



# The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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**SHFG**  
www.shfg.org

## COMMEMORATING THE 89<sup>TH</sup> U.S. CONGRESS

Jay Wyatt

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Freedom of Information Act. It is also the golden anniversary of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, the Child Nutrition Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, and well, you get the point. The second session of the 89th U.S. Congress was unusually productive. And when considered alongside the successes attained a year earlier during its first session, which included passage of the Voting Rights Act and the Social Security Act Amendments that created Medicare and Medicaid, as well as new laws addressing poverty, housing, education, immigration, and the environment, the 89th Congress emerges as one of the most consequential in American history. President Lyndon Johnson, whose Great Society agenda rested largely on these legislative achievements, remarked that “when the historians of tomorrow write of today, they will say of the 89th Congress . . . ‘This was the great Congress.’”

To help commemorate the 89th Congress’ 50th anniversary, an expansive digital exhibition sponsored by the Association of

See “Congress” cont’d on page 4

## SHFG’s Conference 2016

SHFG’s joint conference with NCPH on March 16–19 in Baltimore was an exciting event. As expected, the combined program brought together an exceptionally diverse set of programs that had attendees buzzing. Sessions were fully attended, with excellent presentations and discussions. Just a few of the events and topics included a half-day NPS symposium on Re-Orienting and Diversifying Public Culture in the 21st Century, declassification of records, developing podcasts, historians and public policy, and cultural resources on military lands. Issues of lack of racial diversity in panels, especially related to African American history, and on the fate of Civil War Confederate

monuments were hotly debated both at the conference and on social media. Discussions of field work in preservation of cultural resources made evident some exceptional efforts in community involvement and mediation. A session on history and public policy exposed both the responsibilities and limitations of historians. They must be brought in to policy development and help societies think beyond the strictures of their remembrance cultures (of national tragedy, for example) and develop a “culture of remembering” that allows clearer historical vision. See the program for all sessions: <http://ncph.org/conference/2016-annual-meeting/>

See “Conference” cont’d on page 5



Session on Confederate monuments

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## The **FEDERALIST**

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## President's Message

By Terrance Rucker

Welcome to the spring issue of *The Federalist*. At the start of my term, I didn't believe that a year could move so quickly, but time flies when you're working with a wonderful membership. As this issue goes to press, the Society is benefiting from improvements in its online services and is reaching out to new and former members. I would like to thank this year's officers, Executive Council, and committees for all of their hard work in making the Society a success. Here is a summary of some of the highlights.

Through the success of last fall's Hewlett Lecture we've established a productive (and hopefully long-term) relationship with the Woodrow Wilson Center for History & Policy. The Hewlett Lecture planning group (led by incoming President Kristina Giannotta) is working with the Wilson Center on details for this year's lecture. I'm looking forward to it. Special thanks go to SHFG Secretary Elizabeth Charles for suggesting and facilitating the Wilson Center as a venue.

I also have good news about sustainability for the Hewlett Lecture. In December 2015, the Society received a generous gift from the Marilyn Hewlett Trust. The trust bequeathed \$5,000 to the Society but did not specify a use for the money. The Executive Council decided to establish a Richard G. Hewlett Memorial Lecture fund. As with the Roger R. Trask Award, the SHFG will solicit donations from the membership to sustain the lecture and preserve Dr. Hewlett's extraordinary legacy. Our first donation came from Brian Martin, CEO of History Associates Inc. and a close colleague of Dr. Hewlett. On behalf of the Society, I thank the Marilyn Hewlett Trust for the gift and Brian for contributing to preserving Dr. Hewlett's legacy of public service.

The SHFG/National Council on Public History (NCPH) three-day joint conference last month was a fruitful collaboration that drew about 1,000 attendees to Baltimore, MD. I would like to thank the NCPH, especially Executive Director Stephanie Rowe for being such a gracious host. I also thank former Executive Director John Dichtl, who approached SHFG about hosting a joint conference. Thank you also to Past President Carl Ashley, Kristin Ahlberg,

Mandy Chalou, and Mattea Sanders for their service on the SHFG/NCPH Program Committee.

Our outreach efforts were a very pleasant surprise. Twelve SHFG Members received an exclusive tour of CIA headquarters in Langley, VA, in September 2015. We also plan summer and fall get-togethers this year. A federal jobs workshop in the fall of 2015 was also successful, with registration filling in a matter of hours. Representatives from executive and legislative branch agencies shared insights and resources on applying for federal history positions. With high demand, the Society held another workshop on April 23 at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. Special thanks to VP Kristina Giannotta and Membership Coordinator Eric Boyle, who suggested these events to the Executive Council and brought them to life. To find out about future outreach events, subscribe to the e-Bulletin.

SHFG also took its advocacy responsibilities very seriously this year. In November 2015, the Society sent comments to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to assist with drawing up a strategic framework plan. In April 2016, the Society sent a letter of concern to the U.S. Department of Labor urging the hiring of an agency historian. As part of the Society's mission of representing the professional needs of the federal history community and fostering understanding of federal historians and their work, I'm proud that the Society has taken proactive steps to help federal history professionals in their work and to encourage federal agencies to maintain historical offices.

As my term draws to a close, I hope you've noticed in my reflections on successful Society events and initiatives that I thank some members by name and many unnamed members (and colleagues outside the society). Individuals make organizations like the Society work. It has been an honor to serve as President, and I look forward to serving the Society in the future.

### Staff Writers Needed

*The Federalist* seeks writers to highlight agency news and write short feature articles. Specific areas of coverage include the National Park Service, U.S. Army, Smithsonian Institution, and Library of Congress, among others. Direct questions and responses to the editor at [benjamin.guterman@shfg.org](mailto:benjamin.guterman@shfg.org)

## Editor's Note

This issue provides a general overview of our recent joint conference with the NCPH, an exciting event that allowed SHFG members to encounter some new issues and initiatives in the broader public history community. We've included a few firsthand comments from attendees that provide some idea of the rich programming there. We also list the SHFG award winners and recognize **Don Ritchie**, Senate Historian Emeritus, as this year's presenter of the Roger R. Trask Lecture. We're glad to be able to include the Federal Judicial Center as our featured history office. We learn a great deal here about their valuable role in documenting and explaining our legal heritage. An interview with **Richard Stewart**, retired chief historian at the Center of Military History, provides a rare view into the focus and production of Army history—its unique records challenges and procedures to achieve high standards. Dr. Stewart also relates his long-term efforts to reform personnel procedures to hire the best historians. **Jay Wyatt**, of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, discusses an ongoing online project that documents and educates us on the work of the remarkable 89th U.S. Congress (1965–66). The project offers insights on the online presentation of primary documents and educational materials for a wide range of audiences and professionals. I thank **Chas Downs** for another interesting chapter of SHFG history, and **A. J. Daverede** for reviewing a series of newly declassified records. We hope you enjoy other stories herein that explore the work of federal history programs. Please send any comments and information to me at *benjamin.guterman@shfg.org* Twitter: *@BenjGuterman*

## Executive Council News

The Executive Council held its first post-conference meeting on April 12 to discuss the Society's remaining agenda for the year. Members were satisfied that the joint conference with NCPH was a success, both substantively and financially. The Council discussed preliminary plans and negotiations for the 2017 conference, hoping that it can be held in Washington, DC. It heard from organizers of the second jobs workshop, to be held on April 23, which seemed to be fully ready. The Prize Committee will soon present plans for adding members and for incorporating a new prize for quantitative history. Members learned of the almost complete slate of new officers and of a successful membership drive thus far for 2106. The Hewlett Lecture Committee has made an early start for the fall event, and will continue talks for the venue and speakers. Members also discussed efforts to promote establishment of history offices in agencies lacking them, and also how to better administer and safeguard SHFG's archives collection, now at the National Archives at College Park.

## Welcome New Members

We welcome the following new members for 2016 and thank those who have supported us at the \$100 Patron level.

### New Members

Benjamin Apt  
George Barnum  
Lindsey Bestebreurtje  
Adam Bisno  
Anthony Crain  
Emily Curley  
Clare Cushman  
Michelle Datiles  
Anne Effland  
Diane Flores  
Levi Fox  
Jessica French  
Hank Grasso  
Phillip Graves  
Katherine Griffith  
Dallas Grubbs  
Kate Hallgren  
Connie Holland  
Dee Harris  
Barbara Karn  
Amanda Klein  
Tomasz Kolodziej  
Preston Lann  
Kristin Mattice  
Anne Ladyem McDivitt  
Shannon Mohan  
Raymond Niederhausen  
David Patterson  
Alex Roberson  
Brittany Sealey  
Benjamin Sharpe  
Christopher Shearin  
Matthew Sparks  
Dana Stefanelli

Chelsea Tegels  
David Telles  
Rhys Tucker  
Amanda Vercruyse  
Joanna Vretos  
Nicholas Welsh  
Michael Williams  
James Willis  
Beth Wolny  
Atlas Tian Xu  
Marshall Yokell  
Soraya Ziaecian

### Patrons

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Kristina Giannotta  
Terrence J. Gough  
Donald Hall  
Maarja Krusten  
Judson MacLaury  
Maeva Marcus  
Richard McCulley  
David B. McMillen  
James McNaughton  
Timothy K. Nenninger  
Michael C. Reis  
Donald A. Ritchie  
Terrance Rucker  
Matt Wasniewski



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Federal History journal

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

See <http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/federal-history-journal/> for current and past issues. A print edition is sent to members. Submissions should be sent to [editor-shfg-journal@shfg.org](mailto:editor-shfg-journal@shfg.org).



“Congress” from page 1

Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) titled *The Great Society Congress* places renewed focus on its members, their activities, and the shifting sociopolitical milieu in which they worked between January 1965 and December 1966. You can visit the exhibit at <http://acsc.lib.udel.edu/great-congress>.

