The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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HEWLETT LECTURE

October 22 *Register Now!*

This year's Richard G. Hewlett Lecture has special significance with the recent passing of Dr. Hewlett, who delivered the event's first lecture in 1980 and for whom the honorary lecture is named. We remind ourselves that the annual lecture is an opportunity to hear from historians about their work and the state of federal history, as well as a special venue for renewing friendships across the wide range of federal history offices. This year's Hewlett Lecture will take place at the Woodrow Wilson Center. Watch for details and registration information through the e-Bulletin and online at *http://shfg.org/shfg/events/hewlett-lecture/*

In Memoriam
Richard G. Hewlett

Richard G. Hewlett passed away on September 1, 2015, at the age of 92. Originally from Toledo, Ohio, he lived in the Washington area for 64 years. He served in the Army Air Force as an electronics-weather specialist in China during WWII. He then earned a Ph.D. in history the University of Chicago. He served

*See **"Hewlett"** cont'd on page 3*

Writing Comparative History: A Transatlantic Partnership

John C. Lonnquest and Matthew T. Pearcy

Project Origins

In May 2004, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its Dutch counterpart, the Rijkswaterstaat, signed a memorandum of agreement to promote bilateral collaboration in research, development, testing, and evaluation—all directed at leveraging centuries of expertise and improving the management of water resources in both countries. To facilitate those exchanges, the two agencies determined to commission a comparative history to explore the geographical, cultural, political, and technical factors that shaped water resource management problems and policies in the United States and the Netherlands. But designing a comparative history was not an easy task. Although the Rijkswaterstaat and the Corps of Engineers track back to roughly the same period (1798 vs. 1802) and perform many of the same functions, the scope of their responsibilities, the environments in which they operate, and the political systems in which they work are decidedly different.

The structure of the book took shape at a two-day meeting of historians and water resources professionals held in The Hague in 2005. In attendance were a dozen gifted academicians and experienced practitioners who arrived with plenty of ideas and opinions on the history of these agencies. What followed was a pragmatic, wide-ranging discussion of the themes that shaped the two countries and their relationships with the water. The first challenge lay mainly in agreeing on a common exploratory methodology so that Dutch and American historians could write a comparative history. The historians ultimately decided on a two-hundred-plus-year history divided into roughly fifty-year increments, and, with three U.S. and six Dutch historians on board, the work began in earnest. Despite many obstacles and long delays, by 2010 much of the writing was done, but there had been little coordination between the two sets of historians. The next several years were consumed by efforts to weave the chapters together into a coherent narrative and write a joint introduction and conclusion. By 2013 the manuscript was largely complete and the general narrative in place. The USACE Office of History managed the layout, design, and publication process in conjunction with the Government Printing Office and, ultimately, a private printer.

North Holland Canal, completed in 1824

Comparative History

The strength of the manuscript was the book's framework, alternating Dutch and U.S. chapters that examined many of the same subjects, which made this a truly comparative history. In many cases the Dutch and American water management experiences were strikingly similar.

1800 to 1850

In the first phase, roughly between 1800 and 1850, both the Dutch and U.S. governments

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INSIDE

The FEDERALIST
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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.

Current and back issues are available to members at *http://shfg.wildapricot.org/*. Content listings for all issues are posted at *http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/the federalist/*

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 Terrance Rucker

Welcome to the fall issue of *The Federalist*! I hope that all of you have enjoyed a restful summer. As we move into the cooler months of the year, the Society is breathing new life into its outreach activities. One of the core missions for the Executive Council is to enable members to meet at smaller gatherings such as happy hours and group tours. This focus is directly inspired by members who approached Executive Council members with a variety of ideas.

One of the benefits of being a Society member is the group's access to government facilities that many do not get to see. Our first activity for the fall was a visit to the CIA's headquarters in Langley, Virginia. In early September, a small group of members enjoyed an exclusive tour of this dynamic facility. Please make sure to sign up for the e-Bulletin at *http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/shfg-e-bulletin/* so that you can sign up for future events. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at *shfg.president@gmail.com* or Vice President Kristina Giannotta at *shfg.vicepresident@gmail.com.*

Please mark your calendars for the 36th annual Richard G. Hewlett Lecture on October 22. This year's lecture will have special meaning in light of the passing of its namesake, Richard G. Hewlett, on September 1, 2015. As one of the founding members of SHFG, Hewlett served with distinction as the first historian of the Atomic Energy Commission and its successor agencies from 1957 to 1980. A tireless advocate for federal history, Hewlett helped to establish historical offices in several agencies, enhance their professional credentials, and foster an active community of federal historians. Our theme for this year is a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Immigration Act of 1965. We've also tweaked the format based on your feedback. A number of members asked for more time to chat with colleagues prior to the lecture. As a result, this year's Hewlett Lecture will feature an assortment of heavy appetizers and drinks. We'll also feature a number of prominent speakers in a roundtable discussion with Q & A from the audience. The Hewlett Lecture will take place at the Woodrow Wilson Center in downtown Washington, DC. Please visit the SHFG website for registration information. We look forward to seeing you there.

I also have great news about the 2016 joint conference between the Society and the National Council on Public History (NCPH) in Baltimore, MD. The program committee has received a large number of paper and panel proposals from scholars inside and outside of the federal history community. As a result, the committee is compiling an exciting program of panels and workshops for our members. Please check the SHFG website for more information about this exciting conference.

We'll send information about the December holiday party via the website and the e-Bulletin. Of course, we can't do any of this without your support. Please contact me if you have questions, comments, or ideas. You can also speak with me in person at any of our events or at the monthly happy hours at Vapiano's.

Thank you for your continued support of the Society, and I hope to see you at some of our fall events.

National History Day 2015

SHFG is once again proud to have sponsored an award at this year's National History Day held on June 18, 2015. SHFG President Terrance Rucker presented the award in the category of Individual Website to Kim Le of Mt. St. Charles Academy in Woonsocket, RI. Her website is titled "Alexander Hamilton: Financial Founder."

Editor's Note

This year's annual Hewlett Lecture takes on special significance with the passing of Richard G. Hewlett, a central figure in the founding of the SHFG. Hewlett was not only a respected federal historian, but one who recognized the historical moment in the late 1970s as a critical time to assert, protect, and advance the unique value of federal historians. Remembering his leadership and contributions inspires us to carry on the work of our organization. In this issue, **John Lonnquest** and **Matthew Pearcy** describe the challenges of producing an international history of water conservation with its Dutch counterpart. **Nate Jones** provides insights and recommendations on declassification work based on his investigations and experiences at the National Security Archive. I thank **Don Carter**, historian at the Center of Military History, for his interview, which focused on his work on the U.S. Army in postwar Germany. His recent book explores that critical era in great depth, and I recommend it. **Gregory Martin** of the Naval History and Heritage Command reminds us that the work of federal historians is unique and "purpose-driven," and that to protect its integrity we can improve how we think about and organize history programs. **Christopher Warren** provides us with a clear and detailed look at the work of the new history office at Arlington National Cemetery. That program's organization provides insights into the clear-sightedness and discipline involved in conceiving of and structuring a new program. Other stories provide news about events, programs, and records that we hope you will find useful. As always, these stories show that federal history workers are not only highly talented in producing exceptional historical work, but are ever vigilant about promoting and protecting the value that history brings to their agencies and the public. Please send news and information to me at *benjamin.guterman@shfg.org*

Blogs at *www.shfg.org*

- *Exhibitions—The Garment Industry Goes to Court:* An Exhibit at the National Archives at Kansas City. *http://shfg.org/shfg/federal-history-work/exhibitions-3/*
- *Declassification*—The NDC's Forum on Declassification. *http://shfg.org/shfg/federal-history-work/declassification/*
- *Holocaust*—The Liberation of Ebensee Concentration Camp 70 Years Ago. *www.shfg.org/shfg/federal-history-work/military-history-2*
- *Policy Making*—Bringing History to Policy Making. *http://shfg.org/shfg/federal-history-work/historical-interpretation-2/*

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

SHFG's e-Bulletin

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The bulletin is a service to SHFG members.

Federal History Needs YOU!

The SHFG's scholarly journal seeks articles from members of the Society. By drawing upon the tremendous talent pool in our own federal community, we can enhance the journal's contribution to understanding of the role and impact of the federal government on the nation and the world. *Federal History,* published once a year online and in hardcopy, is a peer-reviewed, widely circulated journal that is becoming more and more recognized as a major voice in the historical community and a source of valuable historical understanding. As a relatively new journal, however, it is not easy to attract top talent from academe and the public history sector. Your contributions can support the journal and enhance its quality. In turn, you can benefit from the opportunity to be published and from the satisfaction of contributing to your Society. Please seriously consider publishing in *Federal History.* Copy for the April 2016 issue is now being accepted. Send manuscripts and abstracts to *editor-shfg-journal@shfg.org*

"Hewlett" *from page 1*

as chief historian of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and its successor agencies from 1957 to 1980, co-authoring a 3-volume Atomic Energy Commission history and a history of the Nuclear Navy that remain important resources today. As a federal historian he recognized the importance of organizing public historians to promote the effectiveness of their work, and was instrumental in the founding of the National Council on Public History. In the late 1970s he led the AHA's Federal Resource group and the National Coordinating Council in efforts to improve the federal employment standards of the 171 historian series. Hewlett was centrally involved in the creation of the Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG). He helped organize meetings of a small group of federal historians who met informally several times at the Department of Energy, encouraging younger members to become involved. The group soon organized as the SHFG. To further that community, he led the push for a federal directory of historians, championed the creation of more federal history offices, and drafted an influential set of "Principles and Standards" that was adopted over other proposed standards. He early on urged the independence of the National Archives. At the first SHFG dinner and lecture in 1980, Richard Hewlett spoke about his 25-year career as a federal historian. In honor of his distinguished service to the cause of federal history, this annual lecture bears his name. Hewlett left the federal government in 1980 to become a historical consultant, helping to form History Associates Inc.

