



# The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Summer 2017

**SHFG**  
www.shfg.org

## NEW SHFG OFFICERS IN 2017

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Announcements of events, conferences, workshops, and other programs.

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The bulletin is a service to SHFG members.

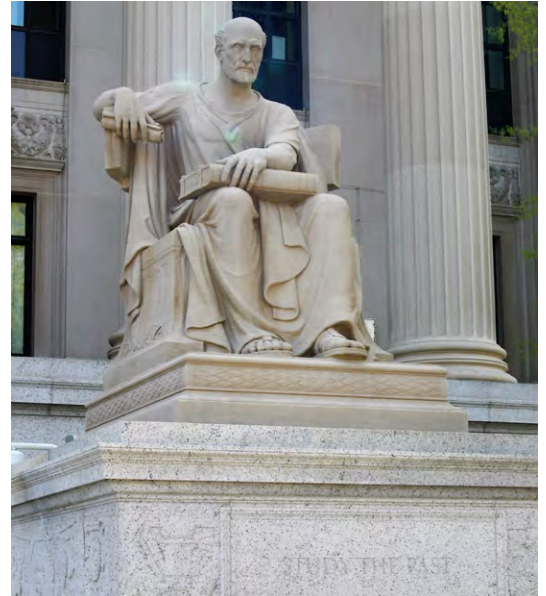
## SHFG Annual Meeting

By Thomas Faith, photos by Chas Downs and Elizabeth Charles

The Society for History in the Federal Government held its annual meeting on April 18, 2017, “A Return to the Archives” at the National Archives building in Washington, DC. After the meeting was opened by new SHFG President Zack Wilske and AOTUS David Ferriero, the 2017 Roger R. Trask Award lecture was delivered by former Nuclear Regulatory Commission historian and author J. Samuel Walker. Walker’s lecture was titled “Why We Write,” and he implored listeners to think deeply about the question “what is the value of what we do” or, as he also put it, “why do agencies hire us and pay us?” Walker told attendees that historians who provide accurate, sound historical knowledge for their institutions can produce unique and valuable insights that no one else can provide. At the conclusion, Walker wished all those doing history work in federal agencies “Godspeed in carrying out these very important responsibilities.”

Three concurrent morning panels followed the Trask Lecture, giving conference attendees the opportunity to join discussions on the U.S. House of Representatives History, Art, & Archives website; new directions in military/intelligence history research; and NARA, NPS, and NIH public exhibits. Afternoon offerings included panels on the Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives *Century of Women in Congress* website; new perspectives on the New Deal era; the value of congressional archives; and NSA historians on the William F. Friedman papers and WWI cryptologic records.

See “Annual Meeting” cont’d on page 2



**Top:** “Study the Past” statue outside the National Archives building. **Middle:** Michael Murphy, Kathleen Johnson, and Grace Ethier lead a roundtable discussion of *A Century of Women in Congress*. **Above:** Panel on “Peripheries of U.S. Empire” with Mark Howe, Geoff Burrows, and Rebecca Brenner.

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## The **FEDERALIST**

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The Society is a national professional organization open to all who are interested in federal history programs. Annual membership fee is \$55, \$35 students, \$100 institutions and includes a subscription to *The Federalist*, *Federal History* journal, and other periodic publications. Contributors are encouraged to submit articles, news listings, and photographs to the editors.

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

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

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### “Annual Meeting” from page 1

The SHFG Awards Ceremony was held in the late afternoon once all panel presentations had concluded. The Society’s awards recognized exemplary works of history presented in diverse formats for a variety of audiences, that further understanding of the history of the federal government. Not pictured here are the winners of the James Madison Prize, Brian Gratton and Emily Klancher Merchant, who could not accept the award in person for their article “La Raza: Mexicans in the United States Census,” *Journal of Policy History* (Vol. 28, No. 4, 2016). Congratulations to all the 2017 award winners!



**Henry Adams Prize:** Matthew Dallek, *Defenseless Under the Night: The Roosevelt Years and the Origins of Homeland Security*.



**George Pendleton Prize:** Timothy Davis, *National Park Roads: A Legacy in the American Landscape*.



**Charles Thomson Prize:** Thomas Faith, “‘It Would Be Very Well If We Could Avoid It:’ *General Pershing and Chemical Warfare*,” *The Historian*, 78:3 (Fall 2016).



**John Wesley Powell Prize:** *Treasured Landscapes: National Park Service Art Collections Tell America’s Stories—Virtual Museum Exhibit and Book*, National Park Service Museum Management Program, Washington, DC.



**John Wesley Powell Prize:** 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Pentagon Commemorative Exhibit, Department of Defense, Pentagon, Washington, DC.



**Thomas Jefferson Prize:** *The Papers of Andrew Jackson, Volume X, 1832*, edited by Daniel Feller, Thomas Coens, and Laura-Eve Moss. University of Tennessee Press, 2016.



## Editor's Note

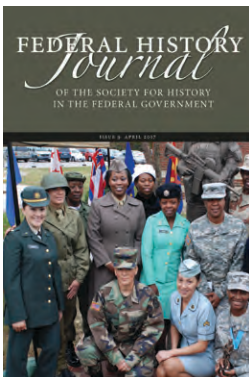
April 13, 2017, was the Society for History in the Federal Government Annual Meeting, and thanks are owed to the program committee who made such a great event possible. The day featured speakers and panels on a variety of interesting federal history subjects, highlighted in this issue of *The Federalist* for those readers who could not attend in person. I would also like to thank Suzanne White Junod and the SHFG awards committee members, whose work brought attention to so many worthwhile projects related to the history of the federal government at the end-of-meeting awards ceremony, and I am honored to have received an SHFG award this year.

Also in this issue of *The Federalist* I am pleased to present updates on two centennial commemorations: The commemoration of World War I from **Alec Bennett** at the American Battle Monuments Commission, and the commemoration of the founding of NASA's Langley Research Center from **Gail Langevin**. **Theresa McCulla** offers us a glimpse into her work as the historian of the American Brewing History Initiative at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in a featured "History

Professional" interview. **Jerry Simmons** presents an update on an important web-based project, the Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) initiative, of which every archivist, librarian, and federal history practitioner should be aware.

