building's historic fabric with incompatible materials would diminish its integrity and historic significance. If they are unable to use in-kind materials, I'll work with them to find acceptable substitute materials. Another challenge is to convince them to repair, rather than to replace, historic materials. Not only is it more costly, but it is difficult to find people with the skills to do so, especially since many of our historic buildings are in remote areas.

In your longtime service as chair of SHFG's committee for the Thomas Jefferson Prize (Documentary Editions and Research Tools), generally what publication standards do you emphasize?

After confirming that an entry meets the basic criteria, I try to evaluate its value as an “outstanding” work that contributes to our understanding of federal history. We want to recognize works of excellence, not just the best entry in the bunch. Over the past few years, we've seen an increasing number of electronic entries. We've developed criteria for those, but it can be challenging to evaluate electronic and printed entries against each other.

What advice would you give to students aspiring to work in federal history?

Be open to growth opportunities, even when they are not directly related to the history profession. Non-traditional experiences can broaden your knowledge, skills, and abilities that will supplement and round out your education. They can foster desirable skills and traits such as collaboration, listening, resilience, and flexibility, which will contribute to your success. ❖

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

Where Does an Agency's History Begin? The History Program of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Follows Functions

David McKinney

On March 1, 2003, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) was established in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). That day approximately 38,700 individuals who had once identified as employees of the Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) came together to consolidate border security functions within a single agency.

Six years later CBP named a chief historian and established a history program with two curators and a historic preservation officer to chronicle the history of CBP. For the history program, the question became where does CBP's history begin? Does it start on March 1, 2003, or with the passage of the Homeland Security Act in November 2002? Or, do we include the history of CBP's predecessors as the program's responsibility?

To explore this question, we worked with internal and external stakeholders: First with a history advisory group that also assisted with the standing up of the program, and subsequently, with informal conversations with internal and external audiences.

Their response was clear. CBP's history predates 2003 and the establishment of DHS. Their response came in part from a sense of loss from those who did not want to see their past identities swept away in the vast organizational changes that had occurred with the implementation of the Homeland Security Act of 2002. Individual offices felt the need to emphasize their relationship with their previous agencies as a means of maintaining a distinct identity within CBP. They were also reluctant to give up traditions and lore linked to their former agencies.

In addition, there was a real need within and without CBP to outline clear precedents for the roles and responsibilities that the agency now administered. The speed with which CBP was established meant that information and supporting documentation were not always transferred. Both DHS and CBP called upon the history program to help locate information. As we began to delve into these issues, the program found that we needed to foster a comprehensive knowledge not just of the functions of CBP's predecessors, but also of the broader history of the executive branch.

Tracing precedents meant outlining for our constituencies what programs and functions federal departments administered during a given period. Also, outlining how roles evolved required examining them in context of the issues of the day. For instance, expansion of the Border Patrol's role of immigration inspection to include smuggling interdiction resulted directly from the Treasury Department's responsibility for enforcing the Prohibition laws of the 1920s.

Even with the exhibition and programs that the history program instituted for the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and the subsequent establishment of CBP, our research required us to take a longer perspective. We examined the work of the Hart-Rudman Commission in the 1990s that forecast a terrorist attack on American soil, as well contributing factors that led to the attacks and how the federal response developed from crisis to recovery and ultimately to strategic re-visioning of national security.

These pursuits also brought some interesting anecdotal discoveries. When researching the role of Customs in the early regulation of the nascent radio industry, we found a second career for New York customs collector Dudley Field Malone. Malone was responsible for implementing President Woodrow Wilson's executive order for neutrality of the radio airwaves at the Port of New York during World War I. Later, he served as co-counsel under Clarence Darrow in the infamous "Scopes Monkey Trial" in 1925. (This was also the first trial to be broadcast via radio in the United States.)

Other anecdotal information became a basis for monthly postings to the CBP website (www.cbp.gov) for a series titled "Did you know?" Such postings brought comments to our program email address and gave us opportunities to correspond informally with our internal and external audiences. And in some cases, they led to securing items for our collections or additional information from individuals responding to our postings.

Other topics of research began to illustrate the evolution of the federal workforce from jobs secured through patronage to the development of the civil service. Tracing how Customs officials administered laws regulating impure drugs in the 19th century led to outlining the development of customs laboratories in the 20th century and the broader role of the CBP laboratories in homeland security in the 21st century. And a history of the job position of import specialist demonstrated the importance of unbiased administration of import laws to both the federal government and international trade.