"Transatlantic" *continued from page 1*

played a fairly limited role in development of water resources infrastructure. The Bureau of the Waterstaat, the predecessor organization to the Rijkswaterstaat, was founded in 1798, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers four years later. Although both governments were somewhat supportive of infrastructure improvements, budgetary constraints and the absence of a political consensus prevented the development of national water resources policies in either country.

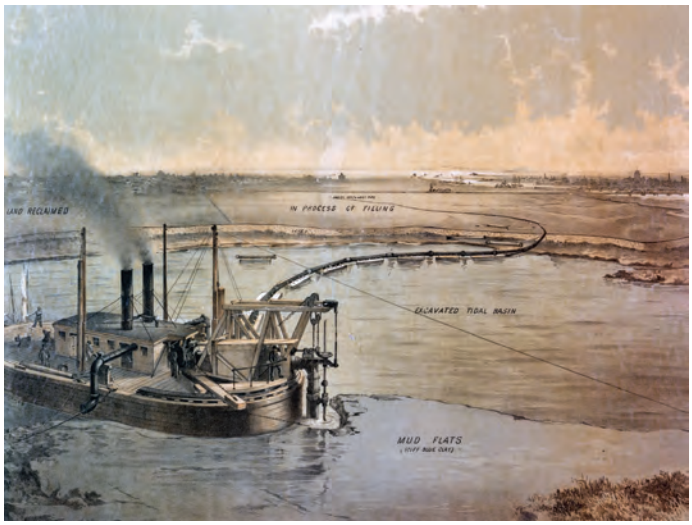
1850 to 1900

The pace of change on both sides of the Atlantic accelerated in the second half of the 19th century. In the Netherlands, the percentage of the national budget set aside for water management and infrastructure skyrocketed from 5 percent in 1850 to 20 percent in the mid-1880s. The first hydrodynamic modeling was conducted in French, German, and British laboratories in the 1870s and 1880s. Similar changes were taking place in the United States. In the aftermath of the American Civil War, which ended in 1865, the federal government took on new and expansive powers, and the nation now looked to the government, and to the Corps of Engineers, to direct the development of the nation's waterways. Through a series of territorial expansions during the 19th century (Texas, Mexican Cession, Oregon Territory) the United States came to dominate the continent, and by mid-century stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific. All of these lands had to be explored and the coasts mapped. That task fell to the Corps of Engineers and its sister organization, the Army Corps of Topographical Engineers (merged with USACE in 1863). In addition, this was also a time of explosive economic growth, and American planners saw developing the nation's waterways as a key ingredient to expanding trade and the tax revenue it generated. During the second half of the 19th century, the Corps of Engineers' workload expanded by almost 300 percent. Finally, this period saw the transition of the Corps of Engineers from a construction organization to one that was also called upon to operate the works that it built. Doing so required establishing regional offices and hiring permanent staff.

1900 to 1970

The pace of social, economic, and technological change continued to accelerate in the 20th century. In the Netherlands, the period from 1900 to 1970 was an era of generous budgets, and engineers were given latitude in defining and solving many of the nation's most difficult water management issues. The expansion of river and coastal projects during this period, notably the Zuiderzee and Delta Works projects, was a reflection of the new scope of Dutch water management policy. Armed with new science-based tools, Dutch engineers developed sophisticated multifunctional water system approaches, estuary closure concepts, and a new flood risk safety philosophy that emerged out of the devastating 1953 flood. In response to the ever-changing cycle of calamity and response, the Dutch government launched the ambitious Delta Project, a massive flood control effort that encompassed the closure of a number of large estuaries.

Sweeping economic and social changes were taking place in the United States during this period. Rapid economic growth continued during the first half of the 20th century as did the frenetic pace of industrialization. One emerging Progressive



Cutterhead dredge at work in Oakland Harbor, 1884

concept was that of multipurpose river development—notably, that river basins should be developed to support related needs, including irrigation, flood control, hydropower, and urban water supply. In 1917 Congress recognized that flood control was a federal responsibility and mandated that local governments share in the cost of flood control measures. The massive Mississippi River floods of 1927 that inundated huge swaths of the river basin and displaced hundreds of thousands of people prompted new action on flood control. Federal funding led to large-scale construction programs that continued through the 1960s, and by 1970 the Corps had completed 400 large reservoirs along American rivers. While helping to usher in a new era of economic prosperity after the depression of the 1930s, those structures, some of which subsumed natural-flowing rivers and valuable wildlife habitat, brought increasing objections from environmentalists.

1970 to 2014

Three factors shaped modern Dutch water management policy during the period from 1970 to 2014: increased environmental awareness; a renewed focus on flood risk management; and the Europeanization of Dutch water management policy. The country's new sense of environmental activism, coupled with the passage of a new water pollution control act, placed new scrutiny on the Rijkswaterstaat. Also, the movement toward integrated water resources management came about because of the new focus on environmental concerns. The near floods of the early and mid-1990s put additional emphasis on flood risk management that resulted in the formulation of new safety standards.

U.S. water resources planners during this era were buffeted by many of the same changes their Dutch counterparts encountered. A succession of presidents saw the massive public works projects as wasteful and wanted more state and local financial support. A groundswell of environmental opposition began in the late 1950s and culminated in a flurry of wide-ranging environmental legislation in the 1970s. These laws required that federal entities consider the environmental impact of any project and dramatically expanded the Corps' regulatory and environmental restoration responsibilities.

Project Summary

After nearly a decade in the making, *Two Centuries of Experience in Water Resources Management: A Dutch–U.S. Retrospective*, was released by the two governments in November 2014. A wide-ranging synthesis of Dutch and American experience, the book has been well received on both sides of the Atlantic. But the final product required more than careful research and graceful prose. Working diligently to weave together two parallel narratives, the historians and editors sought to provide balanced and insightful historical coverage, giving Dutch and American readers sufficient information to explain key geographic, social, and political background without distracting from the narrative.

But in looking back, it is clear that writing comparative history, especially one involving multiple historians and government agencies, provided a host of challenges. Coordination—in this case managing a project that encompassed nine historians, four editors, several project managers, and two governments—proved difficult. For example, the manuscript had to be reviewed at multiple levels in the Dutch and U.S. governments, a process that often took months. If changes were required, they had to be vetted by Dutch and American historians and then undergo a second round of government review. Moreover, the authors found that recent history, that is the evolution of water management policy since 1950, attracted special scrutiny. Those sections, the participants came to learn, were not only seen as history, but were also viewed by some in the Dutch and American governments as policy statements.

John Lonnquest and Matt Pearcy, both historians at the Office of History, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in Alexandria, Virginia, were heavily involved in the publication of the Dutch-U.S. history. John edited the volume, and Matt wrote one of the U.S. chapters.

The Business of History

Gregory J. Martin

Federal history programs seem to be perpetually defending their value to the institutions they serve. In his 2012 Roger R.Trask Lecture, Raymond Smock observed that "It seems as though it takes a severe crisis before historians are recognized for what they can contribute to pressing needs of government."[1] In this year's Trask Lecture, Victoria Harden encouraged society members to "press their relevancy and become advocates."[2] The agencies that history programs serve may at times recognize history office contributions, but more often, these programs are scrutinized as the first place to look for reductions in operating budgets and staff. Why is this? We can read extensively about the failure of policy planners and decision makers to learn from and effectively use information and knowledge from past decisions and events. Yet, there seems to be a considerable gap between the notional value of historical knowledge and the practical value perceived by agency resource managers and executives who determine the fate of history programs. Why aren't the professional practices and analytical methods of historians and other history professionals respected as fully as other practices and methods? Perhaps how we argue for the value of our skills and the words we use to describe our contribution to the operations of our agencies need to change.

While extensive economic, technological, political, and operational analysis often goes into major government decisions, analysis informed by the right historic context is often missing, overlooked, or intentionally ignored. The business practices of government agencies primarily focus on the objective, data-driven decision processes taught in MBA programs because they seem to provide clearer, more concise choices for executives. The right historical context will often add complexity, nuance, and contingency, which often blurs the perceived precision of the business case. And therein lies their value; the right historical analysis helps challenge assumptions that fail the test of past experience. They help clarify what is known, unclear, and presumed.[3] Historical analysis moves staffers, managers, and executive decision makers from a singular focus on the immediate problem, to examining a problem in a larger flow of linked events that may have escaped the first pass of business analysis.[4] So then, what is the right analytical approach? Executives need both the "business" and the "historical" case.

Gregory Martin

"Without this new approach to treating history programs as you might a business, history professionals and resource managers will continue to talk past each other."

We seem to be missing a paradigm that defines and shapes government history programs in support of their agencies. Government history offices need an operating paradigm that optimizes the strengths of business and history by integrating their professional practices and analytical methods so as to create a multiplier effect (the whole is greater than the sum of the parts). At the same time, a new paradigm could foster better communication and shared understanding between history programs and the rest of the institution they support. Without this new approach to treating history programs as you might a business, history professionals and resource managers will continue to talk past each other. Perhaps most importantly, a new paradigm could reconceive a collective role for history professionals who practice in government. In other words, it is not just about historians. Other history professionals like archivists, librarians, curators, and archaeologists need to be included in the new paradigm.

To reflect these needs, I propose a new operational paradigm that co-opts extensive business research in organizational learning and knowledge management that already demonstrates the critical value of historical knowledge to any organization. Organizational learning cannot take place without dedicated efforts to capture

historical information and create new historical knowledge. Effective use of historical knowledge enables institutional adaptation to new challenges. At the same time, this new paradigm demands that history programs adopt professional business practices to instill discipline and rigor in how they function. It is time that managers and practitioners in history programs acknowledge that they are in the business of history.