In "From the Archives," SHFG Archivist **Chas Downs** presents the second installment of his series of articles focusing on the genesis of SHFG bylaws—Read it to see how SHFG was almost rechristened "The Society for Federal History." **A.J. Daverede** examines a small but fascinating group of "Newly Declassified Records" on Robert S. McNamara and Supersonic Transport, and **Nate Jones** highlights some recent record releases from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. You will also find a call for papers from the Army Medical Department Museum Foundation's 2017 Spurgeon Neel Annual Award competition, announcements about new federal history books in "Recent Publications," and other newsworthy items in "Making History," in this issue of *The Federalist*.

Comments and suggestions are welcome at [shfgfederalist@gmail.com](mailto:shfgfederalist@gmail.com) or on Twitter [@faithtomfaith](https://twitter.com/faithtomfaith).



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### *Federal History journal*

*Federal History* 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).

## Directory of Federal Offices and Programs

<http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/directory-of-history-offices>

### New Listings

- American Battle Monuments Commission, Directorate of Historical Services
- Public Diplomacy Historical Collection (PDHC), Office of Public Affairs, United States Diplomacy Center (USDC)

Please send listings and corrections to [webmaster@shfg.org](mailto:webmaster@shfg.org)



## Remembering World War I—100 Years Later

By Alec Bennett

April 6, 2017, marked the 100th anniversary of the U.S. declaration of war on Germany, and entry into World War I. For the first time, the United States engaged in a large-scale international military commitment. Over the course of the war more than four million Americans served and, of those, over two million were sent to Europe as part of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF). More than 116,000 Americans lost their lives worldwide, creating a decision point for the American government. How would the nation honor the service and sacrifice of those killed in a conflict far from home?

The Federal Government responded in unprecedented fashion, by providing families with a choice—bring their loved one home for burial, or have them permanently interred in an overseas, American military cemetery that would be maintained in perpetuity. Around the same time, the government also established an agency dedicated to honoring and commemorating those that served—The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). President Warren Harding signed legislation creating the ABMC on March 4, 1923. Initially, the agency was responsible for building monuments to the AEF in Europe, and constructing improvements in the overseas military cemeteries—which were under the operational control of the War Department at the time—including non-denominational memorial chapels. General John J. Pershing, General of the Armies of the United States and Commander of the AEF, served as the first chairman of ABMC.

In 1925 the agency hired Paul Cret, professor of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania and a veteran of the French Army, as a consulting architect to help coordinate its building program. Cret worked with some of the most highly regarded American architects of the time, including John Russell Pope, Egerton Swartwout, Ralph Adams Cram, and others for the designs of ABMC monuments and memorial chapels. Cret also was responsible for the final design of the distinctive cross and Star of David headstones that characterize ABMC cemeteries.

Under Pershing's leadership, to help tell the story of American participation, ABMC produced a guidebook to battlegrounds, cemeteries, and memorials in Europe. Written with the support of then-Major Dwight D. Eisenhower, this 600-page volume, titled *American Armies and Battlefields in Europe*, was released in 1938. It is still considered one of the most comprehensive books on American involvement in World War I. (To download a free, hi-resolution copy, visit [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov).)

With ABMC already intimately involved in the commemoration of the Great War, in 1934 an executive order granted the agency responsibility for the day-to-day administration of American military cemeteries in Europe. Today, ABMC manages nine World War I cemeteries and 13 monuments, memorials, and markers located in France, Belgium, and the United Kingdom. Nearly 31,000 soldiers are buried at these sites; another 4,500



*ABMC manages nine World War I cemeteries and 13 monuments, memorials, and markers located in France, Belgium, and the United Kingdom.*

whose remains could not be recovered or identified are honored on the Walls of the Missing.

To help Americans learn about and commemorate the World War I centennial, ABMC is hosting special events, opening renovated visitor centers, releasing films, and making available new, online resources. Three ABMC visitor centers, at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Flanders Field American Cemetery, and the Chateau-Thierry Monument, will help tell this story. Exhibits in these facilities use historic records, photographs, architectural drawings, maps, and film to demonstrate the achievements and sacrifices endured by Americans fighting in Europe, and the role of ABMC in the design and construction of overseas cemeteries and memorials. Personal stories are highlighted to show the impact of the war on the individual level. The Meuse-Argonne and Flanders Field visitor centers are now open; the Chateau Thierry visitor's center is slated to open in 2018.

ABMC is also holding a series of commemorations at its sites over the course of the centennial. This May, as part of a Memorial Day ceremony at Brookwood American Cemetery in England, ABMC honored the service of the U.S. Navy during the Great War. In June, a ceremony in Brest, France near ABMC's Naval Monument commemorated the first American troops to arrive in France 100 years ago. During the war, more than 700,000 Americans came through this port. Many of the ceremonies marking the centennial of American military operations will take place in 2018.

For those unable to visit Europe, ABMC has partnered with Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) to create a joint exhibit that highlights the history of World War I and its effects on American society, and the thematic connections between ANC and ABMC. This exhibit is now open at the ANC visitor center.

In addition, ABMC is also partnering with the National Park

Service and the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission on a new book, *World War I Remembered*, which includes chapters from preeminent historians on the operations of the AEF, how the war impacted American society, and how the country commemorated its war dead. Visit [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov) for details about purchasing the book online.

ABMC is leveraging its digital presence to connect to those who would like to learn more about World War I. Through interactivities, virtual tours, news articles, live social media chats, and other online resources, ABMC is bringing these resources to the public. To connect with younger Americans, an education program entitled “Bringing the Great War Home: Teaching With The Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery,” available at [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov), helps teachers integrate World War I-themed materials into

the classroom.

World War I was a watershed conflict for the United States which forever changed the nation. The cemeteries and monuments of ABMC stand as testaments to those who served. Through multiple initiatives, on site and online, ABMC is using the centennial to tell the American story of the Great War to ensure that 100 years later, their sacrifices will not be forgotten.

To stay up-to-date on all of ABMC’s available events and resources, follow ABMC on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, or email [info@abmc.gov](mailto:info@abmc.gov) and request a subscription to our free newsletter.