This process has influenced how the history program communicates the ongoing narrative on the work of CBP. In early 2014, the program rethought its postings on the CBP website. Beginning in March, we replaced the monthly postings of "Did you know" anecdotes with brief articles that explored how CBP's current roles and responsibilities developed over time and across federal departments. Posted monthly under the broad category "History Leads to the Present," each article traces an agency function back to its origin and shows how it has developed into a



CBP Commissioner Alan Bersin, with former commissioners Ralph Basham and Robert Bonner, cuts the ribbon opening the CBP History Program's exhibition commemorating the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

current role for CBP. One posting looks at the types of documents that could be presented at ports of entry to enter the United States across time and how early attempts to standardize documents compared with the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative in 2009 that set standards for acceptable identification documents.

As we develop this series, we also hope to explore how elements like emerging technologies can be linked to the organizational innovations of the past. From the introduction of computerized watch lists terminals at ports of entry to the use of radio frequency identifiers in travel documents, such innovations have changed how CBP and its predecessors worked, but also how it developed closer collaboration with federal entities (e.g., FBI, DEA).

Throughout this process, we also hope to illustrate the continuity of the federal government through time and across reorganizations. It is not just 9/11 as the catalyst for the creation of CBP but also earlier events and incidents to come that illustrate how CBP's roles and responsibilities change.

As visible as the bureau or agency is, its function in administering the laws and regulations of the federal government has roots that are woven through American history. And perhaps as important, the ongoing history of CBP's function is the continuous narrative of how CBP serves the nation.

David McKinney is Chief Historian at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

CBP History Program

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20229

Chief Historian, David D. McKinney, Ph.D.

Staff Anne Saba, Historic Preservation Officer
Melanie Solomon, Curator

Summary of Office Activities

The CBP History Program was established in 2009 to chronicle the work of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The Program maintains collection of secondary sources (ephemera and convenience copies of records), photographs, and artifacts related to CBP, the former U.S. Customs Service, Border Patrol, agricultural inspection, and immigration inspectors. The program responds to queries related to CBP history and its predecessor agencies. The program also develops exhibitions for display in the lobby of CBP headquarters in the Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, DC. The program cooperates with other DHS history offices and works with other federal agency historians on issues relating to customs, border security, immigration, international trade, travel, human trafficking and other issues.

Recent Publications

Visit the website at www.cbp.gov for more information.

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DIGITAL HISTORY

USDA Celebrates Civil Rights Act Anniversary

The Department of Agriculture's video feature "Week in Review" is an appealing way to learn of activities and programs at the agency. The review for August 22, 2014, features a look at the agency's recent forum marking the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Former Freedom Riders joined to discuss that historic effort, including Rev. Reginald Green and Joan Mulholland, both interviewed in the video. See this review edition and past ones at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=thisweek>. The USDA's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights has also worked with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in displaying their traveling Freedom Riders exhibit at USDA's Whitten Building located in Washington, DC, through September 17, 2014. The very comprehensive exhibit explores the Freedom Rides through detailed narratives, photographs, and newspaper clippings. An online version of the exhibit, created as a companion to PBS's AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, is available at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/fr_exhibition.htm.

The online exhibit provides a detailed overview of the Freedom Rides from their start on May 4, 1961, through the imprisonment of hundreds of Riders at Parchman Prison, to the ICC's Sept. 22 ruling against segregation on interstate transportation. The story is told through dramatic narratives and images, news headlines, and select oral testimonies that include those of Freedom Rider coordinator Diane Nash; John Lewis; Frank Thomas on the violence in Anniston, Alabama; John Seigenthaler on Birmingham, Alabama; John Lewis and James Zwerg on the violence in Montgomery; James Lawson on the ride from to Montgomery Jackson; Hank Thomas and Jane Mulholland on their stay at Parchman Prison; and Bernard Lafayette.



FOIA MATTERS

Historians have a representative on the new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Advisory Committee, mandated in the second U.S. Open Government National Action Plan with studying FOIA across the government and advising on ways to improve FOIA administration. Archivist of the United States David Ferriero appointed Lee White, Executive Director of the National Coalition for History (NCH), as one of 10 members from outside the government. The other 10 members are from inside the government.