The business of history paradigm operates externally and internally within a history office. Externally, four organizational management concepts inform and guide how a history office interacts with its agency. Internally, the paradigm employs a framework of eight business-practice-based building blocks that progressively help define, organize, and operate a history office. Over time and with proficiency, history programs will develop into what can be called historical knowledge enterprises, an essential node in the larger planning, decision-making, and communication network of an agency.[5]

The business of history paradigm shapes a history office's interaction with its agency through the following four concepts. First, complex adaptive systems like a government agency need to retain and recycle knowledge in all forms to function and evolve. Second, embedded within a government agency is a requirement to learn, or construct knowledge, otherwise the ability to adapt is compromised, and over time the agency will fail. Third, risk management within a government agency is about having enough information to choose correctly to balance risk, and optimize gain over loss. And fourth, without the ability to store and retrieve knowledge through mechanisms that enable long-term institutional memory, an agency will incur the high cost, and added risk, of perpetual re-learning. Therefore, collecting, storing, organizing, accessing, creating, integrating, and delivering historical knowledge within a government agency are historical knowledge management (HKM) functions. When it comes to HKM, a special historical knowledge enterprise of history professionals within an agency is the most effective means to perform these inherently governmental functions.

Assuming other agency personnel can effectively absorb these functions is not based on evidence or experience. The work just doesn't get done. Reliance on outside, contract-based professionals is an option, but runs up against limits on what is an inherently governmental function. Further, it cedes critical knowledge and expertise to a commercial interest, as well as contractual leverage over time when it comes to negotiating contracts. Government history offices and historical repositories are essential to the function of good government. As history professionals, we need to deploy an increasing body of research and analysis to bolster our arguments that a dedicated history office is actually good business practice.

Internally, history program professionals, especially those in supervisory or management positions, need to adopt the following framework of eight building-blocks that any business enterprise, from start-ups to multinationals, continually employ. This framework presents questions about your program's purpose, operations, and organization. First, questions about customers: Who are they, what are their needs, and in what priority are they served? Next comes defining your lines of business: What are the core activities needed to serve your customers? Then, given your customers and lines of business, you need to plan your products and services: What discrete goods (e.g., books, white papers) and services (e.g., research, reference) will you deliver within the designated lines of business to serve customers? Next are requirements that are embedded in agency programs your office manages or directly supports: What are the statutory or agency-directed responsibilities of your history program that are found in explicit directives that the office is required to carry out? Only now are you ready to begin to define your program's organization: How does the history program align people to its lines of business and programs? At the same time you consider your organization, you also need to consider the processes and systems your organization will employ: Which ones are needed to develop and deliver the program's products and services? What back-office support processes are needed? Looking outside the history program, are there existing or potential partner relationships: Who are potential partners outside the history program office that can extend the program's capabilities and capacity to create and deliver products and services? And finally, superimposed over the staff organization is an intellectual/tacit knowledge organization in the form of fields of study: How do you decide on what historical subject matter expertise your office needs to acquire and deploy in its daily business? How do they connect with the government agency you serve? Answering these questions will provide a level of clarity to a program's ends, ways, and means that will greatly aid its structure and management. Resource managers will also appreciate this clarity and better understand your program: what it creates, why, and for whom.

Government history professionals have to be "a breed apart" from their academic and other public history counterparts. Many of the attributes and aspirations necessary to succeed in the university environment do not translate well in service of a government institution. Collaboration is often essential to success in government settings. We need trans-disciplinary teams that mutually reinforce team member contributions. Historical research and analysis is directly tied to issues in the present, and mitigating the risks that "presentism" can create must be understood and transcended. Government research, analysis, publication (read scholarship) comes in many forms and has many audiences. The analysis and support government history professionals provide is purpose-driven; it enables effective decision making, in some cases at the highest levels of government. When we advocate on behalf of our profession, we can simply state: We are in the serious business of history.

Gregory J. Martin is the Assistant Director for History and Archives at the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington, DC. Email: gregory.j.martin4@navy.mil

Notes

[1] Smock, Raymond. "The Value of Federal History." *Federal History* 6 (2014): 4.

[2] "Victoria Harden Receives Trask Award." *The Federalist* 2nd ser. 46 (2015): 4.

[3] Neustadt, Richard E. and Ernest R. May. *Thinking in Time: The Uses of History for Decision Makers*. New York: The Free Press, Simon & Schuster Inc., 1986: 273.

[4] Ibid., 274.

[5] See Ahlberg, Kristin L. "Building a Model Public History Program: The Office of the Historian at the U.S. Department of State." *The Public Historian* 30, no. 2 (2008): 9–28, for an example of how several of the elements of this paradigm were put to use in rebuilding the State Department history office.

History Office Profile

The Arlington National Cemetery History Office

Christopher A. Warren

On May 24, 1861, just a few hours after the Commonwealth of Virginia ratified an ordinance of secession thus joining the Confederate States of America, over 3,500 U.S. Army soldiers streamed across the Potomac River into northern Virginia and captured Arlington Plantation, the 1,100-acre home of Mary Custis and Robert E. Lee. Although many believed the occupation of the estate was an intentional insult towards the Lee family, in reality the confiscation of the property was a military necessity. Arlington House, located on Arlington Heights, the high ground overlooking Washington, DC, posed a tempting target for Confederate forces. Mid-19th-century vintage artillery, situated on this elevated terrain, could easily range every federal building in the city, including the White House and Capitol. Throughout the war, federal troops used the land as a camp and headquarters with three forts constructed and incorporated into the defenses of Washington, DC.

It was not until 1864, when the increasing number of battle fatalities was outpacing the burial capacity of Washington, DC–based cemeteries that 200 acres of Arlington plantation were set aside as a cemetery. The first military burial took place on May 13, 1864, for Pvt. William Christman of Pennsylvania. On June 15, the War Department officially designated this burial space a national cemetery, thus creating Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). By the end of the war, burials included over 5,000 service members, African-American freedmen, and former slaves. Since 1861, the United States Army has been the caretaker of the ground surrounding Arlington House, and it continues to administer Arlington National Cemetery, conducting up to 30 funerals per weekday, 8 of which can be full honors services (including caissons, horses, a firing party, military band and bugler), up to 8 funerals on Saturday, and over 3,000 ceremonies per year.

Historical support to ANC dates back to the early 1950s. Throughout much of the 20th century, the history "office" strictly served more ceremonial functions such as supporting events at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, wreath-layings, and tours of the cemetery and Memorial Amphitheater display room. Staffing of the history office was minimal, with often a single individual performing all historical support. Due to a lack of manpower and resources, the functions normally required of a Department of the Army History office often remained unfulfilled. This deficiency was uncovered during the investigation of the mismanagement of the cemetery in 2010. As a result, a proper command history office, organized and aligned in accordance with Army Regulations (AR) 870-5 and AR 870-20, was mandated.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Initially, the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) established a historical support team to serve at the cemetery until the creation of a permanent office. Led by Dr. Stephen Carney, the military education historian at CMH and veteran staff-ride leader; Roderick Gainer, CMH curator; Dr. Mason Schaefer, CMH archivist; and Brian D'Haeseleer, a historical intern, this historical support team provided historical guidance to the new ANC leadership; identified, conserved, and secured items of historical significance; created a historical research collection after assessing thousands of linear feet of documentary material; and created a fully functioning Army history office responsive to the needs of the general public and the local command.

Dr. Carney and Mr. Gainer staffed the permanent history office in June 2013. Historians Christopher Warren and Timothy Frank joined the office in January 2015. These four individuals are historians for the Department of the Army, Arlington National Cemetery, as well as the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, DC. The ANC history office conducts historical, archival, and curatorial functions including oral history interviews, annual command histories, and Department of the Army Historical Summaries. In general, the office provides institutional memory through accurate and timely historical information, and well-researched studies and analyses; prepares historical manuscripts for Army-wide publication; prepares the command's Annual Historical Review (AHR); establishes and maintains a historical research collection; responds to historical inquiries from the command, other Army and Defense Department units and organizations, veterans organizations, and the general public; prepares, conducts, and preserves oral history interviews with the Executive Director, Deputy Director, and key staff officers, including End-of-Tour interviews and others as appropriate; maintains liaison with other Army and government historical offices and historians and historical organizations, including travel to centers of historical activity; catalogues and advises on three-dimensional artifacts and material culture issues,

including the preservation, accountability, and conservation of irreplaceable artifacts; administers the ANC Section 60 Collection Program (including recovery, documentation, and warehousing of grave site mementos and objects); records artifacts presented to ANC (in accordance with AR 870-20), cataloging and determining final custody; advises and coordinates the production of museum exhibits and displays related to the ANC mission; and documents mementos presented by foreign heads-of-state and high-ranking military commanders to ANC.

In addition, ANC actively collects and preserves objects related to the creation, growth, and maintenance of the facility since 1864. The collections currently include several hundred items relating to the opening of the Cemetery, its history, and honors rendered to those interred here, notably the Unknown Soldier(s). These items include medals, plaques, nonfunctioning firearms, and edged weapons, as well as archival materials relating directly to the cemetery. The collections are available for research purposes, and fall under the purview of the U.S. Army (per regulation AR870-20) and the Curator of Arlington National Cemetery.

Currently, the ANC history office has numerous ongoing projects. These include the creation, from conception to design, of a new World War I exhibit in partnership with the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). This exhibit will focus on the relationship between ANC and the ABMC, with an emphasis on the repatriation of U.S. war dead. The exhibit will contain a series of panels with a brief history of the war, followed by a more detailed narrative about the return of the fallen, concluded by the creation of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The office is currently researching and writing the first official U.S. Army history of Arlington National Cemetery spanning the prehistory of Arlington Plantation through today. In addition, the office is creating self-guided tours, focused on various historical themes, all accessible through the ANC Explorer app via iOS and Android, as well as online at *arlingtoncemetery.mil.*

Other digital projects include redesigning and rewriting the history section of the ANC website in an effort to upload more content, including historical images and video for public use. The expansion of our research collection is another priority of the office. In support of this goal, the historians maintain an ongoing, in-depth search and digitization of ANC-related records, images, and video at the National Archives and Records Administration and the Library of Congress, as well as other national, regional, state, and local archives. These ongoing projects are in addition to participation in hundreds of events and ceremonies at ANC, including personal tours for foreign heads-of-state and senior military officials; providing historical guidance to members of Congress, the executive branch, scholars and the general public; conducting a robust oral history program; and presenting lectures and historical scholarship at academic conferences, civic societies, and private organizations.