*Alec Bennett is a Historian at the American Battle Monuments Commission.*

## Newly Declassified Records

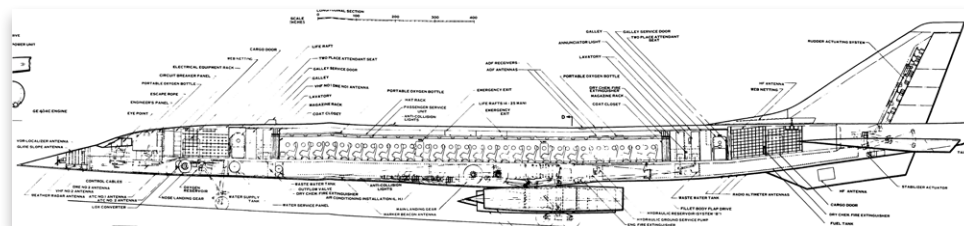
This issue’s featured declassified series is a small one of five boxes coming from the former Record Group 200, the National Archives Gift Collection. This series, Entry A1 13230–N is a part of the Records of Robert S. McNamara that covers the period that McNamara, while serving as Secretary of Defense under President Lyndon B. Johnson, served as chairman of the President’s Advisory Committee on Supersonic Transport. Pressured by the appearance of the Franco-British Concorde supersonic airliner program, President Johnson signed Executive Order 11149 on April 1, 1964, forming the Committee—thus continuing the late President John F. Kennedy’s commitment to an American supersonic transport program. The five Hollinger boxes of this subseries contains minutes of the various Committee meetings, technical information and proposals. Some of the records in this series date from 1963, prior to the signing of the Executive Order and establishment of the Committee, but the bulk of the documents date from 1964 and 1965 with some documents dated 1966. Most of the records discuss the economic viability of American supersonic transport, which was President Johnson’s primary concern in appointing the Committee, but the records also contain Boeing’s executive summaries of their SST proposal as well as a company analysis presentation from the Curtiss-Wright Corporation on their proposed TJ70 engine along with other technical analysis documents. The President’s Advisory Committee on Supersonic Transport reports were not the final

word on the American SST—the program continued until Congress cancelled funding in May 1971. Unlike most previous series described in this column, no documents have been withdrawn from these records. 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.

– A. J. Daverede, NARA, NDC



Artist’s depiction of the landing configuration of the Boeing Model 733 Supersonic Transport as depicted in Boeing’s Commercial Supersonic Transport Proposal of January 15, 1964.



The interior arrangement and inboard profile of the Boeing Model 733 Supersonic Transport as depicted in Boeing’s Commercial Supersonic Transport Proposal of January 15, 1964.



## The History Professional *An Interview with Theresa McCulla*

*Theresa McCulla is the historian of the American Brewing History Initiative, a three-year project at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. McCulla has earned a doctorate in American Studies from Harvard University and a culinary arts diploma from the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts' Professional Chefs Program. Her research explores representations of race, ethnicity, and gender in 19th- and 20th-century consumer culture and material culture, especially in conjunction with food and drink.*



*Theresa McCulla*

*Interview by Thomas Faith*

### **Why did you decide to become the historian of the American Brewing History Initiative at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History?**

This position is incredibly exciting to me because it involves tasks at both ends of the historical process. I am working to build an archive from the ground up. At the same time, I am interpreting the archive as it forms, writing and thinking about the objects, documents, and oral histories I am collecting. In other words, the work of the project is the historical process itself. Beyond that, there is no better stage on which to engage the public in the complexities of American history than the National Museum of American History. I feel the American Brewing History Initiative is a creative effort that is happening at the right time, in the right place.

### **The Smithsonian called the number of applicants for your position "unprecedented," what was the hiring process like for you?**

I was delighted (and also a bit befuddled) when the job posting appeared last summer. Working as a historian of beer and brewing at the National Museum of American History seemed almost too good to be true. I sent my cover letter, was excited to interview, and was thrilled to receive the offer. Much of the media attention surrounding the position imagined workdays spent drinking pints on the job, which I can assure you is not the case. But the enormous energy and enthusiasm that I have felt from the public and the brewing community make me excited for the future of the Brewing History Initiative. Americans love beer. That gives me an opportunity to use brewing as a lens to ask big questions about American history.

### **What aspect of your personal or professional experiences do you think most influences your approach to your current position?**

Most important to this work is my doctoral training in American history and historical writing and research methodologies. Beyond that, I have always been fascinated by the sensory, tactile aspects of food preparation. I have a culinary degree and have worked in several professional kitchens. These experiences help me think about beer from the perspectives of those who

make it, sell it, and serve it. My previous position managing the Food Literacy Project, the educational arm of Harvard University Dining Services, trained me in public programming and a form of public history focused on food and drink. And I can't discount my earliest experiences with beer, which involved my Dad homebrewing in our kitchen, having me and my siblings help him cap bottles. His large family hails from Milwaukee and beer has always been a natural part of our family gatherings.

### **How can brewing history inform the study of the history of the federal government?**

The federal government has long had an important relationship with beer and brewing. During the Civil War, the federal government initiated a tax on beer to help pay for military operations. Federal enforcement of Prohibition in the early 20th century, followed by federal oversight of brewery mergers in subsequent decades, meant that the federal government played no small part in the consolidation of America's brewing industry. In the last few decades, tax credits have helped small breweries grow, but the federal excise tax on beer continues to be a central concern. When the Craft Brewers Conference met in Washington, DC, in April 2017, representatives from craft breweries and state brewers guilds participated in a "Hill Climb" to meet their representatives. Debates related to the regulation of beer sales, taxation, and more keep the House and Senate Small Brewers Caucuses active.

### **What are some strengths of the Smithsonian's collection related to brewing and beer consumption in America?**

The National Museum of American History (NMAH) holds rich, but limited, collections related to American brewing history. Highlights include stoneware beer vessels and steins, some dating to the mid-19th century; import records, some in German, for brewing ingredients that crossed the Atlantic, destined for breweries in Philadelphia or Baltimore; and brewing equipment from mid-Atlantic breweries operating at the turn of the 20th century. NMAH's Archives Center maintains a fantastic variety of early 20th-century advertising material related to beer: trade cards, illustrated souvenir albums, calendars, posters, and more. A collection of sheet music from the same era reflects a

surprising inclination for popular songs about beer. For example, the curious researcher can find the lyrics and music for “Budweiser’s a Friend of Mine,” which premiered at the Ziegfield Follies in New York City during its inaugural 1907 season.

**What are areas in which you would like to improve the collection?**

The goal of the American Brewing History Initiative (ABHI) is to build the central, national archive for the history of beer and brewing in America. ABHI will pay special attention to the histories of home brewing and craft brewing, movements that date from the 1960s to the present. Early home brewers, those responsible for technological or taste innovations, agricultural producers, consumers, and those with lesser-known histories (particularly women and people of color) all fall within my focus. To tell their stories, I am particularly interested in items such as recipes and brewing logs, brewing equipment, communications of home brewing clubs (especially pre-internet), business plans and advertising materials, and patents or object prototypes. Oral histories with brewers, growers, and other figures in the industry will also form a crucial component of the archive.