The ACSC is a national alliance of institutions, organizations, and individuals (many of whom are also members of SHFG) that promote the study of the United States Congress and the preservation of the personal papers of the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. In full disclosure, I am the current president of the ACSC and co-chair of the task force that conceptualized, built, and maintains the exhibit, serving with Danielle Emerling, the congressional and political papers archivist at West Virginia University’s West Virginia and Regional History Center.

*The Great Society Congress* sprung from a long-held desire by many ACSC members to develop a cross-institutional, collaborative project focusing on Congress and showcasing the wide array of materials in their collections. With a seemingly ever-growing number of free and widely accessible digital tools available, and with the 50th anniversary of the Great Society on the horizon in 2014, Danielle and I developed the project’s parameters with three primary goals in mind: that the exhibit facilitate collaboration between ACSC members, that it contain a significant number of primary sources, and that it be presented in a way that attracts and is useful to a variety of audiences, including scholars and researchers, educators and students, and anyone interested in the history of Congress and American politics.

As we began work on the project, creating an exhibit framework that allowed for broad historical coverage of the 89th Congress and incorporated strong design elements and easy navigability posed a significant challenge. Utilizing the free open-source web publishing platform Omeka, we divided the exhibit content into three core exhibit sections: “The 89th Congress,” “The Legislation,” and “The Political Environment.” Each contains multiple subject features that are represented by a visually engaging historical image or document and arranged in a horizontal timeline format that allows visitors to scroll left or right in search of a topic that interests them.

Visitors to the “89th Congress” section can investigate the party makeup of the House and Senate, learn about important rules changes that were made, and survey the strategies of the Democratic and Republican leadership. In clicking through to the profile of “The Republican Opposition,” visitors can investigate documents and images relating to the “Ev and Jerry Show,” the popular weekly joint press conferences held by Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen (R-IL) and House Minority Leader Gerald Ford (R-MI) to publicly voice the Republican perspective on the week’s events.

Those more interested in the 89th Congress’ productive output can examine documents relating to signature Great Society legislation like the Voting Rights Act or lesser-known laws such as the Highway Beautification Act in “The Legislation” section. The profiles are arranged chronologically according to the date when



each piece of legislation was passed. Internal memos, press releases, pamphlets, and marked-up copies of bills within the profiles provide insight into the ways in which each piece of legislation was crafted and shaped. Visitors examining the documents relating to the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, which mandated the presence of health warning labels on all cigarette packaging and advertising, can glimpse the tobacco industry’s perspective by perusing its glossy 17-page color pamphlet “Tobacco—A Vital U.S. Industry” contributed by the National Archives and Records Administration’s Center for Legislative Archives.

Special exhibit features located in the “Political Environment” section focus on hot-button issues like civil rights and the war in Vietnam and include numerous pieces of constituent correspondence on each subject. Reflecting the thoughts and concerns of citizens from across the nation, the letters reveal the extent to which many Americans struggled to understand and adapt to the shifting social and political climate of the mid-sixties, and they foreshadow some of the larger arguments that would divide the nation in the ensuing years.

*The Great Society Congress* currently contains 23 features and more than 350 unique primary source documents contributed by nearly 20 ACSC member institutions, including the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, and the W.R. Poage Legislative Library at Baylor University. The exhibit will be updated with new content on a rolling basis through 2016. Over the next few months, the exhibit team will add a teaching module as well as new features profiling select congressional committees, the Freedom of Information Act, the Highway Safety Act, the Child Protection Act, and several other signature pieces of legislation passed during the 89th Congress’ second session. Each document includes all pertinent and available metadata and citation information, making the exhibit an excellent resource for scholars, educators, and student researchers.

For more information on the ACSC and its initiatives, visit [www.congresscenters.org](http://www.congresscenters.org) or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

*Jay Wyatt is the Director of Programs and Research at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education and President of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress. Email: JWYATT@shepherd.edu*

*“Conference” from page 1*

### A few comments from attendees:

*As a first-time attendee at both SHFG and NCPH annual meetings, I was extremely impressed with the quality and interdisciplinary nature of the sessions. Conference highlights: “Thinking Visually About History” emphasized the storytelling potential of the collections of the Architect of the Capitol and U.S. House of Representatives, “Our Streets, Our Stories” provided an interactive discussion of the challenges of community history projects in Queens and Brooklyn, and “Toward a Broader Understanding of the People’s Branch: Using Congressional and Political Collections in Public History Exhibits” demonstrated a collaborative exhibit about the 89th Congress, the “Great Society Congress.” I especially enjoyed the poster sessions and opportunities to engage with both undergraduate and graduate students as well as professionals.*

**– Gwen Sinclair**  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Library

*This was my third SHFG and third NCPH conference, and I was excited to see them held jointly. Enabling government historians to showcase their important, but often under-recognized, work is something I’d like to see more of through NCPH in general, so this was a welcome addition. I was impressed at how well attended the SHFG sessions were that I was able to attend. It’s clear I’m not the only one who shares an interest in making government history relevant! The presenters at these sessions were engaging as well as informative, encouraging active participation by their audience—something which is also always a hallmark of NCPH meetings. Of particular note was the half-day symposium on the role of federal agencies in diversifying public culture.*

**– Kelly Spradley-Kurowski**  
National Park Service

*This was the first joint meeting of SHFG and NCPH since the 1980s, and Baltimore provided a great venue for a long overdue reunion. It was exciting to see interaction among members of both groups, and many of our standing-room-only sessions were filled with public historians. Clearly, there is tremendous interest in federal history. I particularly enjoyed the session on Internships and Fellowships in Federal Agencies in which students described their experiences working with federal history programs. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring to light the many opportunities available to historians in the government. Overall, one of the best meetings I’ve attended. And the West Virginia University versus Arizona State Duck Pin Bowling match was a classic.*

**– Carl Ashley**  
Department of State

*For me all the valuable benefits we expect and experience from conference attendance applied, but there was one particularly stand-out experience. The Army panel on collecting “history” in the field resonated deeply. Many of the topics they discussed directly correlated to the Naval History and Heritage Command’s mission and challenges. After the session concluded, I started thinking about how an extraordinary conversation would occur if I could just ask the Army to deliver the exact same panel presentation to the many history professionals at NHHC. So I am going to try and do just that. The diversity of the SHFG and NCPH panels and their power to connect with and generate insight into our own professional practices was a particular strength of the conference.*

**– Greg Martin**  
Naval History and Heritage Command



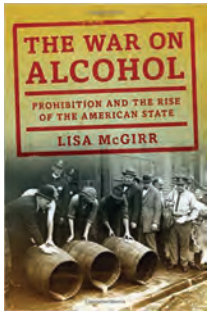
ABOVE: Session: Banjos in the Museum; RIGHT: The SHFG exhibit table



## SHFG Awards 2016

The Society presented its annual awards at the annual conference in Baltimore on March 17.

### HENRY ADAMS PRIZE



Lisa McGirr, *The War on Alcohol: Prohibition and the Rise of the American State* (W.W. Norton, 2015)

### GEORGE PENDLETON PRIZE



William B. McAllister, Joshua Botts, Peter Cozzens, and Aaron W. Marrs, *Toward "Thorough, Accurate, and Reliable": A History of the Foreign Relations of the United States Series* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of State, 2015)

### JAMES MADISON PRIZE



Jennifer Bess, "The Price of Pima Cotton: The Cooperative Testing and Demonstration Farm at Sacaton, Arizona, and the Decline of the Pima Agricultural Economy, 1907–1920," *Western Historical Quarterly* 46 (Summer 2015): 171–189



Brandon C. Davis, "Defending the Nation, Protecting the Land: Emergency Powers and the Militarization of American Public Lands," in *Proving Ground: Militarized Landscapes, Weapons Testing, and the Environmental Impact of U.S. Bases*, ed. Edwin A. Martini (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2015)

### CHARLES THOMSON PRIZE



J. Overton, "The Battle of Port Gamble," *Columbia: The Magazine of Northwest History* (Spring 2015): 24–27

### JOHN WESLEY POWELL PRIZE



**Minidoka NHS Guard Tower Reproduction.** Minidoka NHS Guard Tower Reproduction. Department of Construction Management, College of Engineering, Boise State University



**Veterans Administration West Los Angeles Campus Building 209 Rehabilitation:** Veterans Administration

See our Awards page at  
[www.shfg.org/shfg/awards/current-winners/](http://www.shfg.org/shfg/awards/current-winners/)

## History Office Profile

# The Federal Judicial History Office at the Federal Judicial Center

*Jake Kobrick*

This spring, the Federal Judicial History Office at the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) will convene a group of accomplished historians and legal scholars to assess the related fields of legal and judicial history and to explore new avenues for further research. The ideas shared at the conference will be disseminated more widely through an edited volume that will follow. Organized by Clara Altman, who became director of the History Office in 2015, the conference represents a new initiative designed to break down barriers between public and academic history and to increase the office's engagement with the scholarly community.

The bringing together of public historians and academic scholars represents one part of a broader effort to foster greater research on the history of the federal courts. This new undertaking builds upon the office's work of the last quarter-century to aid the FJC in fulfilling its statutory mandate. The FJC, established by Congress in 1967 "to further the development and adoption of improved judicial administration in the courts of the United States," and often referred to as the research and education agency of the federal courts, did not initially have a history program of any kind. In the late 1980s, the Committee on the Judicial Branch of the Judicial Conference of the United States proposed the creation of a history program at the FJC. The proposal was born of an appreciation for the importance of the history of the judicial branch as well as the realization that the branch had taken no major steps to bring its past to light. In response to the committee's proposal, which was endorsed by the FJC's governing board, Congress in 1988 expanded the FJC's statutory mandate, providing that the Center should "conduct, coordinate, and encourage programs relating to the history of the Judicial Branch of the United States government." As a result of this directive, the History Office, with Cynthia Harrison as its chief historian, began operations in 1989.