Working at the nation's premiere national cemetery is an honor for members of the history office. The task of maintaining the over 150-year institutional knowledge of the cemetery and of the over 400,000 individuals interred here is a daunting task but a tremendously rewarding one. Surrounded by our nation's heroes, the ANC history office strives to imbue the importance of history to the American national narrative.

Arlington National Cemetery History Office

1 Memorial Drive
History Office, SAAC-ECH
Arlington, VA 22211

Command Historian, Stephen A. Carney, Ph.D.

Staff Roderick R. Gainer, Chief Curator
Christopher A. Warren, Historian
Timothy L. Frank, Historian

Summary of Office Activities

The new Arlington National Cemetery History Office was established in 2013 to document, preserve, and chronicle the history of and ongoing burials and commemorations at ANC and the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery (USSAHNC) in Washington, DC. The office maintains collections of primary and secondary sources, photographs, and artifacts related to ANC and the USSAHNC. The office writes the official annual history of ANC and USSAHNC, participates and supports hundreds of annual commemorations, and responds to queries related to ANC and USSAHNC history. The office also develops exhibitions for display in the ANC visitor's center, as well as the display room and basement of the Memorial Amphitheater. The office cooperates with other U.S. Army Center of Military History offices and works with other federal agency historians on issues related to military history, national cemeteries, remembrance, commemoration and other issues.

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Website: *www.arlingtoncemetery.mil*

SHFG Online

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Members Page Now Available

SHFG's new members' online login page is at

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The History Professional

An Interview with Donald A. Carter

Donald A. Carter graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1977 and served as a Field Artillery Officer until 1992. He received a Ph.D. in history from The Ohio State University in 1985 and served as a military history instructor at West Point and the U.S. Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was an archivist at the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH), and in 1995 served with the Gulf War Declassification Project and the U.S. Army Declassification Activity. He returned to the CMH in 2003 as a historian. His publications include "Eisenhower Versus the Generals," in Journal of Military History *(October 2007), and* Forging the Shield: The U.S. Army in Europe, 1951–1962 *(CMH, 2015), among others.*

Interview by Benjamin Guterman *Donald Carter*

What were your early historical interests, and the focus of your research?

I have been interested in military history since childhood. As a boy I loved playing with toy soldiers, and I never grew up. My earliest interests were the Civil War and World War II, probably because those were the coolest toys. My service in the Army probably prompted my interest in a potential U.S.-Soviet confrontation. When I attended graduate school at Ohio State, I gravitated toward a study of U.S. Army tactical doctrine, and the period of the Cold War seemed to be a potentially fruitful area for study. That led to my master's thesis and Ph.D. dissertation, both focused upon the evolution of U.S. Army organization and tactical doctrine between the Korean War and Vietnam.

What important insights do you think you've gained about the nature and availability of military records from your early work in Army archives and declassification?

Like many historians, I suspect, I find research to be perhaps the most enjoyable part of the historical process. Early trips to the archives at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania; the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene, Kansas; and the federal records center at Suitland, Maryland, introduced me to the depth and diversity of records available. The personal papers and interviews I found at Carlisle exposed the personal sides of officers I had met only through history books. I was particularly struck by a series of letters from Matthew Ridgway to his lawyer protesting some of the aspects of his divorce settlement. As I was going through a very similar experience at the time, I found that fascinating. At Suitland, and later at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland, I was overwhelmed by the sheer mass of paper available. I later discovered, however, how dependent we as historians are upon the diligence of the archivists and records managers. Records for the U.S. Army, for example, were plentiful for most periods up to the mid-1950s, but then almost disappear. Even today, the Army is still struggling a bit to get a firm handle on its records management requirements.

How did you come to focus on post–World War II Army history at the CMH?

At CMH I am part of what we call the General Histories Branch of the Histories Division. Our primary responsibility is to prepare the major, "big book," official histories of the U.S. Army. Although part of the Histories Division is still wrapping up a few Vietnam studies, my branch's main focus is on the activities of the Army during the early Cold War period. Since my graduate work had focused, to some extent, on the Army in Germany during that time, I was a logical choice to do the initial volume on the United States Army Europe (USAREUR). At this time, we have completed three volumes, mine and two volumes covering the Army Engineers during the Cold War. The latter two were prepared by outside historians contracted by the Army. We have three other volumes in preparation right now: one on the history of Army intelligence during the Cold War, one on the occupation of Berlin from 1945 through 1949, and one on the Army in Europe from 1962 through 1973.

Do you perform other history-related duties in support of the history program, such as historical reports or public outreach?

Absolutely. Like many government agencies, we have experienced some "pruning" and reductions in staff. As a result, we have to respond to any number of requests and taskings, both official and unofficial. I have prepared numerous information papers for members of the Army Staff on topics such as the history of women in the Army, the Gulf War deception plan, and the evolution of the strategic triad. I've done book reviews for our own publication, *Army History*, and reviewed articles for potential use in our own magazine or other outside journals. I have just recently completed two pamphlets for our commemorative history branch, one on the Army before Vietnam and the second on the St. Mihiel offensive in World War I. I think my favorite assignment, however, was to explain the intricacies of ancient Greek hoplite warfare to a group of sixth graders doing a social studies project on that subject.

During the Berlin Crisis of 1961, U.S. planners' decision to "bluff" the Soviets by probing or sending tanks to Checkpoint Charlie was highly risky. Why did they adopt that strategy?

That wasn't really a U.S. strategy, but rather a Lucius Clay strategy. President Kennedy had sent retired U.S. Army General Lucius Clay to Berlin as his personal representative. The president gave Clay virtually free rein in Berlin, much to the consternation of USAREUR commander, General Bruce Clarke; and SACEUR, USAF General Lauris Norstad. The confrontation at Checkpoint Charlie escalated from Clay's decision to have U.S. military police, then infantry and tanks, escort American diplomatic personnel through the border crossing point, rather than submit to East German harassment. Clay did not believe that the Soviets would push the situation to war. As a result, U.S. and Soviet tanks faced each other across the checkpoint for about 17 hours until both sides cooled off a bit and had them withdrawn.

***Forging the Shield* is an impressive and comprehensive picture of the U.S. Seventh Army's deployment in Europe, from strategic and tactical developments to housing and morale questions. Did you envision that large canvas from the outset?**

Actually, the original concept for the book was to cover the period between 1951 and 1973. We recognized that covering such an extended period would either result in either a rather cursory survey of the period, or an unwieldy volume of at least 1,000 pages. As a result, we split the period in two, with my volume covering the first half and another historian doing a volume covering the second half. Otherwise, yes, the idea was always to provide a comprehensive study of the Army in Europe. We wanted to make sure that the actions of the soldiers and leaders in USAREUR and the Seventh Army were placed into the context of the political and social developments going on around them.

***Forging the Shield* shows that in post–World War II Western Europe nuclear weapons revolutionized every aspect of military doctrine, planning, and organization, and created tensions at all levels, including between the president and his generals. What was the central dilemma?**

The dilemma was really, how do you confront the superior military strength of the Soviet Union and later, the Warsaw Pact, without bankrupting Western economies to match that strength. Nuclear weapons seemed to offer a way to do this. The Army in Europe quickly realized that, from a military standpoint, this approach made little sense as any conflict would vaporize much of Europe. This was particularly true when West Germany entered the alliance, since the main battleground would be in their backyard. So, by the mid-1950s, most military leaders in Europe believed that nuclear weapons might serve as a deterrent, but would not provide a realistic way of actually fighting a war. Although President Kennedy began a reemphasis on conventional strength in the American armed forces, both military and political leaders have continued to struggle with how to best incorporate nuclear weapons into Western defense plans.

You write that the rebuilding of the German army was the U.S. Seventh Army's most important accomplishment. Why is that so?

A defense of Western Europe never really made sense if you could not incorporate West German manpower into the defense plan. Only the Germans could provide sufficient ground strength to give the West a reasonable chance of standing up to the Soviets. The French and, to some extent, the British, remained reluctant to allow German rearmament so soon after the WWII surrender. The Seventh Army's assistance not only facilitated the restoration of the German armed forces, but also helped to forge remarkably close links between the German and American soldiers. That the Germans as a whole not only tolerated but embraced the presence of so many American military troops and facilities for so many years stands as a testament to the close relationship forged between the two armies.

In *Forging the Shield* we read about successive revisions in U.S. military plans in Europe with several follow-up military exercises that revealed serious deficiencies in communication and preparation. Yet in the end, how did the Seventh Army achieve its mission of containing Soviet aggression?

In reviewing an initial draft of the book, a good friend cautioned me that I could not really say with authority that the U.S. Army in Europe had prevented a Soviet invasion. That assertion would require far more insight into plans and policies on the other side than we could include within the scope of the book. In the end, it's a history of the U.S. Army rather than a comprehensive study of the Cold War in Europe. However, I think, as I put into the conclusion, that the presence of the Americans, complete with the logistical infrastructure, raised the stakes of any proposed Soviet incursion to the point where potential losses were unacceptable. Somewhat ironically, I believe that the presence of so many U.S. civilians also served to deter hostilities. Not only did it reflect the level of American commitment, but it could also reassure the Soviets that, with so many U.S. civilians in the potential combat zone, we were not going to undertake any hostile actions on our side either.

How does *Forging the Shield* expand on earlier interpretations of the 1950s deployment in Europe? Have you used any overlooked or newly released sources?