**What shape will public programs related to brewing history take at the Smithsonian?**

ABHI plans at least two public events per year. One of these will take place at NMAH’s annual Food History Weekend (October 26–28, 2017). Attendees can explore this year’s theme—“Many Flavors, One Nation”—through a series of roundtables, tastings, cooking demonstrations, and other activities. “The Great History of American Brewing” will take place on the weekend’s final evening. ABHI’s second public event will happen at a time and place to be determined, likely in a region far from DC. This will bring the work of the Brewing History Initiative to a different audience.

The public can also find updates on ABHI’s work on a dedicated page of the museum’s website ([s.si.edu/BrewHistory](http://s.si.edu/BrewHistory)) and follow #BeerHistory and #SmithsonianFood on social media. I also tweet about my research trips at @theresamccu.

**How do you approach a historically recent phenomenon like craft brewing as a historical subject?**

This is an excellent moment to begin this project, since those we might call the first generation of craft brewers are still present, active in the industry, and eager to share their stories and personal collections. Oral history becomes an especially important tool to preserve their histories in their own words. The work of building an archive requires me to think of the future as well as the past and present. In twenty years, fifty years, and beyond, what kinds of research questions might scholars ask? Which objects and documents should we collect now, for their future benefit? I am anxious to collect with an eye to breadth and depth, to preserve the big stories and those that may be more subtle, at least in the present.

**What is your favorite aspect of your duties at the American Brewing History Initiative?**

I have most enjoyed getting on the road and meeting the many people who have built this industry. They are creative, entrepreneurial, and collegial. As a historian of food and drink (beyond the scope of beer), I am fascinated to learn how brewers approach brewing as a matter of taste in addition to a science or business. It may be difficult for contemporary beer drinkers to imagine the homogeneity of American beer in the mid-20th century. Home brewers, and eventually craft brewers, changed consumers’ palates, one beer at a time. Now we have more breweries in America than at any point in our history, even before Prohibition. Cheers to that!

## The 2017 Spurgeon Neel Award

The Army Medical Department Museum Foundation is pleased to sponsor the 2017 Spurgeon Neel Annual Award competition for the article of 5000 words or less that best exemplifies the history, legacy, and traditions of the Army Medical Department.

Named in honor of Major General (Retired) Spurgeon H. Neel, first Commanding General of Health Services Command (now U.S. Army Medical Command), the award competition is open to all federal employees, military and civilian, as well as non-governmental civilian authors who submit manuscripts for publishing consideration.

The AMEDD Museum Foundation will present a special medallion award and a \$1000 monetary prize to the winner, who will be notified in advance, at a Foundation-sponsored event early in 2018.

All manuscripts must be submitted to the AMEDD Museum Foundation, [amedd.foundation@att.net](mailto:amedd.foundation@att.net), by 30 September 2017. At the time of submission, a manuscript must be original work and not pending publication in any other periodical. It must conform to the Writing and Submission Guidance of the AMEDD Journal, and must relate to the history, legacy and/or traditions of the Army Medical Department. Manuscripts will be reviewed and evaluated by a six-member committee appointed by the President of the AMEDD Museum Foundation. The winning manuscript will be selected no later than December 2017.

Additional detail concerning the Spurgeon Neel Annual Award may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Sue McMasters at the AMEDD Museum Foundation, 210–226–0265.

## NASA Langley Research Center Celebrates 100 Years

By Gail Langevin

NASA Langley Research Center is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) was formed in 1915 to “supervise and direct the scientific study of the problems of flight with a view to their practical solution . . .” without funding for its own laboratory. Granted a plot of land from the Army Signal Corp’s planned air proving field at Hampton, Virginia, the NACA broke ground on July 17, 1917.

The NACA Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory attracted innovative young engineering and science graduates from around the country, who were led by experienced visionaries. During the NACA years, Langley’s staff developed the first variable density or pressurized wind tunnel, the largest tunnels of the 1920s and 1930s, low-turbulence tunnels, slotted-throat transonic tunnels, hypersonic tunnels and high-temperature tunnels to understand the intricacies of aerodynamics. NACA Langley research contributed to engine cowling or cover designs, airfoil wing shape characterization, icing research, aircraft handling qualities characterization, drag reduction of World War II aircraft, and the area rule to allow supersonic flight. NACA Langley research also helped break the sound barrier with X-1 and develop the first hypersonic aircraft, the X-15, which flew faster than Mach 5 or five times the speed of sound. After World War II, the Pilotless Aircraft Research Division (PARC) was formed to study high speed flight with rockets at Wallops Flight Facility on Virginia’s Eastern Shore.

With World War II beginning in Europe, the NACA was granted permission to expand operations at Langley and add laboratories across the country. Langley was tasked with designing facilities and sending staff to what became the NACA Ames Aeronautical Laboratory, now NASA Ames Research Center, the High-Speed Flight Station, now NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center in California, and the Aircraft Engine Research Lab, now NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

The launch of Sputnik by the Soviet Union launched the Space Age in 1957. President Dwight Eisenhower created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on July 29, 1958, with the NACA labs as the core of the new independent Agency of the executive branch, responsible for the civil space program and aeronautics and science research. On October 1, 1958, NACA employees became NASA employees and the NACA labs became NASA research centers. The researchers of PARC had been tasked to formulate a space program in the summer of 1957. PARC with the addition of researchers from NACA Lewis became the core of the Space Task Group and began making the space program a reality. The Space Task Group was initially housed at NASA Langley. The Mercury 7 astronauts reported to Langley in April 1959 to begin their training. The work of the Space Task Group became a top priority at Langley’s wind tunnels, research groups, labs, and



*Edward Warner and Frederick Norton initiated the first flight research efforts at the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory by borrowing two Curtiss Jennies from the Air Service at Langley Field. The flight tests began on March 2, 1919, and continued through the summer to assess airplane characteristics in flight and compare flight data to wind-tunnel predictions. The two airplanes differed in physical dimensions, and suffered overheated engines during the summer. The airplane in the background has its fuselage side panels forward of the lower wing removed to aid in engine cooling. The study was completed before the LMAL was dedicated in 1920. (LRC-1921-B701\_P-00035)*

shops. In 1961, the Space Task Group moved to its new home in Houston, to become the Manned Space Flight Center, now known as NASA Johnson Space Center.