Many of the office's activities in its early years were influenced by recommendations from an advisory committee appointed by Chief Justice William Rehnquist and comprised of historians and federal judges. The committee suggested that the office provide support for history programs in the courts, create materials to help inaugurate such programs, and assist with the development of local oral history projects. In October 1990, the History Office hosted a two-day seminar for federal court history programs that consisted of discussions regarding the preservation of court records, the preservation of judges' personal papers, oral history projects in the courts, the commemoration of the bicentennials of individual federal courts, and the organization and maintenance of court history programs. In its first years, the office also undertook surveys of existing oral histories of judges as well as of judges' personal papers that had already been



*Tallahassee, Florida, federal courthouse, 1936 (FJC history website via National Archives)*

donated to repositories, resulting in the publication of guides for researchers on both types of materials.

Shortly after the office's inception, it began work on the compilation of biographical and service information for all judges appointed under Article III of the U.S. Constitution since 1789—a project that has continued ever since. Bruce Ragsdale—who succeeded Harrison as chief historian (later called director) in 1995 and led the office for the next 20 years—launched the History of the Federal Judiciary website in 2000, with the Biographical Directory of Federal Judges, 1789–present, as its centerpiece. The Biographical Directory contains biographical data, detailed information on federal judicial service, and a listing of other professional experience for each of the 3,573 people (as of this writing) who have served as federal judges appointed pursuant to Article III. Biographical entries also include, where applicable, bibliographies and listings of relevant oral histories and manuscript collections. Users can search the directory by name, browse alphabetical listings, or conduct advanced searches by court, appointing president, confirmation date, and many other criteria. Advanced researchers can download an export of the data on all judges.

Since its launch, the website has served as a crucial medium for conveying information on judicial history to a diverse audience including researchers, judges, and the general public. The site has continued to grow since its inception, and presents an encyclopedic overview of judicial history, with sections on judges, courts, the judicial branch, historic federal courthouses, teaching and civic outreach resources, and federal court historical programs. Only a partial list is feasible here of the large amount of reference material available on the website. The material includes legislative histories, lists of judges and chief judges,

judge succession charts, and authorized meeting places for each federal court; essays on the history of various types of federal court jurisdiction; data on judicial salaries, historical caseloads, and appropriations for the federal judiciary; an accounting of all unsuccessful judicial nominations since 1789; complete lists of the circuit allotments of the Supreme Court justices; and detailed information on the arrangements of judicial districts and circuits throughout history.

In addition to maintaining the website and biographical directory, the office continues to engage in other projects that promote greater knowledge of the history of the federal judiciary. In 2010, for example, the office published the *Guide to Research in Federal Judicial History*, which provides detailed advice for scholars on how to locate records of the federal courts, congressional and executive branch records related to the judiciary, records related to federal courthouses, the papers of federal judges, and other archival materials. The *Guide* describes

each record group in detail, to assist researchers in determining which records to pursue and to give them a preview of what they should expect to find once in the archives. The office in 2013 also published two volumes of *Debates on the Federal Judiciary: A Documentary History*, which cover the periods 1787–1875 and 1875–1939, respectively. These volumes, the third and final of which is in progress, present excerpts of correspondence, speeches, congressional hearings and floor debates, and other primary sources to illuminate the major debates that have taken place throughout American history regarding the establishment, organization, operation, and administration of the federal judiciary. Moreover, the History Office consulted with the Supreme Court Historical Society on, and provided other support for, *The Federal Courts: An Essential History*. The book was published by Oxford University Press in early 2016 and is the first single-volume narrative history of the federal courts.

## Federal Trials and Great Debates

### Teaching Resources at the FJC

The Federal Judicial History Office of the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) maintains extensive resources on its website for the study and teaching of famous federal trials (<http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/teaching.html>). The site covers 11 historical trials that involved matters of public controversy in their time and that illustrate the role of the federal courts in the resolution of significant public debates. The cases addressed controversies over issues including civil liberties, slavery, immigration, gender equality, racial segregation, and national security, among others.

The titles of the features are:

- The Sedition Act Trials
- The Aaron Burr Treason Trial
- Amistad: The Federal Courts and the Challenge to Slavery
- *Ex parte Merryman* and Debates on Civil Liberties During the Civil War
- The Trial of Susan B. Anthony
- *Chew Heong v. United States*: Chinese Exclusion and the Federal Courts
- The Debs Case: Labor, Capital, and the Federal Courts of the 1890s
- *Olmstead v. United States*: The Constitutional Challenges of Prohibition Enforcement
- The Rosenberg Trial
- *Bush v. Orleans Parish School Board* and the Desegregation of New Orleans Schools
- The Chicago Seven Conspiracy Trial

FJC historians and outside scholars created the trial units for use in Federal Trials and Great Debates in United States History, a project aimed at providing high school teachers of history, government, social studies and law with materials to help them to incorporate federal court history into their teaching. As part of that project, the trial units are used in the FJC's annual summer institute for teachers, co-sponsored by the American Bar Association. Each unit contains a brief narrative of the case, a summary of the legal arguments involved, biographies of major participants, highlights of media coverage and public debates, excerpts of relevant historical documents, and other features. Included alongside each unit are suggested exercises for classroom use as well as materials for judges wishing to discuss the case in educational settings.

Through this material, the Federal Judicial History Office has helped to situate the history of the federal courts in the broader context of the history of American government and public affairs. Underlying the project is the belief that the study of federal judicial history should not be limited to the Supreme Court. The study of trial courts—the forums where participants make their voices heard and the institutions that do much to shape public confidence in the judiciary—provides valuable teaching opportunities. The History Office encourages educators and all others interested in judicial history to visit the site, browse the trial materials, and consider ways of incorporating federal court history into their curriculum or field of study.



For the past 11 years, a vital component of the FJC's effort to educate the general public about the unique role of the federal courts in the nation's public life has been the annual Summer Institute for Teachers, co-sponsored by the Public Education Division of the American Bar Association. Each June, 20 high school and middle school teachers of history, government, and law travel from across the country to Washington, DC, for a week-long program entitled "Federal Trials and Great Debates in United States History." The program focuses on three trials that addressed issues of significant public controversy at the time and that today provide important insights into the historical role of the courts in resolving significant public debates. During the week, the teachers hear presentations on each case from noted historians and federal judges, work on curriculum activities related to the cases, and take field trips to the Supreme Court of the United States, a U.S. district court, and other historic destinations.

Under Director Clara Altman, the Federal Judicial History Office seeks to expand its public profile and increase its engagement with the scholarly community, federal judges and their staffs, and the general public. The office's recent launch of a Twitter feed (@FedJudicialHist) is representative of this goal. At the same time, and in conjunction with this effort, the office will continue to generate reference material and produce publications that broaden and deepen understanding of judicial history. Upcoming initiatives include a redesign of the website, which will allow for the presentation of history in more visually interesting ways; narrative biographies of notable federal judges whose contributions may not be well-known; and a history of the process surrounding the nomination and confirmation of federal judges. Preserving and interpreting the historical record of the judicial branch of the federal government is a challenging task for an office that employs only three historians, but the opportunity to help Americans better understand the ways in which the federal courts have helped to shape the nation's history makes that challenge more than worthwhile.

*Jake Kobrick is an associate historian at the Federal Judicial History Office in Washington, DC. E-mail: [jkobrick@fjc.gov](mailto:jkobrick@fjc.gov)*

### Quantitative History Prize

SHFG has created an annual award for quantitative history to be given for excellence in an article or essay that advances our knowledge of the history of the federal government through the application of quantitative methods to the study of federal records or the records of federal officials. This award is for unpublished papers. The award-winning paper will be published in *Federal History*, and the author will receive \$100. The entry deadline is November 30, and the submission email address is [shfgqp@gmail.com](mailto:shfgqp@gmail.com). More information available soon at <http://shfg.org/shfg/awards/awards-requirements/>



### Don Ritchie Delivers the Hewlett Lecture

Don Ritchie addressed SHFG members and other attendees in the annual Roger R. Trask Lecture at the Society's conference in Baltimore on March 17. Ritchie is the former Historian of the U.S. Senate, having retired in 2015. He has been active in SHFG and several other societies for many years. His work for the Senate has involved research, writing, editing, exhibit planning, and conducting oral histories. He has also offered historical commentary on C-SPAN and other networks and published a number of books, among them *Press Gallery: Congress and the Washington Correspondents* (which received SHFG's Henry Adams Prize) and *Electing FDR: The New Deal Campaign of 1932* (which received the George Pendleton Prize). In his lecture, he discussed highlights of his career at the Senate Historical Office, including oral history work and interactions with senators. The lecture will be published in the 2017 issue of *Federal History*.

### Promoting History Offices

The SHFG Executive Council has become increasingly aware of lapsed history programs and history positions at several federal agencies. Most agencies are aware of the historian's vital role in providing historical context for decision makers, managing records and oral history programs, writing historical materials, and communicating with the public. However, such duties are frequently assumed by public affairs offices, media specialists, or advisers who lack training in historical standards. The SHFG Council is discussing how to best offer its services for establishment of offices. Current agencies without an official historian include the Department of Labor, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, and Defense Threat Reduction Agency, among others. The Council has sent a letter to Deputy Secretary of Labor Christopher P. Lu urging reinstatement of the historian position. Please send information of other agencies without historians to SHFG President Terrance Rucker at [shfg.president@gmail.com](mailto:shfg.president@gmail.com) and Vice President Kristina Giannotta at [shfg.vicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:shfg.vicepresident@gmail.com)

## The History Professional

An Interview with Richard W. Stewart

Richard W. Stewart retired in October 2015 as acting Director/Acting Chief of Military History and Chief Historian of the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) in Washington, DC. He received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1986. He started his civil service career as a research historian at the Center for U.S. Army Lessons Learned, Fort Leavenworth, KS, and moved on in 1990 to be the command historian at the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, NC, before joining the Center of Military History in Washington in 1998. His 30-year career as a commissioned officer included deployments to Operation Desert Storm (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, 1991), Somalia (1993), Bosnia (1997), and after 9/11 to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan in support of Task Force Dagger during Operation Enduring Freedom (2002). His historical works include *War in the Persian Gulf: Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, August 1990–March 1991* (CMH, 2010), *The U.S. Army in Somalia* (CMH, 2002), and *Operation Enduring Freedom* (CMH, 2004). He served as Chief Historian from September 2006 until his retirement in October 2015.