I consider the book to be more of a synthesis than breaking any major new ground. One of the earlier reviewers reminded us that, in his words, we were coming somewhat late to the table in terms of Cold War research. Because the work is an official history of the U.S. Army, by definition, most of the research is based upon records created by the Army and upon interviews and personal papers created by U.S. military and political leaders and soldiers. I have also incorporated in many places secondary

source material based upon the research of so many military and Cold War scholars that have come before me.

Can you give us some insights into your new project of a study of U.S. occupation in Berlin, 1945–49?

The Berlin volume was begun several years ago by a colleague who has since retired. Although he left an excellent first draft, the review panel and the CMH chief historian identified several areas that required additional research and significant revision. That has been my job for the past year or so. The book covers the period when the four Allied powers, the U.S., Britain, France, and the Soviet Union, worked collectively to oversee the occupation and to restore basic services and civil government within the city. Because of conflicts between the Soviets and the other Allies about how the city would be administered, Berlin became a focal point for the Cold War confrontation. The book will cover a period from the American decision late in the war not to join the race for Berlin until the termination of the Berlin Blockade in 1949.

What advice would you give to new and future federal military historians?

I guess I would encourage anyone interested in a career in this field to get a good grasp on information management technology. I'm an old school book and paper person, and I can see that the future of our profession is in electronic recordkeeping and interpretation. Already, many of the historians at CMH are working to gather records from the field that are almost exclusively electronic. It's pretty clear that is where historical study and research have been heading.

The opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the policies of the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Read *Forging the Shield* at *http://www.history.army.mil/catalog/pubs/45/45-3.html*

See a list of SHFG interviews at *http://shfg.org/shfg/federal-history-work/interviews/*

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*

National Declassification Center Not Yet "Releasing All It Can"

Nate Jones

The National Declassification Center (NDC), governed by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), has the potential to become President Obama's largest, longest-lasting, and most important transparency initiative. The NDC has made important strides over the past six years, but important steps remain to ensure that the Center actually fulfills its mission to "release all we can, and protect what we must."

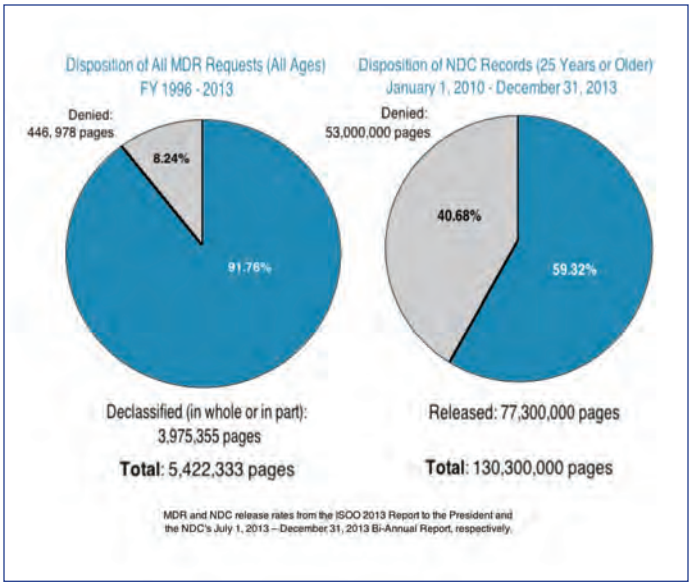
According to the most recently available public figures, the NDC has "successfully" reviewed 352 million pages of classified records since 2010. Of these, 222 million pages have completed the NDC's declassification review but have not completed NARA's boxing and processing procedures—and possibly another Department of Energy review. Of the remaining 130 million pages that the NDC has reviewed, only 77 million pages (just 59 percent) were actually declassified. The remaining 53 million pages were returned to their sensitive compartmented information facilities, where they will await re-review at some future point.

This 59-percent release rate is troublingly low. A comparison with government-wide Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) request figures reveals that documents requested under MDR are released to the public in whole or in part over 94 percent of the time. The Center's release rate would be even higher if the processing included only documents 25 years old or older.

The primary reason for the NDC's unacceptable rate of censorship is its use of a page-level "pass/fail" declassification review process. As the Public Interest Declassification Board (PIDB), the government declassification watchdog, recently explained, "a single word in a record determined to require continued classification beyond 25 years will cause the entire record to 'fail.' This process, originally designed by agencies to conserve limited resources, actually does the opposite." Instead of promoting declassification, this "page by page" shortcut shoves these historic documents back into the vaults (still classified) until a requester requests another "wasteful, expensive" re-review. It also appears to directly contradict the NDC's mission to "release all we can."

At an April 2015 public forum on the NDC's prioritization process hosted by the National Archives, members of the public strongly reiterated that any other reforms are secondary to the need to end page-level "pass/fail review," which will lift the NDC's declassification rate to the much more acceptable government declassification rate of 94 percent.

While the NDC has not yet ended "pass/fail review," soon after the April meeting, the Center took the important step of listing the titles of record series processed for declassification—but not yet publicly available—on its website so that users can know what the NDC has processed. Even better, the NDC now institutes "indexing on demand" wherein researchers can request access to these previously unavailable records and—if they have been declassified—view them within days.



Also promisingly, the NDC is currently embarking on other reforms to improve its efficiency. Another major criticism of the NDC in the PIDB report was that the NDC relies on the wasteful equity referral and consultation re-review process, wherein multiple reviewers from multiple agencies (such as the CIA, NSA, and State Department) are allowed to re-review the same document multiple times. "Clinging to manually-intensive processes diverts increasing dwindling resources," the PIDB writes, "There must be an understanding and agreement that the current practice of having one, two or more persons conduct a laborious page-by-page declassification assessment for each record under review is an unsustainable practice."

President Obama also envisioned an end to this process at the NDC. The president instructed the NDC that "further referrals of these records are not required except for those containing information that would clearly and demonstrably reveal [confidential human sources or key WMD design concepts]." Previous large declassification review projects have also shown that a "one set of eyes–one decision" review is possible, effective, and desirable. Both the JFK Assassination Records Review Board and (to a lesser extent) the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group have shown that declassifiers can effectively be unleashed from the bonds of mandated equity re-review.

Thankfully, if belatedly, the National Declassification Center is beginning to slowly reduce equity re-reviews. Now, after agencies are alerted by the NDC about documents that they may have "equity interest" in, agencies are given a hard deadline of one year to review. If they do not review the documents within that period, agencies will lose their ability to claim an "equity," and the NDC will use its authority for release. While this reform still falls short of the "one document, one review" ideal espoused by the PIDB, President Obama, and other advocates, it is a step in the right direction of increased declassification efficiency and increased NDC authority. Hopefully more steps will follow.

The NDC also reports that it is improving its methods to prioritize which series of records are scheduled for declassification. Researchers of the 77 million pages declassified so far have described them as "low hanging fruit." Indeed, one early NDC report stated that just one percent of all documents in the backlog were "high interest, easy to process." This means "high interest documents were very likely to be withheld under 'pass/fail' review."

While some have warned of the potential danger of damaging archival provenance by selection of prioritized series ("Swiss cheese declassification")—and it would be a critical mistake to corrupt the provenance of record series—series-level prioritization will ensure that the NDC's resources are going to the documents most in demand and that will be most viewed by the public.

Perhaps the best candidates for series-level declassification by the NDC are the records held by NARA's presidential libraries, the bulk of which are being declassified at a glacial pace due to lack of resources, apparent lack of urgency, and the wasteful equity referral re-review system.

After presidential records, the NDC should consider the declassification of records from principal policy makers, including records of the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, Chairman and Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Because policy makers impact a broad range of issues, declassification of their records will meet a wide variety of researcher interests in terms of geographic and topical subject areas.

The National Declassification Center also has the important opportunity to gain public support and demonstrate its declassification clout by using its authority to declassify the remaining 1,171 distinct documents related to the John F. Kennedy assassination held by the National Archives whose release to the public was postponed until as late as 2017.

Despite criticisms of the National Declassification Center's low release rate and inability to declassify high-interest documents, it is heartening to see one of President Obama's most important transparency initiatives continue to improve. Archivists, researchers, historians, and public access advocates must work to ensure that it is preserved—and funded—into the next administration and beyond. If the NDC improves the speed, efficiency, quality, and quantity of its declassification reviews, it will make it all the easier to advocate for.

Nate Jones is the Director of the Freedom of Information Act Project for the National Security Archive in Washington DC. Email: nsarchiv@gwu.edu

From the Archives

The SHFG and the Nomination of Warner's Successor as Archivist

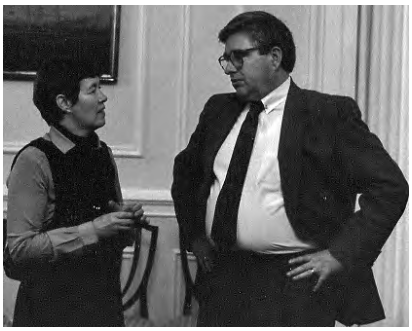
Chas Downs

When Public Law 98-497 was passed and signed into law, effective April 1, 1984, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA, formerly NARS), was liberated from the control of the General Services Administration (GSA). However, with its new freedom came new challenges. One of the first crises that faced NARA was the appointment of a new Archivist of the United States after the resignation of Dr. Robert Warner, the highly respected Archivist who had guided NARA down the road to independence. Warner left in April 1985 to become dean of the School of Library Science of the University of Michigan.

Finding a suitable replacement would not be easy, since the individuals who served as acting Archivist after Warner's departure were not viewed as suitable for the job. Many interested groups, including the SHFG, feared that the Reagan administration would nominate an individual based on political connections rather than professional qualifications. The selection of the first Archivist after NARA's independence could well set a precedent for future appointments. Since the Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG) was concerned with high standards in the nomination process, it formed a new National Archives Liaison Committee, chaired by Gerald Haines, to pursue the process of the selection, confirmation, and installation of a new Archivist.