After the Space Task Group moved, NASA Langley continued contributing to the space program with studies of Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and Space Shuttle in Langley’s high-speed and thermal wind tunnels. After Langley’s John Houbolt successfully advocated for the lunar rendezvous concept of modular spacecraft to land men on the moon, Langley designed and built the Rendezvous and Docking Simulator, which trained Gemini and Apollo astronauts in the techniques to bring two orbiting spacecraft together. Langley also designed and constructed the Lunar Landing Facility, where 24 Apollo astronauts learned how to fly the last 150 feet to the lunar surface. Langley led a program that developed and constructed two spacecraft with a lander and orbiter each for Mars exploration. Viking 1 and 2 successfully orbited Mars and sent their landers to land safely on Mars, the first to do so and continue operations.

Even as space dominated at NASA, Langley continued with research in aircraft and rotorcraft. Developing supercritical wings, winglets, and contributing to vertical take-off and landing aircraft, supersonic aircraft and hypersonic research vehicles. Langley developed advanced cockpit designs and techniques to improve operations at airports. Langley works to make aircraft environmentally friendly by exploring techniques to reduce aircraft noise, improve fuel efficiency and even by looking at bio-fuels for aircraft.



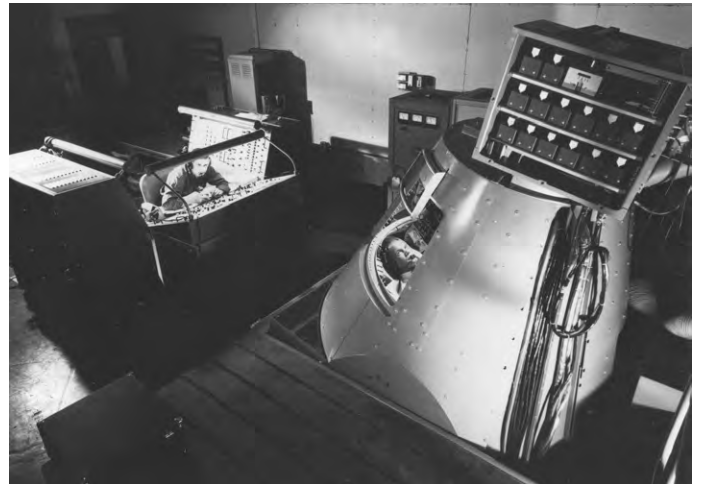
Concerned about the impact of sonic booms and on a quest to know more about the atmosphere that aircraft and spacecraft fly through, both on our home planet and other planets in our solar system, Langley began atmospheric science studies in the 1970s. Focusing on development of sensors such as lidar technology, which uses lasers to probe the atmosphere, has resulted in greater understanding of ozone, the role of clouds and minute particles, or aerosols, in our weather and climate. Langley has developed instruments such as CERES, SAGE, SABER and CALIPSO. Recently, SAGE III was flown in a Space X Dragon capsule to the International Space Station to be attached to its exterior to further study the ozone in Earth's atmosphere.

Langley continues to contribute to space exploration and is currently testing a model version of the next-generation heavy-lift rocket, the Space Launch System, working with the Orion Multipurpose Crew Capsule Project Office and commercial space companies.

With 100 years of contributions to aeronautics, space and science, Langley is looking forward to marking its centennial. Events began in July 2016 with a symposium to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Viking mission to Mars. The Langley-led mission placed two orbiters around Mars and two landers on the Martian surface, and Viking 1 was the first successful landing on Mars where the lander continued to operate. The first Viking's historic landing occurred on July 20, 1976, the seventh anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing on the moon and during America's Bicentennial Year. The Viking Symposium featured the reminiscences of retired "Vikings" and talks by NASA leadership on the future of Mars exploration.

In December 2016, Fox Studios held an advanced screening of the film "Hidden Figures" at NASA Langley's visitor center, the Virginia Air & Space Center in Hampton. The film is based on the book of the same title by Margot Lee Shetterly. The screening was attended by Langley employees and retirees as well as special guests Katherine Johnson, whose story is featured in the film and book, and the families of the late Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, whose stories are also featured. Actress Octavia Spencer, who portrayed Dorothy Vaughan in the film, was a featured speaker prior to the screening. NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden presented special awards to Ms. Johnson, Ms. Vaughan's and Ms. Jackson's children and former West Area Computer Christine Richie prior to the screening.

The release of Margot Lee Shetterly's book "Hidden Figures" resulted in some serendipitous events celebrating Langley's history. Ms. Shetterly is the daughter of retired Langley atmospheric scientist Robert Lee and spent her childhood surrounded by the families of men and women who worked at Langley. Her New York Times best-selling book skillfully tells the remarkable story of African-American women who worked as "computers" calculating wind tunnel test data, flight test data, and theoretical equations. The computers provided invaluable support for aeronautics and space research. While their work was known and respected by their peers, as sometimes happens, their stories



*John Glenn participating in a mission simulation in the Mercury Procedures Trainer in a room in the Full-Scale Tunnel in November 1959. This Link-type spacecraft simulator allowed astronauts to practice both normal and emergency system operations. The operator at the control panel is engineer Charles Olasky. The trainer was later moved to the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston in 1962. (NASA GPN-2002-000044)*



*Shown is Neil Armstrong during a practice session at the Lunar Landing Research Facility (LLRF) at Langley on February 12, 1969. Within five months, on July 20, 1969, at precisely 10:56 p.m. Daylight Savings Time, Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the Moon. By the end of the Apollo program in 1972, the LLRF had been used to train 24 astronauts for lunar landings. In 1985, it was designated a National Historic Landmark. After the Apollo program ended, the LLRF was adapted for landing and impact dynamics studies. (LRC-1969-B701\_P-02199)*

were lost to those who came after them and to those not intimately involved with Langley's aeronautics and space work. Margot's well-written book brought their stories, and Langley's history, to a wider audience.

Langley is inducting 18 retired employees into the NACA and NASA Langley Hall of Honor on June 1, 2017. Community leaders, inductees, family members, employees, and retirees will gather for a celebration. Photos and brief biographies of the honorees will appear on a NASA Langley web page.

On July 12 to 14, 2017, a symposium is planned with guest speakers and panelists discussing significant Langley contributions to aeronautics, space exploration, and climate science. The discussions will also look forward to Langley's future. The symposium will be capped by a gala open to the public, employees, and retirees.