NCH is a nonprofit consortium of more than 50 organizations, including the Society for History in the Federal Government. NCH advocates on federal legislative and regulatory issues affecting historians, archivists, educators, students, researchers, political scientists, and other stakeholders. White's experience includes testifying before Congress on National Archives programs and collaborating with the open government community in working with federal agencies to reduce over-classification of government records, increase public access to unclassified records, speed the declassification process, and establish standards for the preservation and retrieval of federal and presidential electronic records.

White, a lawyer with 30-plus years of experience both inside and outside the government, has a law degree from The Catholic University of America and a master's degree in history from George Mason University.

The FOIA Advisory Committee is administered through the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) and is chaired by OGIS Director Miriam Nisbet. The committee next meets on October 21. Its meetings are open to the public. To learn more, visit <https://ogis.archives.gov/foia-advisory-committee.htm>.

OGIS

Office of Government Information Services

Need FOIA assistance? The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) is here to help. Created by Congress in 2007 as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and housed at the National Archives, OGIS serves as a neutral party within the federal government to which anyone—requester or agency—can contact for assistance with any aspect of the FOIA process. Contact *OGIS* at ogis@nara.gov or 202-741-5770.

A Timeline of Federal History



The National Security Act of 1947

The National Security Act of 1947 mandated a major reorganization of the foreign policy and military establishments of the U.S. government. The act created many of the institutions that presidents found useful when formulating and implementing foreign policy, including the National Security Council (NSC).

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.

President Truman signing National Security Act amendments in 1949. (Truman Library)

Making History

Army Historical Foundation

The summer 2014 issue of *On Point: The Journal of Army History* is available. Articles include "Company A, U.S. Engineer Battalion, at the Crossing of the James River," by Donald McConnell and Gustav Person; "Hand Grenades," by Vince Hawkins; "Lieutenant Colonel Reuben Abramovitz," by Melissa Ziobro; "The 2d Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne)," by David A. Kaufman; "U.S. Army Women's Museum, Fort Lee, Virginia," by Emily George; "World War I Letters Home from an Army Lawyer in France," by Fred L. Borch and Jennifer L. Crawford; and "Fort Garland, Colorado," by Lieutenant Colonel Clayton R. Newell.

Center for Cryptologic History

The Center for Cryptologic History invites proposals for papers to be delivered at the Center's biennial Symposium on Cryptologic History, which will take place October 22–23, 2015. The Symposium will be held at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory's Kossiakoff Center in Laurel, Maryland. Following the Symposium, on Saturday, October 24, participants will be given an opportunity to tour the National Cryptologic Museum and participate in a workshop on sources for research in cryptologic history. The theme for the 2015 Symposium will be "A Century of Cryptology." As we mark the centenary years of World War I (1914–1918), when so many significant advancements occurred in the field of cryptology, we will also examine the impact cryptologists made throughout the 20th century, especially during such periods as World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the War in Vietnam, and the post-Cold War era. The symposium will also include panels that look at the foundations

of cryptology before the "Great War." Please submit your proposal by Monday, February 2, 2015, to Program Chair Betsy Rohaly Smoot at ersmoot@nsa.gov or to her care at The Center for Cryptologic History, Suite 6886, 9800 Savage Road, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755.

Department of the Interior Museum

The Museum is hosting the "See America" traveling exhibition through October 18, 2014. It features 50 posters by 46 different artists depicting natural, cultural, and historical sites across the United States. The posters are part of a growing online collection of more than 600 images submitted to the Creative Action Network by more than 185 artists worldwide. It is presented by the Creative Action Network and the National Parks Conservation Association. Inspired by artwork created for the United States Travel Bureau by New Deal-era artists in the late 1930s, the contemporary "See America" series reimagines the theme for a 21st-century audience. The set encourages tourism and invites viewers to appreciate and reconnect with America's treasures. The exhibit features images representing sites in 37 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washington, DC—from scenic rivers and national parks to historic trails and state forests. Visitors will also see travel ephemera from the 1930s and 1940s, plus travel guides produced by the Federal Writers Project in the same time period. The film "Artists at Work" (1981) will be shown; it was the first to focus on the visual art programs of the New Deal and includes interviews with 10 original New Deal artists.