Richard W. Stewart

Interview by Benjamin Guterman

This interview is a shortened version of the full interview, which will be available at a later date at <http://shfg.org/shfg/federal-history-work/interviews/>

### How did you get started as a historian in the military?

My doctoral work was actually in Tudor-Stuart English history, not military history, although the dissertation focused on the English Ordnance office of that time. The majority of the dissertation covered topics such as finances, bureaucracy, court politics, Parliamentary reform legislation, and other political topics. Like most newly minted Ph.D.s, I did the rounds of the various hiring venues such as the American Historical Association annual meetings and applying to various colleges and departments for teaching positions because that was what I was trained to do. I also applied for, and was accepted, to attend the Army's Command and General Staff Officers' Course (CGSOC) at Fort Leavenworth as a reserve officer for the entire 10-month course rather than just the "normal" course for a reservist of 4 months. While pursuing this unusual "post-doc," I learned of a position as a military historian for the Center for Army Lessons Learned. This position combined my Army experience with the chance to use my historical training, and I jumped at the chance. I quickly realized that I was more suited for a position as an Army historian than as an academic one.

### What important historical lessons do you think you have learned from your several deployments as a reserve officer in such operations as Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and others?

The most important lessons I learned as a deployed historian for Desert Storm, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, and Afghanistan were: 1) the importance of helping the Army understand just how important it was to keep records on what they did (a hard sell!) and 2) to capture eyewitness testimony as quickly as possible after an event or operation before the memory has time to fade or change. I did lots of interviews of WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans, and it quickly became apparent to me that memories fade quickly and that "imposed" memory, or memory that you think is

yours but is based on listening to your friends and comrades, gradually replaces your own, less "worthy" in your eyes, memories. Getting people to talk to you quickly after a military operation or battle and talk to you honestly about what they saw or did, even when it involved killing others or watching friends die, is difficult but captures the most genuine historical experience possible.

### You've urged a more expansive understanding of military history to include economic, social, legal, political, technological, and cultural issues. Can you provide some examples of how CMH histories have taken this wider perspective?

Military history is so expansive as a discipline and covers so many topics, that if historians limited themselves just to battles and leaders, much of the critical experience of an Army in a democracy would be overlooked. Manpower, training, demographics, politics, finances, the evolution of law in a democracy, and many other facets of society are reflected in our military, impact it, or are changed because of it. When we wrote the history of the U.S. Army in World War II (the famous "Green Books") we had to include strategy, the politics of coalitions, planning conferences, manpower levels, production figures, as well as the battles and leaders. War and militaries are complex issues that affect all aspects of society, and the more we integrate facts and knowledge about those issues, the better and more complete will be our histories. We have just published *Forging the Shield*, the first substantive volume of the U.S. Army in the Cold War. To understand the Army as an institution during that peacetime period of competition, we have had to include aspects such as coalition building, politics, culture, building of infrastructure, manpower needs (selective service), finances, and all the other interrelated aspects of an America mobilized as a society to meet the communist threat around the world. To that you must add details of organization theory, personalities, personnel policy, intelligence, logistics, and even family support policy (or lack of the same). An Army as an institution and as a reflection of American society must have sophisticated histories written about it by sophisticated historians who take cognizance of all of its many aspects.



**Can you briefly discuss the professional historical standards you stressed in your supervision of dozens of pamphlets, books, and monographs on Army history?**

The Center often gets chided for taking a long time to write its official histories. We turn out our pamphlets and papers much quicker, of course, but the official histories, which are meant to be authoritative and as definitive as the sources allow, do take time. That is because we want to get it right. For that, we have a series of reviews of chapters by supervisors, by peers, and even a final panel by nongovernment subject-matter experts to ensure that we are not just writing a “good news” Army story. CMH is committed to writing quality history, not “court history,” and to telling the whole story—good, bad, and indifferent—because the Army and the American people deserve the truth and are better served by it than comfortable falsehoods. If a historian uncovered and wrote about uncomfortable facts that showed the Army in a poor light, I stressed that as long as the sources sustained that judgment, then we had to publish it. If new sources appeared, we would change our judgment accordingly. In short, if you had the evidence and could make your case, I would support it. The problem comes when the facts are not clear or the evidence contradictory. That is where peer review and subject matter expert panels were of value to help sift and weigh the evidence. But in the final analysis, I knew that my name would go on the book along with that of the author, and I had to be sure that the story was as straight as the evidence allowed. Quality history was our goal.

**The Center revised its core textbook, *American Military History* (2 vols.), in 2009 with new chapters on the Global War on Terrorism. What new insights did you gain and even impart therein about the modern Army?**

I undertook as general editor the effort of revising and updating *American Military History* in 2004 and then again in 2009 to accomplish a number of goals. First, the old textbook was 20 years out of date, and while many of the earlier chapters were still in good shape overall, there had been a lot of work done by scholars in the intervening years that needed to be incorporated. Many of the facts did not change, but interpretations had. It was important to bring all the sections up to date, but especially to revise the recommended readings list at the end of each chapter. After all, the text was meant to be issued to ROTC cadets, and they needed to have a ready reference on the latest historical scholarship for each era. Second, with the edition dating from the mid 1980s, all the contingency operations from Desert Storm to Somalia, to Bosnia, to the Global War on Terrorism were missing. It was critical to provide chapters for new, soon-to-be-commissioned officers that talked about their Army and about their wars. Those wars were still in progress so the sections, especially on Iraq and Afghanistan, were necessarily short on details and results, but we had to take a stab at some kind of analysis, however tentative. As for lessons learned, there were probably two lessons, somewhat contradictory in nature. The first was that technology was having a massive impact on the modern battlefield. Precision guided weapons, blue-force tracking (keeping real time control over where friendly

forces were located), computers, and satellites were all making a real difference down to the soldier level. At the same time, many “experts” decreed that such technology was now so important that a “Revolution in Military Affairs” had occurred that had changed the very nature of warfare and, it was implied, made the soldier virtually obsolete—the return of the infamous “push-button war” of the ’50s. The reemergence of a nasty series of foes in 2001 who could hide on the battlefield and within civilian populations, and negate much of our much-vaunted technology put an end to those extravagant claims and pointed out, again, that the key to victory on any battlefield where you wanted to preserve lives and hold ground was still the well-trained soldier. Ground power continues to be as relevant today as ever even though advances in technology can be of great help.

**What was your role in redefining the process of capturing and preserving Army field records (Army Combat History) after Desert Shield/Storm in 1990–1991?**

My first deployment as a combat historian was to Desert Storm in support of Army Special Operations, and I learned first-hand about the challenges of traveling to a contingency theater, establishing oneself on a staff, and collecting interviews, documents, and photographs of an ongoing operation. The fact that it was special operations with all of the attendant security clearance challenges just sharpened the lessons that I learned. The need for discretion, persistence, and tact to gain credibility in a headquarters suspicious of anyone purporting to “capture” or write about what they were doing were valuable lessons. In the years since, both at Army Special Operations Command and later at the Center, I worked with dozens of command historians, Military History Detachments, and with Forces Command and Army Reserve Command to try and capture how field historians could do their jobs better, particularly in the realm of assisting in records capture. Despite some significant opposition from within the community, many of whom insisted on continuing to use civil war battles as training vehicles for records capture long after the current operational environment of modern operations had thrown such teaching vehicles in the dust, we at the Center managed to completely restructure training for field historians and military history detachments. We co-wrote a Commanders’ Guide to Operational Records and Data Collection in conjunction with the Center for Army Lessons Learned (back to the beginning for me!) and the Records Management and Declassification Agency, and published a Field Manual, FM 1-20, on Military History Operations and revised that in 2013 into an Army Techniques Publication (ATP) 1-20 for Army-wide distribution. In short, as a community we learned from our collective experiences, revised a training course to pass on those experiences, and enshrined them in doctrine and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) so that future generations of historians would undertake this necessary task even better in the future. This will be especially important if, again, the Army Records Management program fails in its primary mission and that burden falls upon the historical community.

**You were a strong advocate for Career Program 61. Why were its hiring reforms so important to you, what were the earlier recruiting difficulties, and what has been the impact on the history program?**

Career Program 61 for all Army historians, archivists, and museum professionals was a major initiative that I am proud to have spearheaded. The Army goal was to have all civilians in the Army affiliated with some career program, and initially they tried to put us into the Public Affairs Career Program, which was not a good fit. After discussions with the Army, I managed to convince them that we needed our own, albeit small, career program. By calling together subject-matter experts from the field, we put together special discussion groups, created a series of career plans, ladders, maps, and documents, and generated a G-1 and G-3 approved ACTEDS (Army Civilian Training, Education and Development) plan. This plan outlined all the different steps and standards of a historian, archivist, or museum professional from entry into the Army until retirement. It demystified what you needed to do in terms of experience, training, and education to master your career field or, if you wished, to switch into an allied discipline. In addition, it established an intern plan for bringing on new people at the entry level, providing them with a systematic training and development program so that at the end of their intern plan they were ready to be fully fledged professionals. It also provided us, for the first time, with access to training funds (to the tune of over \$100,000 a year) to get our professionals into additional training opportunities, or even chances to get advanced academic degrees, to improve their careers and their skills to better contribute to the mission of the Army history program. Over time, Career Program 61 will be the vehicle by which our community becomes more and more professionalized, trained, and effective in its mission of providing the best historical, archival, and museum support to the Army.