A book of Langley photographs through the years is currently in production. The book will look at Langley's 100 years from biplanes to hypersonic aircraft concepts, from Mercury to Orion, and science from an instrument flown

on Apollo-Soyuz to SAGE III on the International Space Station and all the amazing events that made Langley what it is today.

Some of the photographs from the book will be featured in a special historic photograph exhibit at nearby Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, Virginia. The exhibit is planned for October 2017 to March 2018 with a family day featuring hands-on activities for children and a visit from an astronaut.

The culmination of the celebration will be an Open House on October 21, 2017. Langley will open selected wind tunnels and laboratories that will be filled with displays of Langley's accomplishments. The event is open to U.S. citizens and promises to be a fun-filled family activity.

NASA Langley is dedicated to making this once in a lifetime anniversary a unique and inspiring series of events to share Langley's storied legacy and soaring future with the public.

*Gail Langevin is the history liaison at the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.*

## Presidential Library Records

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

By Nate Jones

The Presidential Records Act requires the "rapid" release of presidential records to the public but, as I wrote in my last column (*The Federalist*, 2nd Series, Number 52, Winter 2016, p.12), such releases are rarely rapid. Long wait times mean that when presidential libraries release documents, they are somewhat of an aged delicacy for researchers, historians, and FOIA-philes. But, because many presidential library websites do not post their released documents online, or even announce that documents have been recently released, these documentary treats are often "hidden in plain sight."

Highlighted here are some documents released recently—within the past three years—by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library that are not widely known. Perhaps the most significant are the National Security Council files. Currently, NSC documents are not released to the public in response to FOIA requests; the public can only see them via Presidential Records Act requests, which can be made beginning five years after the president leaves office. The newly released NSC files at the Reagan Library include documentation on NSC meetings which occurred on January 14, 1982; October 13, 1982; November 7, 1983; January 5, 1984; March 13, 1984; March 20, 1984; December 19, 1984; and January 31, 1985.

The Library also has recently released information from NSC files about the Reagan administration's START and IMF nuclear arms negotiations with the Soviets, the Iran-Iraq War, and "country



*Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, Simi Valley, CA.*

files" on Afghanistan and Latin America. Alas, NSC files related to my own studies on the 1983 U.S.-Soviet nuclear war scare remain closed a decade after I filed a request for declassification.

I have not found a better way to review documents released by the Reagan Presidential Library other than travelling to its location in Simi Valley. No comprehensive list, that I know of, exists online. In addition, researchers who can identify the documents they need from a distance face a steep cost: the charge to have documents sent to you is fifty cents per page. For those who cannot make the trip to the Library, Jason Seaborg Ebin's *The Reagan Files* (<http://www.thereaganfiles.com/>), the collections of the National Security Archive (<http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/>), and the Department of State's Foreign Relations of the United States series (<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments>) are excellent online resources to begin your research on the Reagan Presidency.



## Social Networks and Archival Context: An Update on the State of a New Descriptive Cooperative

By Jerry Simmons

SNAC (Social Networks and Archival Context) is a multi-year research and demonstration project which aims to address the long-standing research challenge presented by archival diaspora; the searching, discovering, and using of the dispersed archival collections of persons, corporate bodies, and families. It also strives to redefine traditional online access points for those resources, by exposing information about the records' creators and their sociohistorical relationships in context with other records' creators.

In its first phase, 2010–2012, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, SNAC focused on the creation of names records for persons, families, and corporate bodies in EAC–CPF (Encoded Archival Context: Corporate bodies, Persons, and Families), a standard which, at its core, illustrates and facilitates the description of contextual relationships between archival creators by active linking. The process involved extracting descriptions from EAD (Encoded Archival Description) finding aids, then transforming names, biographical, and relationship information from the finding aids into EAC–CPF records. Following this extraction there was a matching and merging step to combine the new EAC–CPF records with one another, and with existing library authority records such as those from the Library of Congress Name Authority File (<http://authorities.loc.gov/webvoy.htm>) and the Virtual International Authority File (<http://www.oclc.org/en/viaf.html>). After running the extraction process several times, the result was a set of over 128,000 EAC–CPF records. Additionally, the creation of a prototype interface allowed linking of the records to one another thereby simulating a social network of people, corporate bodies, and families represented in the data. A second development phase, from 2012 to 2014, saw an expansion of the quantity and diversity of the source data, bringing about and even larger corpus of EAC–CPF records with enhanced research potential.

A cooperative pilot phase started in August 2015 with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The grant provided for four planning meetings of the cooperative pilot participants, held in Washington, D.C., in the Innovation Hub of the National Archives and Records Administration. During these meetings, representatives from the seventeen pilot partner institutions ([http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/members\\_cooperative.html](http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/members_cooperative.html)) heard progress reports relating to technical development, training, governance, and administrative policy planning from SNAC's operations team leadership.

At the December 2016 meeting of SNAC's full partnership, four volunteer working groups materialized and quickly started work to address several large issues key to ending the two-year pilot and transitioning to a living cooperative. The working

The top screenshot displays the SNAC profile for George C. (George Catlett) Marshall, 1880-1959. It includes a biographical note, a portrait photo, and a list of related names in SNAC. The bottom screenshot displays the SNAC profile for Dean Acheson, 1893-1971, also including a biographical note, a portrait photo, and a list of related names. Both profiles show relationships such as 'predecessorOf' and 'isSuccessorOf'.

*Leveraging relationship linking in EAC–CPF, SNAC allows for discovery of contextual relationships between archival creators. In this example, George Marshall and Dean Acheson have linked relationship types as “predecessorOf” and “isSuccessorOf”. SNAC users can move between creator descriptions by clicking on these contextual links.*

groups are: Standards and Editorial Policy, Technology, Communications, and Training (SNACSchool). Representatives from the seventeen partner institutions self-selected membership and got to work on several priority projects. Among them: completion and release of a user interface, establishing a communication network within the cooperative membership, future membership, and a formal training program.



Release of the SNAC user interface to the partner institutions occurred in early January 2017, but as a testing and development system for users to preview and test drive. As users created new SNAC entries and edited existing authority data in the system, they fed constructive information to the SNAC Technical Team headquartered at the University of Virginia's Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities. Anticipated functionality for late Spring and Summer 2017 includes record merging and management of controlled vocabularies. Merging gives users the power to compare and then combine two or more SNAC authority records appearing as exact or near-exact duplicates from the database of archival authority records. The controlled vocabularies allow users to describe archival record creators in greater detail using standard headings for topical subjects, geographic place names, occupations for persons, functions for corporate body creators, along with demographic descriptors. Functionality on the horizon includes report writing, record splitting, and enhanced internal communication between SNAC record creators and their reviewers.