"From Sunken Ships to Submerged Paleolandscapes." On December 3 Archaeologists William Hoffman and Brandi Carrier

from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs will discuss the historic preservation program and highlight recent offshore research into shipwrecks and pre-contact archaeological sites in the Atlantic Ocean. Rachel Carson Room. Call for information: 202-208-4743

Department of State

The Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State, announces the preview edition of “Views From the Embassy: The Role of U.S. Diplomats in France, 1914,” on the Office of the Historian website (<http://history.state.gov/department/history/wwi>). The study revives a fascinating account of how actions spearheaded by U.S. diplomats strengthened Franco-American relations in unique ways, and complements U.S. Embassy France’s WW1 website (<http://france.usembassy.gov/ww1centenary.html>). Please help us spread words of these resources to your colleagues, students, and networks. Many thanks!

History Associates Inc.

History Associates was pleased to be on hand at the reopening of the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on May 12, 2014. The firm, in collaboration with Goolrick Interpretive Group, located images and wrote the scripts for new exhibits at the Monument. The National Park Service and the Trust for the National Mall hosted the reopening ceremony at the Monument on May 12. Members of the design team, including historians from History Associates, attended.

Along with the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) and design firm Gallagher & Associates, History Associates also celebrated the opening and dedication of two new visitor centers at World War II military cemeteries. The Cambridge American Cemetery Visitor Center in Cambridge, England, and the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery Visitor Center in Nettuno, Italy, were dedicated on Memorial Day, May 26, 2014. History Associates was responsible for developing the content for the new exhibits, which were created to help visitors understand the historical context of the commemorative sites and to provide a personal connection to the soldiers buried there.

National Archives and Records Administration

The Homestead files for Nebraska have been digitized and are available for research. The project to prepare and scan the

over 77,000 files, containing 1.6 million digital images, took nearly 10 years through a partnership between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Family Search, Fold3.com, Ancestry.com, the National Archives and Records Administration, and Homestead National Monument of America. Researchers can view the files for free at Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, at National Archives facilities nationwide, UNL libraries, and Family History Centers, as well as for a fee on Fold3.com or Ancestry.com. Projects for Homestead records from other states are in progress. The National Archives holds the surviving files from 30 states.

The Carter Library has released 42,454 documents (168,926 pages) from the Carter administration records. The documents relate primarily to foreign affairs. For information: 404-865-7100.

The Clinton Library has released additional documents under the Presidential Records Act. Release 6, dated July 18, 2014, contains, for example, “Communications between Anthony Lake and President Clinton re: Haiti 7/1/94–9/24/94”; “White House Communication with Congress re: Health Care Task Force”; “President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB)”; and “Osama bin Laden”; among other files. For full listing: <http://www.clintonlibrary.gov/previoustyrestricteddocs.html>

In honor of the 40th anniversary of President Ford’s swearing-in, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum added the National Security Adviser’s Presidential Transition File to the Digital Library. This one box collection contains messages notifying world leaders of the Nixon-Ford presidential transition, talking points for President Ford’s first meetings with foreign ambassadors, and substantive State Department briefing papers summarizing US foreign policy on the eve of the Ford administration.

National Institutes of Health

Original ink-on-paper drawings by Spanish physician and scientist Santiago Ramón y Cajal will be on exhibit at NIH beginning in early November. Awarded the Nobel Prize in 1906 for illuminating the intimate relationship between neuron cell structure and function, Cajal posited that the nervous system was made of individual cells (later termed “neurons”), that these cells are connected to each other by small contact zones (later termed “synapses”), and that a single nerve cell is comprised of three

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

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anatomically different structures: the cell body, the axis cylinder, and “dendritic arborizations.” He further maintained that these cells function as information processing units that use electrical impulses to communicate across functional networks. Cajal’s “neuron doctrine” is considered to be the beginning of modern neurobiology. A selection of his exceedingly precise drawings will be on loan to the NIH’s Stetten Museum of Medical Research for a period of six months, courtesy of the Cajal Institute, the Spanish Research Council’s Center of Neurobiology (Madrid). More details will be shared with the NIH community as soon as they become available.