**Reflecting on your career, what one or two personal accomplishments at the CMH are you most proud of?**

I would have to say that the two personal accomplishments that I am proudest of are those that had the greatest long-term impact. As you can see from my previous response on CP 61, I am proudest of being the guiding hand for five years in the creation, codification, and implementation of a Career Program that will have a growing impact on our profession for generations to come. To be in on the ground floor of the creation of that program was personally and professionally very rewarding because it will have such a long-term impact. It will be, to take a page from our Navy brethren, a “force for good.”

Second, I am personally proud that I was one of those historians who, either deployed or back at headquarters, was a consistent (and persistent) voice to get historians into the field, capture documents, interview soldiers, and collect on our Army today so that historians in the future will have the raw material to write the official histories. I was just one of hundreds who fought to deploy or to deploy others, to write up lessons, to prepare doctrine, or to fight

for the money to set up the increasingly expensive automated systems to store and access the electronic documents of an Army at war. But I am proud, and each of those hundreds should share in that pride, that we did the tough job at no small personal risk and fought the good fight, even when the Army often seemed uninterested in our mission. We persevered, and we should take great comfort in the degree to which we succeeded.

Finally, although you only asked for two, I must add a third source of pride. I believe that I was able to live up to my pledge when first appointed Chief Historian, to maintain the quality of our historical publications. That has always been “job one” for me. In my time at the Center, first as Chief of Histories Division for eight years and then Chief Historian for nine, that quality was always on my mind as we published, as a team, over 120 high-quality historical publications from pamphlets to periodicals to special studies to major official histories. I picked up the torch from Dr. Jeffrey Clarke, Chief Historian number five, and believe that I have kept it burning for Chief Historian number seven when he, or she, is selected.

**Overall, how has the CMH changed in the past two decades, and what major challenges do you think lie ahead?**

The biggest single change has been the increasing engagement of the Center with the management of the Army museum system. It is no longer an after-thought for the Center. When I came to the Center in 1998, the National Museum project was still stumbling, and each Army museum was its own separate entity run and funded, to a greater or lesser degree, by a different major command or unit. Now, with the National Museum finally about to be created and the Center pushing to directly manage all the Army museums, it is apparent that much of the time and energy of the Center’s leadership and a large proportion of the Center’s money will have to be focused on museums rather than history. History will not vanish from the Center’s mission set—writing the official history of the Army was the Center’s original mission and cannot, I say again cannot, be delegated elsewhere, but the intense management challenge of running the Army’s museums has increasingly dominated the Center’s time. That is the biggest single change and the biggest single challenge.

Probably the next major challenge is to develop new ways to disseminate our outstanding historical products to an Army that, like the American public, seems to suffer from a short attention span. The subtle analysis of historical fact takes time and effort and does not recommend itself to “twitterization.” We, as a community, will have to continue to generate the same quality works and develop new ways to push them out, electronically through a variety of media, to the increasingly distracted world if we are to continue to make a difference. We cannot give up traditional publication of major books for the official record, but mining those books and turning some of their most significant insights into shorter electronic products will probably be the wave of the future. ❖



## From the Archives

# The SHFG and the A-76 Initiative

Chas Downs

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) A-76 regulation, first issued in 1966, encouraged federal agencies to contract out for services available from the private sector. OMB's goal was cost savings and government efficiency. The regulation became a major concern of the Society in its early years. Many SHFG members believed that some unique functions such as libraries and audiovisual archives should remain in-house, and they opposed agencies' attempts to privatize these functions. With much of its resources committed in the early 1980s to the ongoing drive to secure independence for the National Archives, it appeared that the Society could or would do little to address the OMB's A-76 initiative. Then Blanche Coll became involved.

Coll, who retired in 1979, was a historian and consultant for various federal agencies and wrote several books about public welfare and Social Security. She was an early SHFG member but was largely inactive until she "went through the roof" on hearing about agencies' intentions to contract out their library functions. She joined the Archives Committee and went to the Executive Council in late 1982 to convince them to act. She drafted a letter dated November 3, 1982, for SHFG leadership arguing that the management of agency libraries should not be left to "outside, profit-making contractors" who lacked the necessary knowledge and expertise. Their cost-consciousness would keep salaries low, encouraging staff turnover, and lose the knowledge and experience that could only be accumulated over time. Coll stated that "Librarianship is not a commercial or industrial service in competition with the government." She viewed the inclusion of library operations as inconsistent with the intent of the A-76 circular. SHFG President David F. Trask sent the letter containing Coll's objections to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Although the Society received no response to its letter, HHS did not contract out its library. While the Department of Defense did contract out its Still Media Depository, the contractor quickly lost interest, and the facility reverted back to its former status in 1985.

Other Society members, such as SHFG Secretary Paul Sheips and *The Federalist* editor Judson MacLaury, joined with Coll to ensure that the A-76 issue remained a concern. In 1983, Executive Council member David K. Allison testified before OMB representatives reviewing A-76 arguing that "libraries and archival repositories are not commercial activities," which are usually "operated by private or non-profit institutions." Allison urged that "as part of a revision of A-76, these activities be struck from the list of 'examples of commercial activities' in the circular and exempted from its provisions." They are an inherent part of any agency's operation...



Blanche Coll [from [www.ssa.gov/history/coll.html](http://www.ssa.gov/history/coll.html)]

and should not be made subject to the vicissitudes of contracting."

On March 9, 1983, President Trask sent letters supporting Allison's testimony to key senators and representatives serving on government oversight committees, including Ted Stevens, Glen English, William Cohen, and Paul Sarbanes. Trask emphasized that, in the SHFG's view, "contracting (out) libraries and audiovisual archives is not in the best interest of the Federal Government."

In a footnote to its August 1983 revision to A-76 regulations, OMB cautioned agencies:

*Some Federal Libraries are primarily recreational in nature and would be deemed commercial activities. However, the National Archives or certain functions within research libraries might not be considered commercial activities. Agency management must use informed judgement on a case-by-case basis in making these decisions.*

OMB's revised language did not go as far as the SHFG would have liked, but it was a victory of sorts. On November 5, 1984, the Society presented a statement at the Oversight Hearings on the Implementation of OMB Circular A-76. The Society reaffirmed its earlier position, but A-76 remained on the books, and OMB's guidance on contracting libraries was still ambiguous. But the SHFG had taken a stand, and the Society's efforts, along with those of the National Coordinating Committee, the American Library Association, and other interested groups, had encouraged agencies to keep libraries in-house and prevented the contracting of library services from spreading throughout the federal government. Blanche Coll, working within the SHFG, demonstrated that one motivated person could have a significant impact on the federal government.

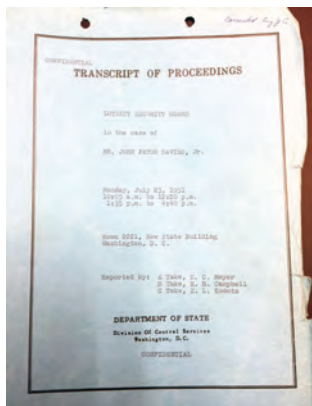
To learn more about the SHFG Archives, or if you have additional information or documentation on this or other SHFG matters, contact Chas Downs at [chasdowns@verizon.net](mailto:chasdowns@verizon.net)

## Newly Declassified Records

This quarter's featured series is a special one that harkens back to a dark period in American history when McCarthyism took hold of almost every government institution. The nine legal-sized Hollinger boxes of the State Department's Loyalty Security Files Relating to John Paton Davies 1942–1956 (RG 59, Records Entry ID 68757) detail a story that was not only heartbreaking to the loyal Foreign Service officer who was John Davies, but also could have led the United States down the road to perdition in Southeast Asia. Davies's long, public, and ultimately unsuccessful ordeal to maintain his security clearance robbed the Department of State of one of its rising stars as well as a renowned expert on the Far East. Celebrated journalist David Halberstam made much of this affair in his 1972 work *The Best and the Brightest*, when he wrote in depth about the trail of foreign policy mistakes that led to America's debacle in Vietnam. Not surprisingly, this series contains a number of worthy documents, including the transcripts from Davies's



John Paton Davies



1951 Loyalty Security Board hearing and his 1954 Security Hearing Board, a number of files documenting Davies's past and service during World War II in the China, Burma, India (CBI) Theater, personnel administration records, and documents showing the attempts to restore Davies's clearance (and reputation) in the 1960s and 1970s. Again, as has been seen in previous declassification releases, some documents have been withdrawn for national security reasons. The document withdrawals are represented by the standard National Declassification Center (NDC) red-striped withdrawn item notice. To discover more record series declassified by the NDC, please visit the NDC Blog at <http://blogs.archives.gov/ndc/> for a complete list of declassified record series and an opportunity to set processing priorities on a number of record series awaiting indexing.

*The cover of a volume of the transcript to John Paton Davies's Loyalty Security Board Hearing that took place in July 1951.*

– A. J. Daverede, NARA, NDC

## The K-25 Virtual Museum

The Department of Energy has created an online exhibit of resources for learning about K-25, one of the central facilities of the Manhattan Project involved in the development of atomic power and the atomic bomb. It was built in the eastern Tennessee farming community of Wheat, later known as Oak Ridge. The top-secret, U-shaped building, constructed around the clock from 1943 to 1945, was a mile long and stood on 44 acres. It became the world's largest enclosed building. At its peak it employed 25,266 people.