In cooperation with the Technical and Standards and Editorial Policy working groups, the Training working group anticipates the premiere of SNACSchool in July 2017 to coincide with the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Portland, Oregon. SNACSchool will be the required training event for institutions/individuals wanting to make contributions to SNAC. SNACSchool will offer a cadre of training modules with instruction on several functions including searching, record creation, and record editing. SNACSchool will also offer a module to cover the basics of archival authority control. It is designed to provide sufficient understanding of archival authority control (creator name description and cataloging) for any non-archivist/librarians who are poised to make a valuable contribution to SNAC data. SNAC hopes to welcome a broader and more diverse membership to include documentary editors, scholars, historians, and others.

As its two-year pilot phase ends, SNAC will transition from its research and development phase to a fully operational data store, driven by policy shaped by its members, which helped shape its cooperative identity from the inside out. Arguably the most anticipated aspect of SNAC's next era is the opening of membership. Presently, several interested parties in the United States as well as several foreign groups seek to share EAC-CPF and other descriptive authority data, and to become full players in shaping the cooperative's future.

### After the pilot phase: October 1, 2017 and beyond...

Expansion of membership is a prime objective after the current pilot phase closes in October 2017. This will involve welcoming new members well beyond the core American group to include international members representing several national libraries and archives. Global expansion of the membership will warrant new approaches to delivery and use of the SNAC system, specifically addressing the issue of language both in terms

The screenshot displays a user interface for the SNAC (Social Networks and Archival Context) system. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'snac', 'Dashboard', 'Search', and 'Discussion' options. The main content area is titled 'Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852' with 'Alternative names' listed below. A 'Dates' section shows 'Birth 1782-01-16' and 'Death 1852-10-25'. A 'Maybe same as' section lists 'Webster, Daniel, 1765-1857' and 'Webster, Daniel, 1765-1852'. The 'Authority source' is 'Nationality: US' and 'Language: English'. A 'Biographical notes' section features a portrait of Daniel Webster and a text block: 'Daniel Webster (b. Salisbury, New Hampshire, January 18, 1782; d. Marsfield, Massachusetts, October 24, 1852), lawyer, orator, congressman, served as U.S. Secretary of State under presidents William Henry Harrison and John Tyler. He also served as Senator from Massachusetts.' To the right, there are sections for 'Links to collections' (Archival Collections: 1652, Related Resources: 100, Related External Links: 0) and 'Related names in SNAC' (People: 1120, Families: 52, Organizations: 104).

*A typical SNAC record provides a name heading, alternative names, birth and death information, and suggestions for possible name matches. Relying upon EAC-CPF features running behind the scenes, SNAC users can easily navigate links to descriptions of archival holdings created by, or about the named entity. Via the People, Families, and Organization links, users discover contextual connections to other entities described in the system.*

of the data and of the languages of the new member groups.

In addition to new non-American members, SNAC anticipates welcoming the community of worldwide documentary editors and independent scholars. Introducing these groups into the cooperative also presents new questions and challenges. Traditionally, authority data cooperatives expect input from archivists and librarians who produce descriptive data about their collections as their fundamental work. Documentary editors, historians, scholars and the like, however, may lack experience generating standardized descriptions of document creators. SNAC's leadership, in close collaboration with the SNACSchool Working Group, must anticipate special accommodations for integrating these new user groups, then innovate specifically tailored training programs to accommodate a broader audience. To explore the prototype research tool or learn more information about SNAC, visit <http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/>.

*Jerry Simmons is the external agency liaison to SNAC (Social Networks and Archival Context), Office of Innovation, National Archives and Records Administration.*

## Join H-Fed Hist

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Academic announcements • Book reviews  
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## From the Archives

### SHFG By-Laws (Part I)

By Chas Downs

In 1991, additional changes to the SHFG By-laws were proposed by Roger Trask, who was then SHFG President. He stated that these proposals were “designed to eliminate some outdated clauses and get the by-laws up to date with current practices.” The category “corresponding member” was eliminated from the classes of members, leaving only regular members, sustaining members, and patrons. Duties of the Secretary and Nominating Committee were clarified, the paragraph dealing with charter members eliminated, and proposal of amendments by the Executive Council would now be by majority vote. Trask’s changes were approved at the SHFG business meeting on April 22, 1991, and concurred in by a majority vote of SHFG members.

The next attempt at revision of the Society’s by-laws came in 1995. Known as “the Bowling amendment,” it was proposed by Ken Bowling, chairman of the Nominating Committee, as a way to facilitate finding qualified SHFG members to run for office. It would have the losing candidate for vice president automatically elected to the Council, and that there would be three candidates for the remaining Council seats. It also proposed that the vice president serve as a member of the Nominating Committee. These revisions had been approved by the SHFG membership in the 1995 ballot, but had not been presented at the Annual meeting, and not formally acted upon in proper sequence. This oversight would cause problems for the next revision of the bylaws.

As a result of the November 19, 1996, report by the SHFG’s Long Term Planning Committee, (For more on this Committee, see “From the Archives: The Long Range Planning Committee,” in *The Federalist*, 2nd Series, Number 26, Summer 2010, p.14), it was decided by the Executive Council that a major revision of the bylaws needed to be undertaken. An ad hoc committee, consisting of Dick Myers, Roger Trask, and Jesse Stiller, was appointed by the Executive Council to make recommendations concerning changes to the bylaws suggested by the Long Range Planning Committee. On January 27, 1997, the ad hoc committee made its report to the Council. As noted in the cover memo prepared by Myers, the committee tried to maintain “the integrity of the Long Term Planning Committee’s recommendations,” as well as to “reflect the considerations of the Ad Hoc Committee, and provide the Council with a clear set of recommendations on which to vote.” Some technical changes were also incorporated into the by-laws in hopes of improving their consistency and clarity.