The act for National Archives independence specified that the position of Archivist should be filled "without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of the professional qualifications required to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position." The selection of a replacement for Warner languished for months after he had stepped down. Finally, after consideration of several candidates, President Ronald Reagan nominated John Agresto, chairman of the National Endowment of the Humanities, on May 1, 1986, to become Archivist. Almost all historical and archival organizations reacted negatively to Agresto's nomination because of his perceived political partisanship and his lack of technical skills or qualifications for the position. The SHFG Executive Council wrote to President Reagan, questioning Agresto's nomination. Robert Tuttle, Director of Presidential Personnel, assured SHFG that the Reagan administration would appoint "only the most highly qualified men and women who reflect and support the President's policies to positions of public trust." David K. Allison, then SHFG vice president, noted that such a reply from the White House "tended to strengthen rather than alleviate our concerns."

When the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee held hearings on Agresto's nomination on August 13, 1986, Anna K. Nelson, distinguished historian and one of the Society's founders, testified at the behest of the SHFG. In her testimony, she explained why the nomination of John Agresto had engendered such outrage from the historical community:



Archivist Don W. Wilson with Page Miller, NCC

> It is because he is so thoroughly identified with the partisan positions of the Reagan administration which he has loyally served. It is this attribute, so valuable to those presidential appointees who must carry out administration policy, that disqualifies him for this unique position to which he has been nominated.
>
> A non-partisan professional archive is essential to preserve the integrity of our records and our history ...Thus, like Caesar's wife, the leadership of the National Archives must be above suspicion.

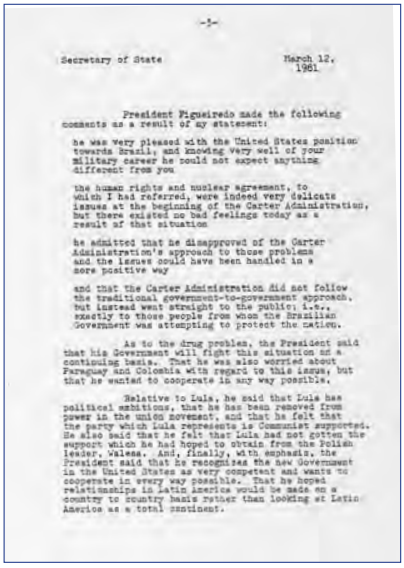
Agresto's controversial nomination remained on hold until it was withdrawn by the administration, the Senate having failed to act on it for over a year. Reagan's second choice as Archivist was Don Wilson, head of the Eisenhower Presidential Library, who was considered both highly qualified and nonpolitical. Wilson's nomination was supported by most historical and archival organizations, and he was approved with no negative comment received by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. On December 4, 1987, Wilson became the first Archivist to be sworn in to head an independent NARA, and his appointment set a precedent for the selection of a professional, nonpartisan head for the agency.

However, Wilson himself became a source of controversy in 1993 when he made a questionable agreement with President George Bush that gave the latter exclusive control over his electronic presidential records. Two months later, Wilson resigned as Archivist to become Executive Director of the George Bush Center at Texas A&M University. In 1995, a Federal judge found the Bush electronic records agreement to be both unconstitutional and a violation of the 1978 Federal Records Act, and that Wilson had acted capriciously and illegally in signing the agreement.

To learn more about the SHFG Archives, or if you have additional information or documentation on this or other SHFG matters, contact Chas Downs at *chasdowns@verizon.net*

Newly Declassified Records

This quarter's feature highlights selected record series newly declassified by the National Archives' National Declassification Center (NDC). A very recent release from the NDC features four record series from the Department of State. Processed as part of a National Security Council initiative focusing on sharing U.S. information concerning human rights abuses in Brazil, the four Record Group 59 series (5, 16, 14, and 12 boxes respectively, with the Record Entry ID numbers of 46452, 461434, 461321, and HS1-76935788) are all titled Human Rights Country Files or Subject Files and date from 1979 to 1981. President Barack Obama presented the documents concerning Brazil in these series to Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff earlier this year. Some boxes in the series are missing. The country files consist of what one might expect—folders labeled by country, arranged alphabetically, containing such documents as State Department messages, official briefing and action memorandums, CIA intelligence assessments, news releases, newspaper articles, economic/employment reports, nongovernment organization (NGO) correspondence, personal letters, and congressional correspondence. One of the country files series is mislabeled in that the contents of the boxes are country reports, not country files. The contents of these files are arranged similarly to the country files; however, the folders in this series contain copies or draft copies of the human rights reports on the subject countries. There may be additional information in the folders. The final series contain subject files arranged alphabetically. These series have been processed for declassification. For the Brazil country files only, NDC staff provided redacted copies of documents withdrawn. All other document withdrawals are represented by the standard NDC red-striped withdrawn item notice. Some of the withdrawn items may be precluded from public release for 50 to 75 years after document creation. To discover more record series declassified by the NDC, please visit the NDC Blog at *http://blogs.archives.gov/ndc/* for the complete list of declassified record series.



-3-

Secretary of State March 12, 1981

President Figueiredo made the following comments as a result of my statement:

he was very pleased with the United States position towards Brazil, and knowing very well of your military career he could not expect anything different from you

the human rights and nuclear agreement, to which I had referred, were indeed very delicate issues at the beginning of the Carter Administration, but there existed no bad feelings today as a result of that situation

he admitted that he disapproved of the Carter Administration's approach to those problems and the issues could have been handled in a more positive way

and that the Carter Administration did not follow the traditional government-to-government approach, but instead went straight to the public; i.e., exactly to those people from whom the Brazilian Government was attempting to protect the nation.

As to the drug problem, the President said that his Government will fight this situation on a continuing basis. That he was also worried about Paraguay and Colombia with regard to this issue, but that he wanted to cooperate in any way possible.

Relative to Lula, he said that Lula has political ambitions, that he has been removed from power in the union movement, and that he felt that the party which Lula represents is Communist supported. He also said that he felt that Lula had not gotten the support which he had hoped to obtain from the Polish leader, Walesa. And, finally, with emphasis, the President said that he recognizes the new Government in the United States as very competent and wants to cooperate in every way possible. That he hoped relationships in Latin America would be made on a country to country basis rather than looking at Latin America as a total continent.

Henry Ford II reported to Secretary of State Alexander Haig in a March 12, 1981, letter on his discussions with various Latin American leaders. The letter documents the informal diplomacy sometimes conducted by American business leaders in support of U.S. foreign policy goals.

National Law Enforcement Museum Nears Construction

The National Law Enforcement Museum has reached an important milestone with the approval of permits from the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and other regulatory agencies. Construction will begin after the project receives final funding approval from the National Park Service. The Museum will adjoin the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC, in Judiciary Square, as a mostly underground facility. Congress passed the law in November 2000 authorizing the museum honoring "the duty and sacrifice of America's law enforcement officers" to be built on federal land. The Museum raised funds from sponsors that included Dupont, Mag Instrument, Advanced Interactive Systems, Panasonic, and Eli Lilly and Company, among others. Collection of artifacts has included selected items from the 9/11 World Trade Center. Some firms donated equipment, such as law enforcement helicopters, while others donated resources, such as oral histories. The Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI designated the Museum as the official repository for a series of Oral History Transcripts from top special agents of the FBI, now online at *http://www.nleomf.org/museum/the-collection/oral-histories/*. Interestingly, the Department of Justice ruled in April 2008 that state and local law enforcement agencies could use some of their asset forfeiture funds to support the Museum, after which some law enforcement departments did so. The Museum will provide interactive experiences and will also provide a site for discussions, research, and education on law enforcement, including forums, lectures and conferences. For more information, visit *http://www.nleomf.org/museum/about/*

2015 Army Historians Training Symposium

The U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) convened the 2015 Army Historians Training Symposium (AHTS), 27–31 July in Washington, DC. CMH is responsible for oversight of the Army Historical Program (AHP), which includes the professional development of Army historians. The AHTS is the principal biennial training and professional development event for Army historians and provides CMH an opportunity to meet with command historians from throughout the Army, review and update policies, and establish AHP goals and objectives.

The 2015 AHTS provided a forum for 10 professional training workshops and 7 historical seminars. The professional training workshops enabled Army Historians to learn from a spectrum of topics ranging from Department of Defense History Operations to the experience of Military History Detachments deployed to Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. The historical seminar presentations focused specifically on several of the Army Chief of Staff's key strategic issues:

- Demobilizing from the last war: restructuring for the next one.
- Preparing leaders for the challenges of the future—the historical experience.
- The responsibilities of the Army during periods of relative peace.
- Organizing and planning for regenerating wartime capabilities.
- The role of history in sustaining professionalism in the Army.
- Using the past to plan for the future.

Synchronizing these issues was the keynote presentation provided by Lieutenant General (LTG) H.R. McMaster, Ph.D. LTG McMaster underscored the fundamental role military history serves for military and civilian leaders and the vital importance of grasping the historical continuities and changes in the character of warfare.

Thomas W. Crecca, U.S. Army Center of Military History

A TIMELINE OF FEDERAL HISTORY

1789 Judiciary Act

The act established the federal court system, with U.S. district courts to serve as the federal trial courts for admiralty and maritime cases, as well as for some minor criminal cases and minor civil suits brought by the United States. It also created the position of attorney general.

Senator Oliver Ellsworth of Connecticut, the principal author of the Judiciary Act of 1789.

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 on the timeline to *webmaster@shfg.org*.

American Archivists Meet in Cleveland

Between August 16 and 22, about 1,700 participants took part in the 79th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Cleveland, Ohio. Held at the Cleveland Convention Center, the meeting featured several panels and roundtables of particular interest to federal historians. The Congressional Papers Roundtable featured a presentation by Matthew M. Peek, now of the State Archives of North Carolina, who reprocessed over 3,900 photographic prints and negatives of Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana by identifying the subject matter, date, and location of the photos. In 1971 Metcalf became the first member of Congress to have his official papers processed within his lifetime, a goal that archivists have promoted among elected officials in all levels of government *(http://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/ 2015-symposium-unconferencecopy_ofPreservingaMontanaSenatorsImageTheLeeMetcalfPhotographandFilmCollections Project.pdf)*.