K-25 was dedicated to the use of the gaseous diffusion method for uranium separation, while other buildings explored electromagnetic isotope separation (Y-12) and liquid thermal diffusion (S-50) methods. Introductory text explains:

*The first level housed auxiliary equipment such as transformers, switch gears, and air handling systems. The second floor contained the thousands of converters and compressors required for the gaseous diffusion process. The third level was largely a pipe gallery with the majority of piping enclosed in duct manufactured from steel panels. The operating floor, on the fourth level, included hundreds of instrument panels and control devices that aided in operation of the plant. The fourth floor also included a control room that allowed operators to monitor portions of the diffusion stages and manage potential disturbances.*

K-25 was demolished in 2008 and 2013, after almost 70 years of service, but the Manhattan Project Park plans to erect a “footprint” of the facility for visitors.



K-25 aerial view

The website has a useful timeline, complete with key documents, photographs, and film clips; a narrated virtual walking tour that takes you through all four levels of the building; stories of life in Happy Valley (the housing community); information on location and functions of the numerous support buildings; explanations of expansion during the Cold War; and oral histories with participants and relatives.

The site conveys the scientific and engineering complexity of that enormous and rushed wartime undertaking, of the great human efforts involved, and the evolving contributions of the facility after World War II to “defense, energy, and environmental cleanup missions that have helped end war, fuel nations, and restore the local landscape.” This is a very informative and well-planned site that provides a good introduction to the complex and critical undertaking at Oak Ridge. Visit <http://www.k-25virtualmuseum.org/>



## The U.S. Army Medical Service Corps—Resources and History

The U.S. Army Medical Department, Office of History has numerous resources online for the study of its fascinating history. The Medical Department has its roots in the Revolutionary War when the Continental Congress recognized the need for medical professionals. In July 1775 it established a hospital, which became the basis for the future Army Medical Department.

The History Office makes available online an excellent survey by Richard V. N. Ginn titled *The History of the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps* (Office of The Surgeon General and Center of Military History United States Army (Washington, DC, 1997) at <http://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/HistoryofUSArmyMSC/msc2.html>

Ginn provides a good discussion of both the medical needs at points in our military history and the organizational advances that were instituted. He writes of the loss, nondelivery, and diversion of medical supplies during the War of 1812, especially during the campaigns along the Canadian border. One surgeon reported that “he is without drugs, hospital stores, or surgical instruments.” In 1818 Congress sought to address these problems by creating the Medical Department in 1818 (p. 6).

Ginn discusses the appointment of Maj. Jonathan Letterman during the Civil War as medical director for the Army of the Potomac. Letterman saw the need to free physicians from combat duty, as they had been required before, and allow them to dedicate their efforts to medical relief. Letterman also “moved quickly to establish an integrated medical capability based on three principal elements: a coordinated system of casualty evacuation from the point of wounding back through the division rear [ambulance units]; organization of medical logistics, including



*Wagons of the 57th New York's ambulance corps remove wounded from the field after the Battle of Fredericksburg.*

supply tables and transportation; and establishment of division field hospitals as part of the evacuation chain” (p. 13). His use of nonphysician officers “to command ambulance units represented a significant shift in Army Medical Department policy.” These changes in battleground medical practices were transformative.

Over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries, the army recognized the need for specialists and fuller development of its capabilities. Women were brought into service after the Spanish American War with establishment of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901. The Dental Corps began in 1911, the Veterinary Corps in 1916, the Medical Service Corps in 1917, and the Army Medical Specialist Corps came into existence in 1947. The U.S. Army Medical Department, Office of History offers additional resources for learning about the Department’s history.



### Melson Retires As U.S. Marine Corps Chief Historian

Charles D. “Chuck” Melson recently retired after more than 40 years of government service. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, he is a long-time resident of Kent Island, Maryland, with his wife Janet. He has two children: LCdr David Melson on the *USS Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) and Katherine George of Salt Lake City.

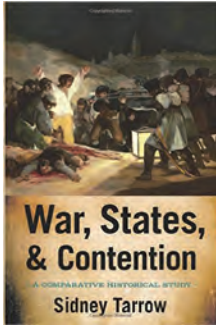
Melson spent 23 years with the History and Museums Division at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, DC, and the Marine Corps University at Quantico, Virginia. He held a variety of positions ranging from historical writer to acting division director, serving for most of his career as Chief Historian. This was a period of major transition and change for his organization which saw the final completion of the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons Center for Marine Corps History.

Melson wrote, edited, and published official histories in the Vietnam, Gulf War, and Global War on Terrorism series as well as World War II, Korea, and Vietnam commemorative publications. He recorded service operations and intelligence actions and represented the Marine Corps at national and international historical meetings, conferences, and committees. He was also a joint historian with the U.S. Central Command and Special Operations Command during the Gulf War and the Global War on Terrorism.

As a career Marine officer, Melson served in Pacific and Atlantic Fleet Marine Forces, at the U.S. Naval Academy, and the Washington Navy Yard. He is a graduate of Saint John’s College in Annapolis and Sonoma State University in California. He is a member of the Society for Military History, the U.S. Commission on Military History, and the Society for History in the Federal Government. He remains active with the Secretary of the Navy’s subcommittee on naval history, the Vietnam War commemoration, and volunteer work.

## Recent Publications

Many recent federal agency publications are featured at <http://shfg.org/shfg/category/recentpublications/>



***War, States, and Contention: A Comparative Historical Study.*** Sidney Tarrow (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2105)

This study of the evolution of modern states should convince us that civil liberties are a fragile and endangered right. We must strive for clear understanding of the broader dynamics of political change if we are to protect our freedoms. As political scientist Sidney Tarrow explores the profound changes from the French Revolution, the first “movement state,” to our own 21st-century state engaged in perpetual warfare, he offers valuable insights into the dynamics between war, political contention, and the identity of the state. His account offers a fluid vision of a continuously changing interplay of governmental powers, social protest, and war-generated upheaval. The outcomes are not always predictable, but we can learn much from the study of past episodes of rapid social change.

Tarrow builds upon the work of Charles Tilly and others on the impact of war by stressing the effects of domestic dissent in the inevitable redefinition of states. He writes that during the French Revolution, revolutionary ideals were soon transformed into exclusion of certain groups, military rule, and a “hierarchical state under the Empire.” Internal contention led to war and new centralized authority that restricted citizens’ rights. In the Civil War-era United States, wartime contention, including draft resistance, led the federal government to extend and centralize its powers through suspension of habeas corpus and of use military commissions, and “creation of irregular forms of policing and policymaking.” In World War I Italy, the working class was not integrated into the political processes, did not generally consent to the war effort, and became radicalized, giving rise to a fascist movement.

Tarrow’s concepts of hierarchical (centralized despotic) and infrastructural (institutional) power help explain patterns of state control. Thus, “liberal states use their infrastructural power to mobilize and maintain consent in wartime.” As for contention, conflict often arises from popular suffering and threats to civil liberties. We cannot predict how contention and war will influence a postwar state.

Most important to Tarrow’s purposes are the political dynamics in our own time. The post–World War II national security state has been superseded by our current period of perpetual war with non-state entities—“composite wars.” He notes that violence has become transnational, and efforts to suppress it have resulted in expanded powers for the American state—both hierarchical and infrastructural. Protest and civil liberties are endangered with the War on Terror and the expanded ability of the U.S. government to blunt and diffuse dissent. The government can monitor all citizens, and can stretch and redefine laws to accommodate its methods of indefinite detention, special courts, militarization, extraordinary rendition, and torture (“rule by law” as opposed to “rule of law”). He concludes that dissenters have limited resources to continue their protests while government can endlessly pursue and extend authority into “shadowy areas of the law,” using the media-based system

to promote consent for perpetual war and even limits on civil liberties.

Despite the book’s fragmented structure, it succeeds in defining the critical connections and interactions between popular contention and war in the modern liberal state, 1776 to the present. Popular consent is the foundation of modern liberal thought, and Tarrow has rightly brought it into the broad discussion of political change. His analyses can help us see more clearly how we can protect our popularly based polity against the drift to centralized power in rapidly changing times.



***War in the Shallows: U.S. Navy Coastal and Riverine Warfare in Vietnam, 1965–1968.*** John Darrell Sherwood (Wash., DC: Naval History and Heritage Command, 2015)

John Darrell Sherwood’s work delves into the Navy’s role in the Vietnam War, attempting to correct the imbalance of studies that have focused mostly on Army, Marine, and Air Force involvement. Navy responsibilities included coastal and river interdiction that required innovations in vessels and tactics in the inland waterways. Riverine warfare, with its frequent ambushes and need for quick decision making, upended traditional naval hierarchy by requiring more on-the-spot authority for junior officers and sailors on patrol boats. With sailors so central and consequential in the daily confrontations with the Viet Cong and the destruction of enemy bases and stores, the author’s story of “warfare” carries a dual narrative: it highlights both personal combat experiences and wider, strategic operations. The detailed account here of naval actions, often in conjunction with the Army, also enhances our knowledge of the war in general.

The book traces the Navy’s two major responsibilities during the “American phase” of the conflict, 1965–1968: patrol of South Vietnam’s shores against the smuggling of arms and other materials (called Market Time), and patrol of the rivers in the Mekong River Delta (called Game Warden). At its height, the naval campaign involved three task forces with “more than 30,000 sailors and over 350 patrol vessels ranging in size from riverboats to destroyers.” In its first experience with river warfare since the Civil War, the Navy had to develop new vessels to counter the enemy’s elusive tactics and powerful weapons provided by the Soviets and Chinese. We learn here of the rapid development of new ships, from the Patrol Boats (PBRs) powered by jet pumps and achieving 30.5 knots to the *Asheville* at 165 feet long, with radar-guided guns and a speed up to 37 knots, but plagued by serious mechanical problems. Other topics include the South Vietnamese naval forces (VNN) and their limitations; critical engagements with the Viet Cong; the sailors’ routines and daily life; transport of Army soldiers to assault zones and “providing fire support for the troops while they operated in the rice paddies and jungles”; development of floating bases and land bases and how they were used; intelligence activities; the role of helicopters; and the critical role of naval forces in river towns during the February 1968 Tet Offensive.