National Museum of the American Indian

The exhibit “For a Love of His People: The Photography of Horace Poolaw” will be featured from August 09, 2014, through February 15, 2015, at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in New York, located at One Bowling Green in New York City, across from Battery Park. The exhibition includes 81 photographs; 10 vintage postcards; and Poolaw’s camera, the Speed Graphic, manufactured by Graflex in the 1940s. The black-and-white images document Native people of rural Oklahoma through the themes of portraiture, community, family, military, and performance. The accompanying exhibition catalog, *For a Love of His People: The Photography of Horace Poolaw*, edited by Mithlo, features 16 essays from scholars, photographers, and family members, sharing stories of Poolaw’s life and interpreting the significance of his photographic legacy. For more details and images: <http://nmai.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/item/839/>

Treaties will be on display in the exhibit “Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations,” from September 21, 2014, through September 1, 2018, the NMAI in Washington, DC. The exhibit chronicles the work of influential Native diplomats and leaders of Indian Nations in U.S.–American Indian diplomacy from the colonial period through the present. Visit <http://nmai.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/item/744/>

National Museum of Health and Medicine

“Meeting Challenges through Innovation,” On Oct. 25 and Nov. 22, take a free, docent-led introductory tour that highlights the remarkable changes in American medicine over the past 150 years. Civil War Medicine—on Nov. 8 and Dec. 13, take a free, docent-led introductory tour highlighting the NMHM’s remarkable exhibit on the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

National Preservation Institute

The Institute, a nonprofit organization, has released its schedule of classes for the period August 2014–May 2015. Classes include “The Recent Past: Identification and Evaluation of

Mid-20th-Century Resources,” “Native American Cultural Property Law,” “Conflict Management and Negotiation Skills for Cultural and Natural Resource Managers,” and “Section 106: An Introduction.” Classes are taught at locations nationwide. For course descriptions and registration, visit www.npi.org.

Organization of American Historians

The OAH is accepting submissions for the Richard W. Leopold Prize. Submission Deadline: October 1, 2015. The Richard W. Leopold Prize is given biennially by the Organization of American Historians to the author or editor of the best book on foreign policy, military affairs, historical activities of the federal government, documentary histories, or biography written by a U.S. government historian or federal contract historian. These subjects cover the concerns and the historical fields of activity of the late Professor Leopold, who was president of the OAH 1976–1977. The prize was designed to improve contacts and interrelationships within the historical profession where an increasing number of history-trained scholars hold distinguished positions in governmental agencies. The prize recognizes the significant historical work being done by historians outside academe.

Each entry must be published during the two-year period January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2015. The award will be presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the OAH in Providence, Rhode Island, April 7–10. Verification of current or past employment with the U.S. government must be included with each entry. For submission details: <http://www.oah.org/programs/awards/richard-w-leopold-prize/>

U.S. Army Center of Military History

The Center of Military History has published *The Regular Army Before the Civil War, 1845–1860*, by Clayton R. Newell. The volume is part of the U.S. Army Campaigns of the Civil War series. This short study covers the 15 years preceding the outbreak of the Civil War, to include the Mexican War; conflicts with Indian tribes; and exploration and governance of the vast American West. It was during this time that many young officers, who would later become senior civilian and military leaders on both sides during the Civil War, got their first taste of action. To check GPO prices and availability, go to GPO’s Online Bookstore at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>, or call 202-512-1800 or toll-free 1-866-512-1800.

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The FEDERALIST

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Federalist Calendar

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

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

Mar. 5–8, 2015. Southern Labor Studies Association Conference. University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, and Washington, DC. Visit <http://southernlaborstudies.org/2014/04/07/call-for-papers-slsa-conference-in-dc-march-5-8-2015/>

Mar. 24–28, 2015. The Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA). 75th Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. Visit: www.sfaa.net/annual-meeting/

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/>

Apr. 24–25, 2015. The Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG). “Across the Great Divide: Historical Research in a Digital World.” Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, Shepherdstown, WV. Visit <http://shfg.org/shfg/events/annual-meeting/>

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>

Oct. 22–23, 2015. Center for Cryptologic History. “A Century of Cryptology.” Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory’s Kossiakoff Center in Laurel, Maryland. Call for Papers: Program Chair Betsy Rohaly Smoot at ersmoot@nsa.gov

Additional listings at <http://shfg.org/shfg/category/calendar/>