In her poster "Digitizing the Origins of the Cold War: Developing a Sustainable Digitization Model," Rachel Van Unen of Princeton explained how six collections of papers, including those of Secretary of State John F. Dulles, diplomat George Kennan, and Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, were digitized with help from an NHPRC grant *(https://blogs.princeton.edu/mudd/category/nhprc-digitization-project/)*. SAA President Kathleen Roe conversed (via Skype) with Archivist David Ferriero about the current needs for additional manpower and new directions in electronic recordkeeping under development at the National Archives.

Eric Stoykovich, The Library of Congress

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Support New SHFG Events

Please donate to SHFG's current efforts to organize and promote new events and workshops. These events will provide opportunities for professional development: to meet colleagues, exchange ideas, and learn more about the federal community.

We urge you to contribute to our General Fund. You can donate the amount of your choice, either by check or online payment *(at http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Donate)*

Your donations also support all activities of the Society, including publication of *The Federalist* newsletter, *Federal History* journal, and stories and news for our website; our annual conference, the Richard G. Hewlett Lecture; and programming such as occasional tours, workshops, and social events that help students and historians develop in their careers.

Send announcements to *shfg.ebulletin@gmail.com*
Send news listings to *webmaster@shfg.org*
See more news at *www.shfg.org*

Mural Tours at Interior Department

Discover the art and architecture that made the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building a "symbol of a new day" during the Great Depression. The Interior Museum Murals Tour lasts an hour and visits 26 photographic murals by Ansel Adams and many of the over 50 mural panels painted by artists including Maynard Dixon, Allan Houser, Gifford Beal, and John Steuart Curry.

The Murals Tour is offered at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The tour is limited to 20 visitors, and a reservation is required. Please call the Museum in advance of your visit at 202.208.4743 to make a reservation.

An ID is required to enter the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240 *www.doi.gov/interiormuseum/tours*

Oral Histories of Marine Corps Air Station El Toro Now Available

By Fred Allison

The Oral and Video History Office of the U.S. Marine Corps History Division has received a donation of 370 oral history interviews from the California State University/Fullerton Center for Oral and Public History (COPH). The interview project is part of the Great Park History Program, which aims to honor the men and women who served at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro, near Irvine, California, from 1942 to 1999, and to document the transition from Marine Corps air station to the Orange County Great Park. Funding came from the Orange County Great Park Corporation. Placement of the interviews with the Marine Corps History Division, part of Marine Corps University at Quantico, increases their visibility and utility. The interviews are now accessible on both U.S. coasts.

The sign at the main gate at MCAS El Toro, March 17, 1970. MP Detachment personnel, left to right, are Cpl. H. Frits, Cpl. W. Huff and L/Cpl. C. Holloway. (Defense Dept Photo, Marine Corps A149265)

Cal State/Fullerton undertook this project in 2007 to preserve the history of MCAS El Toro as it transitioned from a Marine Corps air station to the Orange County Great Park. Dr. Natalie Fousekis, Associate Director of the COPH, directed the project. A team of students trained in oral history methods and techniques at the COPH conducted the interviews. Teams of interviewers regularly attended Marine Corps Aviation Association conventions to collect interviews with members who had served at El Toro. The Marines interviewed represent a cross section of ranks and occupational specialties. The collection is user friendly in that all 370 interviews have been transcribed and digitized, and are searchable by keywords, including names, units, and eras. The interview program is ongoing.

The History Division is extremely pleased to receive the collection. It is a good chronicle of civil-military relations and Marine Corps operations over the last half of the 20th century. The oral history project is a tremendous resource for studying and researching Marine Corps aviation history, and for preserving personal memories of military activities and the relationship of the military with civilian communities in times of both war and peace. It not only documents the interaction of Marines with the Orange County community but tells us a lot about Marine Corps operations. In many cases the interviewees also discuss their wartime experiences, whether in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, or Desert Storm, and any number of peacetime operations. Many interviews have images included. For more information on this collection as well as other oral history materials, contact Dr. Fred Allison, Marine Corps University, at 703-784-3844 or *allisonfh@grc.usmcu.edu.*

Fred Allison is the director of the Marine Corps oral history program in the U.S. Marine Corps History Division, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia.

EVENTS

"In the Footsteps of John Brown's Raid"

Tour by Preservation Maryland, October 17, 2015

The tour will retrace the steps of John Brown and his fellow conspirators on the 156th anniversary of their fateful raid of the Harpers Ferry Armory. It will start at the Kennedy Farmhouse in southern Washington County, MD, with discussion of the weeks leading up to the raid. The group will then cross the river into Harpers Ferry where Dennis Frye, the Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry Historical Park, will pick up the retelling of the raid. The tour will inform on the historical context and events as well as the role preservation has played in keeping these historical sites standing for us and future generations to enjoy.

Website: *www.facebook.com events/ 622766914 526771/*
Contact: *ecolmers@presmd.org*

PastForward Conference

November 3–6, 2015

PastForward 2015 will begin with a year-long celebration of the National Historic Preservation Act's 50th anniversary with programming that celebrates and honors the past while looking decisively forward toward our next 50 years. In the nation's capital we will convene the full, diverse, and expansive constituency of preservation players from individuals to elected officials, federal agencies to architects, scholars to activists.

Website: *www.preservationnation.org/conference*
Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street NW, Washington, DC 20008
Contact: *conference@savingplaces.org*

See SHFG's calendar of events at
http://shfg.org/shfg/category/calendar/

Making History

Army Historical Foundation

The Summer 2015 issue (Vol. 21, No. 1) of *On Point: The Journal of Army History* is now available. Articles include "To the Last Man: The 103d Regimental Team in the Pacific, 1942–1945," by First Lt. Jonathan D. Bratten; "M1861 3-Inch Ordnance Rifle," by Nick McGrath; "Strong Vincent," by Patrick Feng; "168th Infantry Regiment," by Matthew J. Seelinger; "From a Teenager in China to an Army Lawyer in America: The Remarkable Career of Judge Advocate General John L. Fugh," by Fred L. Borch; and "Fort George G. Meade, Maryland," by Emily George.

Department of the Interior

The Department will present "Rock Creek Park: The Preservation of an Urban National Park" on October 7, 1:15– 2:15 p.m., in the Rachel Carson Room. Rock Creek Park, established in 1890, is celebrating its 125th Anniversary in 2015. The struggle and eventual success in establishing this naturalistic oasis within the Nation's capital, one of the earliest federal urban parks, is a testament to the vision of park planners and politicians at the end of the 19th century. This presentation provides an introduction to the early planning efforts for Rock Creek Park and the evolution of its development in protecting the natural environment in an urban park setting.

History Associates Inc.

History Associates is pleased to announce that Ms. Halley Fehner has been designated a Certified Interpretive Planner by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). This certification indicates Ms. Fehner has met a high level of achievement and knowledge within the interpretive profession. Interpretive planners are experienced in the systematic process of identifying the resources available to a cultural or historic attraction; the important elements and messages to emphasize at the site; and the best ways to engage and educate visitors. Ms. Fehner's interpretive planning experience includes projects for the National Park Service, the White House Visitor Center, the Washington Monument, and the Civil War Trust, among others. Certified Interpretive Planners demonstrated their skills in areas such as meeting facilitation, cost estimating, business and strategic planning, assessment of natural, cultural, and operational resources; development of thematic guidelines; writing measurable objectives; formative and summative evaluation; development of media guidelines and descriptions; and market analysis. For more information about History Associates, call (301) 279-9697 or visit *www.historyassociates.com*.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The Marshal History Archives continues in its processing of hard-copy and digital-format materials. It has received a collection of documentation, photographs, and log books collected by former electrical engineer Homer C. Powers that spans the period 1951–76. Powers's projects included work on the Stratoscope II and III. The collection includes log books of coverage of the testing of Surface Vehicle Navigation System gyro compasses, and photos from 1963 to 1965 of Supersonic Naval Ordnance Research Track at China Lake and Hill Air Force Base.

Johnson Space Center staff Rebecca Wright, Sandra Johnson, and Jennifer Ross-Nazzal received a Group Achievement Award for their work. They continue to compile oral histories, particularly regarding the International Space Station (ISS). Interviews with over 20 individuals will be used for an upcoming publication from the ISS program, and will be posted online.

National Archives and Records Administration

James Holzer was appointed the Director of the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), effective August 9. Holzer worked at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) FOIA Office since 2009, where he was the Senior Director of FOIA Operations. He served as a senior advisor on compliance with FOIA and the Privacy Act, and DHS policies, programs, and agreements for disclosure principles. Prior to his work at DHS, Holzer "served in the U.S. Air Force, for 13 years on active duty where he worked extensively in matters involving administrative policies, financial management, materiel management operations and management of wholesale supply activities."

Kurt Graham has been appointed the Director of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum. Dr. Graham has extensive experience in the library and museum world. Since 2010, he has directed the Church History Museum in Salt Lake City, UT. He spearheaded the development and redesign of the museum's principal history exhibit, which included several significant multimedia components. Prior to that, he served as the Director of the McCracken Research Library at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, WY.

NARA along with EPA, ODNI, components of DOD, DHS, DOJ, will be participating in a pilot program to test the posting online of FOIA responses so that they are available not just to the requester, but to the general public as well. The test results will be made available to the public.

The Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum will be closing its permanent museum galleries for major renovation. The $25 million renovation will begin September 28, and the library will reopen in fall 2016. Plans include new civic and leadership educational programs.

Newly Available on the National Archives Catalog *(http://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/)*

Recently declassified motion pictures and sound recordings from the Motion Picture, Sound and Video Branch include a film from a series of Air Force Intelligence Reports showing a May Day Parade in Yugoslavia, 1953 (NARA ID 341-IR-98-53). Among other film releases are Operational Systems Test Facility for ICBM Titan at Vandenberg AFB, April 1960 (342-USAF-28653), and TAC Operations, McCoy AFB, November 1962 (342-USAF-34616).