Sherwood’s research is extensive. Quotes from over 125 oral histories with veterans add compelling detail and immediacy to descriptions of daily routines and the confusion of battle. We learn of



personal successes under fire and failures in leadership, of life aboard floating bases, and of naval assistance during the Tet Offensive. Other sources include records of the Commander Naval Forces, naval adjutant general's records, after action reports, command histories, operational summaries, memoirs, and diaries,

Sherwood's account is not a detailed study of strategy and campaigns at the command level, but gives us a vivid picture of naval warfare on Vietnam's rivers. Sherwood sought to assess the Navy's

performance in the war: was it "a triumph for naval arms or a travesty or something in the middle?" On the whole, he concludes that the Navy succeeded in achieving general control of the rivers and slowing considerably the smuggling along the coasts. Overall, this story leaves us with a more complex and clear-sighted view of the Navy's role in the larger military story of that war.

— Benjamin Guterman

## Making History

### Army Historical Foundation

The Spring 2016 issue of *On Point: The Journal of Army History* is now available. Articles include "Quartermaster Corps Artwork"; "The Dawn of American Armor: The U.S. Army Tank Corps in World War I," by Eric Anderson; "U.S. Army Half-Tracks," by Nick McGrath; "Lieutenant General Leslie R. Groves, Jr.," by Patrick Feng; "The Seminole-Negro Indian Scout Detachment," by William F. Haenn; "The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey, Sea Girt, New Jersey," by Joseph G. Bilby; "Defending the Homeland during World War I: The U.S. Guards, 1917–1919," by James O. Kievit and Brent C. Bankus; and "The Naesink Military Reservation, Monmouth, New Jersey," by Melissa Ziobro. Visit [www.armyhistory.org](http://www.armyhistory.org)

### Department of Energy

The Department maintains a Historical Resources page at <http://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/history/historical-resources>. It provides links to a great variety of materials including the new Manhattan Project National Historical Park; a brief history of the Department and a timeline; official histories, including Richard G. Hewlett and Jack M. Holl, *Atoms for Peace and War: The Eisenhower Administration and the Atomic Energy Commission; A History of the Atomic Energy Commission*, Volume III; materials on the Manhattan Project; and links to related materials in exhibits and museums nationwide.

### Department of the Interior

The Interior Museum launched its first online exhibition, *Portrait of an Agency* on the Google Cultural Institute (<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/home>). View the portraits of all 50 Secretaries of the Interior and learn about each one's lasting impact on the Department of the Interior and the nation. You can also sneak a peek at some highlights of our collection, including Thomas Moran's 1872 masterpiece, *Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone*, which was influential in Yellowstone's designation as the first national park in the United States. New exhibitions and collections will follow over the coming months in our Google Cultural Institute page.

Joe Pizarchik, Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, gave a talk titled "Reclaiming the Past" on April 6 in the Rachel Carson Room. He discussed the effects of 200 years of coal mining on our nation's environment. Visitors learned about the progress of abandoned mine land reclamation and new initiatives to bolster the program.

### Department of State

Now available is *Foreign Relations, 1981–1988, Volume III, Soviet Union, January 1981–January 1983*, edited by James Graham Wilson. The volume opens with Ronald Reagan's election on November 4, 1980, and ends with his approval of National Security Decision Directive 75, "U.S. Relations With the USSR," on January

17, 1983. Topics covered include the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan; the potential Soviet invasion of Poland; the possibility that the Reagan administration would act to delay Soviet construction of a Siberian gas pipeline to Western Europe; the execution of NATO's 1979 "Dual Track Decision"; and the implementation of a strategic modernization program on the part of the United States. Also available is *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977–1980, Volume XX, Eastern Europe, 1977–1980*, edited by Carl Ashley and Mircea A. Munteanu. This volume focuses on U.S. policy toward the Communist countries of Eastern Europe, except Poland. It documents the Carter administration's emphasis on "human rights performance in its policy assessment." That resulted in warmer relations with some Eastern European nations, leading to "differentiation" in policies.

### Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA history page maintains a Historical Environmental Topics page with resources grouped in three categories: Historical Resources about Statutes, Regulations and Policies; Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies; and Other Topics of Historical Interest. These include such topics as the Clean Air Act of 1970, Three Mile Island, and Pesticides. Also listed are "Histories of Specific Programs," including Superfund accomplishments and water quality standards history.

### Federal Trade Commission

The Federal Trade Commission, created on September 26, 1914, recently celebrated its 100 year anniversary. Its webpage at <https://www.ftc.gov/about-ftc/our-history> provides background information in several formats, including a bibliography. A recent blog, titled "HSR Act launches effective premerger review," discusses the milestone Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 and its influence. Author Kelly Signs writes that the act "requires prior notification to the antitrust agencies of certain mergers and a waiting period to permit pre-consummation review." It "allowed the antitrust agencies to fulfill the mandate of Section 7 of the Clayton Act to stop anticompetitive combinations in their incipiency." The blog provides background on antitrust law and a brief history of the passage of the act, noting that it has truly changed merger enforcement.

### History Associates Inc

Dr. Philip L. Cantelon, co-founder and CEO of History Associates received a Founders Award for his role in the formation of the National Council on Public History (NCPH). The NCPH created the award in 2015 to recognize those individuals who played crucial roles in the Council's foundation and early success. Dr. Cantelon was an early advocate for putting history—and historians—to work in a variety of environments beyond the academy. He was involved in NCPH from the beginning in 1979, serving as the inaugural executive secretary. Over the years, he led the NCPH's efforts to expand the profile of public historians, define what it means to be in "public history," and organize countless forums, receptions, and conferences. During those early years at NCPH, Dr. Cantelon was also establishing a new historical consulting firm, History Associates, which is

celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. Dr. Cantelon was presented the award at the NCPH Awards Breakfast and Presidential Address on Saturday, March 19, at the Joint Annual Meeting of the National Council on Public History and the Society for History in the Federal Government, which Dr. Cantelon also helped to organize.

### Library of Congress

The exhibition “World War I: American Artists View the Great War” will open on Saturday, May 7. It will feature 25 fine prints, drawings, cartoons, posters and photographs by government and independent artists that helped support the war effort through patriotic and propaganda messages. A slide show will include an additional 70 photographs. The Library writes that “many images advocated for American involvement in the war and others encouraged hatred of the German enemy. In less than two years, the division’s 300 artists produced more than 1,400 designs, including some 700 posters.” Artists included James Montgomery Flagg (best known for his portrayal of Uncle Sam), Wladyslaw Benda, George Bellows, Joseph Pennell, and William Allen Rogers, as well as cartoonist Bud Fisher. The exhibit will also be online.

### National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA’s History Program has published *Historical Studies in the Societal Impact of Spaceflight*, edited by Steven Dick. Upcoming volumes include *Walking to Olympus: An EVA Chronology, 1997–2011*, Vol. 2, by Julie Ta and Robert Trevino; and *Making the Invisible Visible: A History of the Spitzer Infrared Telescope Facility, 1971–2003*, by Renee Rottner and Christine Beckman. A new web page for the Johnson Space Center (JSC) provides improved access to its oral histories. It includes 20 transcripts from the International Space Station Program Oral History Project, as well as transcripts of oral histories with former Johnson Space Center Director Jefferson Howell, former NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe, and spaceflight pioneer Gen. Thomas Stafford. See [http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/history/oral\\_histories/participants\\_full.htm](http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/history/oral_histories/participants_full.htm)

### National Archives and Records Administration

NARA has inaugurated a new interactive researcher platform called History Hub at <https://historyhub.archives.gov/welcome>. It is a “support community . . . for researchers, citizen historians, archival professionals, and open government advocates.” Visitors will benefit from the input of subject-matter experts from the National Archives, history enthusiasts, and citizen archivists. Among its features, it allows the researcher to type in a research question to create a dialogue with NARA staff and others who can provide help with research strategies and relevant records. The questions and multiple answers on military, census, and immigration records function as a community discussion board or crowdsourcing and can be very instructive. Also, links by topic help people join in discussion with others with similar interests. Topical links include Transcribers, Military Records,



President George H. W. Bush visits the Children’s Inn at the NIH.

Genealogist, American Indian Records, and Researchers Help. The trial period for this phase of the platform will end in May.

### National Institutes of Health

The Office of NIH History has acquired a collection of NIH Clinical Center News photographs (<http://clinicalcenter.nih.gov/about/news/newsletter.html>). The images date from the early 1940s to the present. Issues of the newsletter are online from 1996 forward. The collection, taken by NIH photographers over the years, captures visits by celebrities, royalty, visiting scientists, and most importantly, the events documenting biomedical research. These images provide a glimpse of how these visitors viewed the NIH and the Clinical Center and document visually the growth and changes over more than a half-century. The National Library of Medicine scanned the prints and provided the high-resolution digital copies to the Office of NIH History. Librarian of the Office of NIH History Barbara Harkins is working with the NIH Library to identify the most interesting photographs from historical, technological, and personal viewpoints to display on the NIH Library reference reading room large screen LED displays. Photographs documenting the presidential visits to NIH include Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s dedication of the campus on October 31, 1940; Harry Truman’s 1953 visit; and George H.W. Bush’s 1990 visit with the opening of the Children’s Inn.