The Nixon Library has made available 150 digitized images from the Richard Nixon Foundation Collection of Audiovisual Materials on the National Archives Catalog (available at *https://catalog.archives.gov/id/16800394).* Some of the topics represented by the images are The Kitchen Debate and the Moscow Exhibition (1959), Goodwill trip to South America (1958), Far East tour (1953), and Active duty during World War II in the South Pacific (1943/1944).

Two series from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) are now available online: FMCS Director speeches and the agency's press releases and bulletins. The nearly 300 speeches cover the period 1961–1990. The bulletins and press releases are from the period 1947–1990 and relate to recruitment, job performance and staff morale, and other personnel issues. Some specific strikes and issues covered include the Postal Workers Strike in New York City in 1970, the adoption of Weingarten Rights in 1975, and the Major League Baseball strike in 1981. In general, these materials will be of great value to students of labor issues.

A new dataset titled "White House Tapes of the Nixon Administration, 1971–1973" is available at *http://www.archives.gov/open/nixon/37-wht-dataset-conversationlist.html* It contains metadata on all 22,723 meetings and telephone calls recorded by the White House taping system: title, time and date of recording, audiotape, recording device, geographic coordinates, participants, and a brief descriptive statement. NARA reports that the data has been improved through analysis, "by identifying, reconciling, and creating over 4,700 individual conversation participant names across more than 61,900 participant entries."

National Institutes of Health

The Office of NIH History has transferred 53 boxes of publications and records to the Federal Records Center in Suitland, MD, with the assistance of the National Archives and Records Administration.

The Stetten Museum is working with National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) to create a series of museum case installations in the hall outside their offices in Building 31 that will feature some of the advances that they have supported.

Naval Historical Foundation

The Naval Historical Foundation celebrated three noted naval historians, Dr. Dean C. Allard, Dr. Kenneth J. Hagan, and LCDR (Ret.) Thomas J. Cutler, with the award of the Commodore Dudley W. Knox Lifetime Achievement Medal presented at the closing banquet at the USNA McMullen Naval History Symposium on September 18 in Annapolis.

Organization of American Historians

OAH: Richard W. Leopold Prize

The OAH is seeking submissions for the Richard W. Leopold Prize, which is given biennially 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

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Send form to *webmaster@shfg.org*

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.

See the website for more details: *http://www.oah.org/programs/awards/richard-w-leopold-prize/*

National Museum of American History

NMAH is featuring an exhibit on the 1965 Hart-Cellar Act, Oct. 2, 2015 – Oct. 2016. Passage of the Act in 1965 was a watershed event in configuring contemporary America—through the significant demographic shifts and cultural changes that resulted from it. The act moved U.S. immigration policy away from the national-origin quotas in place since the 1920s to a system based on reuniting families and attracting skilled labor to the U.S. The display marks the 50th anniversary of the Act, and among the selection of Latino-related artifacts are a child's purse brought from Cuba in the early 1960s by a girl who immigrated with her parents and a child's shirt worn by a Cuban boy who was part of the Operation Pedro Pan that brought minors to the U.S. after Fidel Castro came to power; a United Farm Workers pin; and a 1960s record album by the first meringue band, "Primitivo y Su Combo" to release a U.S. recording marketed to immigrants from the Dominican Republic .

On October 1, at 6:30 p.m., a panel titled "How Did the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act Change America?" will be held at the Warner Bros. Theater. Panelists include Columbia University historian Mae Ngai, University of California, Irvine sociologist Rubén G. Rumbaut, University of Minnesota historian Erika Lee, and CUNY Graduate Center sociologist Richard Alba. Admission is free but ticketed. Reservations may be made at *www.whatitmeanstobeamerican.org/events* as programs are published.

National Preservation Institute

The Institute's schedule of training seminars for the period September 2015–May 2016 is now available. Sessions include "Historic Property Management: Materials to Systems," "Cultural and Natural Resources: An Integrated Management Strategy," Section 4(f) Compliance for Historic Properties," and "Section 106: An Introduction." Customized On-Site Training is available. Call 703-765-0100 or visit *www.npi.org* for the full schedule and information.

Preservation Imperative

The website Preservation Imperative offers news and interviews relating to records preservation issues. The site is managed by Kevin Driedger, a librarian working "within the broad spectrum of preservation—from traditional book and paper conservation to digitization and digital preservation." Currently, the site features an oral interview with Jody DeRidder, Associate Professor and Head of Digital Services at the University of Alabama, on her approaches to preservation. Visit *http://www.preservationimperative.com/2014/12/jody-deridder-human-side-of-digital.html*

Smithsonian Institution

Dr. David J. Skorton became the Smithsonian Institution's 13th Secretary in its 169-year history on July 1, 2015. Skorton served as president at Cornell University and Iowa University. He is a cardiologist, and has taught in that area for 26 years. He stated, "With its diverse collections and staff, the Smithsonian is uniquely positioned to lead a global dialogue on critical questions where the arts, humanities and sciences intersect. The Smithsonian can advance our understanding of the world around us through a distinctly American perspective."

U.S. Center of Military History

The Center of Military History (CMH) has released *The Army and Reconstruction, 1865–1877,* by Mark L. Bradley. This brochure traces the Army's law enforcement, stability, and peacekeeping roles in the South from May 1865 to the end of Reconstruction in 1877, marking a unique period in American history. During that time, the Southern states remained under military occupation, and for several years, they were also ruled by military government. Veteran Army commanders such as Philip H. Sheridan, John M. Schofield, Daniel E. Sickles, Edward R. S. Canby, and Winfield S. Hancock may have found the work of Reconstruction less dangerous than fighting the Civil War had been, but they also found it no less challenging. GPO S/N: 008-029-00590-5 (Paper); CMH Pub 75-18. Pp. 76; illustrations, maps, further readings. $9.

The Center has also released the pamphlet *Buying Time, 1965–1966,* by Frank L. Jones, as part of its Campaigns of the Vietnam War series. It begins with President Lyndon B. Johnson's decision to commit the U.S. military to an escalating role in the ground war against the Communist government of North Vietnam and its allies in South Vietnam known as the Viet Cong.

Veterans Health Administration

This year the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) History Program is hosting three interns through a partnership supporting diversity goals. The interns are graduate students with training in research methods and history, and they are developing outreach materials for the history program. Their project focuses on "Notable Burials" and monuments found across the national cemetery system. Sesily Resch, from the University of Maryland-College Park, completed her second summer with NCA History. Resch researched American Indian soldiers and scouts, as well as Hispanic Americans, buried in national cemeteries. Joseph Thompson from Drexel University created digital exhibits about a number of monuments and memorials. Ida Carey will come to NCA History next month. She is a student at the University of North Texas. Carey will build on earlier interns' research about African-American veterans. The Washington Center and the National Diversity Internship Program, VA Office of Diversity and Inclusion, sponsored all three interns. Their discoveries will be evident on the NCA History website in the coming months.

To mark the sesquicentennial of the Civil War (2011–15), the National Cemetery Administration History Program initiated an exciting project to develop interpretive signs for 110 national cemeteries, soldiers' lots, and Confederate cemeteries associated with that conflict. The signs are composed of a 24- by 36-inch imbedded fiberglass panel in a metal cantilevered frame. They are located in the properties to provide visitors with historic information on military cemeteries and those buried within them. A "generic" sign tells the story of how the national cemetery system was born of the Civil War and typical monument types found at the sites. Other signs tell the unique history of each cemetery. The last of the signs—15 for NCA's soldiers' lots—were completed in August 2015. Sign content will also be added to the NCA website to provide information to virtual visitors.

The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Federalist Calendar

Oct. 14–16, 2015. Army Historical Foundation. Symposium, "Violent Skies: The Air War over Vietnam." National Defense University, Fort McNair. For information, *www.violentskies.org*

Oct. 14–18, 2015. Oral History Association (OHA). Tampa, FL. Visit *http://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting*

Oct. 22–23, 2015. Center for Cryptologic History. "A Century of Cryptology." Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory's Kossiakoff Center in Laurel, Maryland. Register: *https://cryptologicfoundationorg.presencehost.net/support/event_calendar.html/event/2015/10/23/-b-2015-cch-cryptologic-history-symposium-b-*

Nov. 3–6, 2015. National Trust for Historic Preservation. "PastForward 2015." Washington, DC. Visit *www.preservationnation.org/conference* Contact: *conference@savingplaces.org*

Nov. 19–22, 2015. History of Science Society. San Francisco, CA. Visit *http://hssonline.org/meetings/2015-hss-annual-meeting/*

Jan. 7–10, 2016. American Historical Association (AHA). Atlanta, GA. Visit *http://www.historians.org/annual-meeting*

Mar. 16–19, 2016. Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG) and National Council for Public History (NCPH). "Challenging the Exclusive Past." Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, MD. Visit: *http://ncph.org/cms/conferences/2016-annual-meeting/*

Mar. 29–Apr. 3, 2016. American Society for Environmental History (ASEH). "Environmental History and Its Publics." Seattle, WA. Visit *http://aseh.net/conference-workshops/seattle-conference-2016*

Apr. 7–10, 2016. Organization of American Historians (OAH). Annual Meeting. "On Leadership." Providence, RI. Visit *http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/meetings-events/call-for-proposals/*

Apr. 14–17, 2016. Society for Military History (SMH). "Crossing Borders, Crossing Boundaries." Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Visit *http://www.smh-hq.org/2016cfp.html*

July 21–24, 2016. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR). 38th annual meeting. New Haven, CT. Visit *http://www.shear.org/annual-meeting/*

June 23–25, 2016. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). San Diego, CA. Visit *https://shafr.org/conferences/annual/2016-annual-meeting*

Additional listings at *http://shfg.org/shfg/category/calendar/*