### National Museum of American History

Current exhibits at the NMAH include the “Hart-Celler Act” (50th anniversary), which revised U.S. immigration standards; “Hooray for Politics!” which displays 19th- and 20th-century voting boxes and machines; and “American Enterprise,” which “chronicles the tumultuous interaction of capitalism and democracy that resulted in the continual remaking of American business.” For all exhibits, see <http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions>

### National Museum of the American Indian

The exhibit “Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations” continues through Spring 2020. It covers U.S.–American Indian diplomacy from the colonial period through the present through display of treaties and related artifacts. Many treaties are on loan from the National Archives. The website provides background information, exhibit videos, a 2015 symposium, and a link to the printed catalogue.

### National Park Service

The Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) announces the publication of *Covered Bridges and the Birth of American Engineering* (2015), edited by HAER Historian Justine Christianson and HAER Architect Christopher H. Marston. The book represents the culmination of research under the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)–sponsored National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation (NHCBP) Program. HAER and the FHWA’s Office of Infrastructure Research and Development have maintained a joint research and technology program for historic covered bridges since 2002. This book examines the development of wood trusses and covered bridge construction, profiles the pioneering craftsmen and engineers involved, explores the function of trusses in covered bridges, and looks at the preservation and future of these distinctly American bridges. The editors have collaborated with some of the leading historians and engineers of historic covered bridges in the country to produce this volume. Contributors include Jim Barker, Lola Bennett, Joseph Conwill, Dario Gasparini, Matthew Reckard, and Rachel Sangree. Richard O’Connor and Sheila Rimal Duwadi supplied overviews of the HAER and NHCBP programs, and Michael Harrison and David Simmons provided invaluable editorial assistance. Download a high-resolution digital version at <https://www.nps.gov/hdp/CoveredBridges2015.pdf>

A new site gathers oral histories from different topics from different NPS parks. See <https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/oralhistory/interviews.htm> The audible collections include stories from the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, Manzanar National Historic Site, and Yosemite National Park.

### Office of the Secretary of Defense

The latest volume in the Secretaries of Defense Historical Series is Vol 7: *Melvin Laird and the Foundation of the Post-Vietnam Military*, by Richard A. Hunt (2015). It is available for downloading at <http://history.defense.gov/Publications/SecretariesofDefenseHistoricalSeries.aspx> The Special Studies series is available at <http://history.defense.gov/Publications/SpecialStudies.aspx>

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

Charles R. Bowery, Jr., is the new Chief of Military History. He writes in the new spring 2016 issue of *Army History* that he intends to continue emphasizing a unified Army Historical Program, which includes the Army's museum program. He reports that that he will soon visit the 57 active Army museums to discuss the program. Articles in the spring issue of *Army History* include "Armor Goes to War: The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the Vietnam War, December 1965 to December 1966," by John M. Carland; "The Civil War Riots in Baltimore: A Material Culture Legacy of the 6th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia," by Dieter Stenger; and "A Time for Digital Trumpets: Emerging Changes in Military Historical Tradecraft," by Francis J. H. Park. The current issue, as well as the complete collection of back issues, can be viewed online at [http://www.history.army.mil/news/2016/160300a\\_armyHistoryMag.html](http://www.history.army.mil/news/2016/160300a_armyHistoryMag.html)

Also new is *Cold War on the Airwaves: The Radio Propaganda War against East Germany*, by Nicholas J. Schlosser, which discusses Radio in the American Sector (RAIS), an organization whose mission was to undermine Communist propaganda in East Germany. The Combat Studies Institute (CSI) Press released an enhanced electronic version of its well-known study *Wanat: Combat Action in Afghanistan, 2008*, originally published in 2010. Online catalog: <http://www.history.army.mil/catalog/index.html>

### U.S. Forest Service

Archaeologist Margaret Hangan appeared on a Yavapai Broadcasting News television program to talk about the partnership she developed with the Williams Public Library to preserve historic images and documents of Williams, Arizona, and surrounding areas. The Williams and Forest Service Visitor Center is displaying some of the items as part of the "Kaibab National Forest: A Historic Snap Shot" visual display. It represents the historic evolution of public land from the early Grand Canyon Forest Reserve to the Grand Canyon Monument, the Tusayan National Forest, and eventually the Kaibab National Forest. Also, nine volunteers from around the country participated in a week-long Passport In Time (PIT) project to catalog items donated to the Intermountain Region History Collection in Ogden, Utah. Donations include scrapbooks, photographs, correspondence, and artifacts such as badges and Smokey Bear posters. PIT, which started as a Forest Service volunteer program in 1991, provides opportunities to work with professional archaeologists and historians on excavations, archival research, oral history gathering, curation of artifacts, and other cultural heritage projects.

### U.S. Marine Corps

The USMC History Division/Marine Corps University Press has released *The Greene Papers: General Wallace M. Greene Jr. and the Escalation of the Vietnam War, January 1964–March 1965*, an edited

volume of the personal papers of Gen. Wallace M. Greene, Jr., who served on the Joints Chief of Staff during the hottest moments of the Vietnam War. The volume can be accessed online at <http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/historydivision/Pages/Publications/Publication%20PDFs/GreenePapers.pdf> or you can email the press and request a free copy at [MCU\\_Press@usmcu.edu](mailto:MCU_Press@usmcu.edu). The press has also released an edited volume on contemporary Africa titled *The Crisis of the African State and Desert Voices*, an anthology of oral history of Marines serving in the Gulf War. Both are available online and in hardcopy. Please contact the press directly for copies of current or past books.

### Veterans Health Administration

The Veterans Health Administration's historian, Darlene Richardson, was a guest speaker at the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee meeting and conference in Albuquerque, NM, May 4–6, 2016, to help celebrate their 70th anniversary. Also, her weekly history tidbits, which have been routed to VHA-only staff since 2011, are now being made available to all VA staff and many are re-posted for public use on VA's external social media sites.

Two VA facilities recently won recognition for exemplary historic preservation projects: The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) presented its Chairman's Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation on March 8, 2016, for a public-private project that restored the historic gardens and Grotto at the Dayton VA Medical Center in Ohio. The partnership between the Dayton VA Medical Center, American Veterans Heritage Center (AVHC), and Ohio State University Extension, Montgomery County Master Gardner Volunteers was cited as "an exemplary example of teamwork" and "that the talent involved in this successful project makes it a show-place for the state as well as the entire country." The Dayton Medical Center was listed as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of Interior in 2012 and is the former Central Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers which opened at that location in the fall of 1866. The beautiful gardens created by former German landscape architect Frank Mund in 1870s were legendary and attracted tens of thousands of visitors annually throughout the 19th century.

The Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG) bestowed its John Wesley Powell Prize on VA's West Los Angeles Medical Center for its innovative approach to rehabilitating its Building 209, built in 1945. The old building was converted into a safe, comfortable, and functional environment for improving the lives of homeless veterans. The prize recognizes outstanding achievement in the historic preservation, and the VA project was one of two to receive the award this year. The West Los Angeles Medical Center is the former Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, which opened in 1888 and was listed as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places by the Secretary of Interior in 2014. The award was presented at the Joint Annual Meeting of the National Council on Public History and the Society for History in the Federal Government in Baltimore on March 17, 2016.

### Members Page Now Available

SHFG's new members' online login page is at

<http://shfg.wildapricot.org/>

Members can review and renew their membership status, manage their personal profile (including address and email), register for Society events, and view new and past issues of *The Federalist* and *Explorations*. Contact [shfg.bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:shfg.bulletin@gmail.com) for any questions.





# The FEDERALIST

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## Federalist Calendar

**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 22–26, 2016. Society for the History of Technology (SHOT).** Singapore. Visit [http://www.historyoftechnology.org/features/annual\\_meeting/Singapore\\_2016.html](http://www.historyoftechnology.org/features/annual_meeting/Singapore_2016.html)

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

**July 31–Aug. 6, 2016. Joint Annual Meeting of the Council of State Archivists and Society of American Archivists (SAA).** Atlanta, GA. Visit <http://www2.archivists.org/am2016>

**Aug. 1–12, 2016. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM).** Washington, DC. Workshop: “New Directions in the Use of Oral Testimonies: Soviet Experiences of the Holocaust.” For applications and information, visit <http://www.ushmm.org/research/scholarly-presentations/conferencesnew-directions-in-the-use-of-oral-testimonies-soviet-experiences-of-the-holocaust>

**Oct. 12–16, 2016. Oral History Association (OHA).** Long Beach, CA. Visit <http://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/>

**Nov. 3–6, 2016. History of Science Society.** Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. Visit <http://hssonline.org/meetings/annual-meeting-archive/>

**Mar. 16–17, 2017. NASA Marshall Space Flight Center History Office and the University of Alabama Huntsville (UAH) History Department.** “NASA in the ‘Long’ Civil Rights Movement” Symposium Huntsville, AL. Visit <https://networks.h-net.org/node/73374/announcements/99690nasa-long-civil-rights-movement>

**Mar. 29–Apr. 2, 2017. American Society for Environmental History (ASEH).** Chicago, IL. “Winds of Change: Global Connections across Space, Time, and Nature.” Visit [www.aseh.net](http://www.aseh.net)

**Mar. 30–Apr. 2, 2017. Society for Military History (SMH).** 84th Annual Meeting. “Global War: Historical Perspectives.” Jacksonville, FL. Visit <http://www.smh-hq.org/2017/2017annual-meeting.html>

**Apr. 6–9, 2017. Organization of American Historians (OAH).** Annual Meeting. “Circulation.” New Orleans, LA. Visit <http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/meetings-events/call-for-proposals/>

**Apr. 19–22, 2017. National Council on Public History (NCPH).** Indianapolis, IN. “The Middle: Where Did We Come from? Where Are We Going?” Visit: <http://ncph.org/conference/2017-annual-meeting/>

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