The most apparent change was the new statement of purpose, in which five bullet points replaced the eight items of

the previous preamble. It stated that:

The Society was to accomplish its purpose by:

(1) Addressing the professional needs of not only its members but the larger community of professionals dealing with federal history;

(2) Supporting the agencies and officers which employ those professionals and encouraging other agencies and offices to establish historical offices and/or undertake historical, archival, and other related efforts in a professional manner;

(3) Fostering a stronger relationship between those engaged in federal history and the larger professional community, broadly defined to include academe, museums and historical organizations, archives and libraries, and related agencies, including involvement of both the Society and its members and other professional associations and attention by the latter to the needs and concerns of federal historians, archivists, and other professionals;

(4) Fostering better public understanding of the important role that history plays in the work of the federal government; and

(5) Taking other actions deemed by the Society to be supportive of its purposes.

There were also other changes. The membership year of the Society would run from January 1 through December 31. The SHFG would now have an administrative staff consisting of an executive director, an editor of *The Federalist*, and an Archivist/Historian. The Secretary became an elected officer with a vote on the Executive Council, with a two year term staggered with that of the Treasurer. The Committee on Committees was eliminated, but other administrative committees could be formed by a majority vote of the Council. The remaining changes were technical or overtaken by events. The minor bylaw changes that had been proposed in 1995 and not formally accepted were made moot by these substantive revisions.

In addition to the newly proposed amendments, SHFG Vice President Rebeca Cameron, in a January 10, 1997,



Ken Bowling

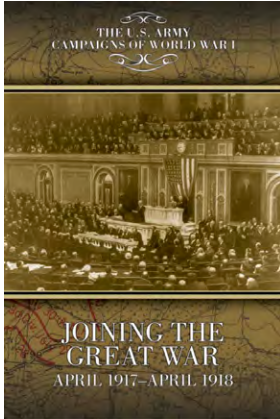


Rebeca Cameron

See “SHFG By-Laws” cont’d on page 15

## Recent Publications

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



*Joining the Great War, April 1917–April 1918*, by Eric B. Setzekorn, is the next installment in the U.S. Army Campaigns of World War I series, chronicling the first year of the American involvement in World War I. It briefly summarizes the prewar U.S. Army, the initial American reaction to the outbreak of war in Europe in 1914, and the factors that led to the U.S. declaration of war in April 1917. The narrative then examines how the U.S. Army transformed itself

from a small constabulary force into a mass, industrialized army capable of engaging in modern warfare. The author covers state-side mobilization and training, the formation of the American Expeditionary Forces, and the slow buildup of American forces in France and concludes with U.S. soldiers helping to blunt the first phase of the 1918 German Spring Offensive.

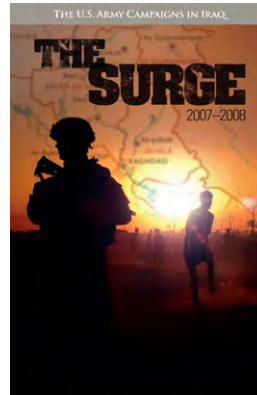
Dr. Eric B. Setzekorn is a historian with the U.S. Army Center of Military History and an adjunct professor at George Washington University, where he teaches courses on strategy and Chinese history. He has published academic research on a wide range of issues relating to U.S. military history, Asian (particularly Chinese) military history, and intelligence operations. His articles can be found in the *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, *Journal of Chinese Military History*, *Intelligence and National Security* and the *U.S. Military History Review*. He received his Ph.D. in history from George Washington University in 2014.

The Center of Military History (CMH) provides the United States Army, from senior civilian and military leaders to individual soldiers, with an awareness of history. The purposes are to educate and inform. Other military services, policymakers, government agencies, and the public at large also benefit from the Center's history program. To those ends, CMH produces publications on the history of the United States Army for worldwide distribution, administers the Army's far-ranging field history operations, and manages the Army's museums both stateside and abroad.

CMH publishes books, monographs, pamphlets, CD-ROMs, historical map posters, and the professional bulletin *Army History*. For more about the Center, go to [www.history.army.mil](http://www.history.army.mil); the home page also provides a link to CMH's online book catalog.

Many CMH titles are available to the general public from the Government Publishing Office (GPO). To check GPO

prices and availability, go to GPO's Online Bookstore at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>, or call (202) 512-1800 or toll-free 1-866-512-1800.



The U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) recently released *The Surge, 2007–2008* by Nicholas J. Schlosser. This brochure is the first in the new series *The U.S. Army Campaigns in Iraq*. To set the stage, Schlosser provides an overview of the region and the situation that led to the increase in insurgent activities as well as the command structure of U.S. forces. He provides discussion of key operations during the surge including FARDH AL-QANOON, PHANTOM

THUNDER, ARROWHEAD RIPPER, MARNE TORCH, and PHANTOM STRIKE. The brochure concludes with the status of forces agreement between the United States and Iraq drafted at the end of 2008. The publication, issued as CMH Pub 71-8, includes nine maps and fifteen photographs.

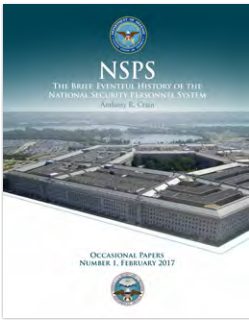
Dr. Nicholas J. Schlosser is a historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History where he specializes on the Iraq War. He holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Maryland, College Park. His publications include *Cold War on the Airwaves: The Radio Propaganda War against East Germany* (2015), *U.S. Marines and Irregular Warfare, Training, and Education, 2000–2010* (2015), and *The Battle for Al-Qaim and the Campaign to Secure the Western Euphrates River Valley, September 2005–March 2006* (2013).

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The OSD Historical Office published *NSPS: The Brief, Eventful History of the National Security Personnel System* by Anthony R. Crain. In early 2003 Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld attempted to transform civilian management in the Department of Defense by replacing the General Schedule (GS) system with a new National Security Personnel System (NSPS). NSPS was a significant challenge to the GS system that had implications far beyond the Defense Department. Rumsfeld's OSD successfully pushed the system through Congress but struggled to implement it effectively. After becoming a subject of great controversy, DoD wound down the system in the first years of Barack Obama's presidency.

With the publication of this first occasional paper, the OSD Historical Office embarks on a new series that intends to provide scholarly perspectives on policy issues, offer a forum for our historians' papers presented at academic conferences, summarize office publications that are works in progress, or cover other discrete topics.

This paper is available for download at <http://history.defense.gov/Publications/Other-Publications/>.

#### *"SHFG By-Laws" from page 10*

memo to the ad hoc committee, had suggested that "the Society change its name to Society for Federal History, which implies less exclusivity and more accurately reflects broad-based and wide ranging interest of the membership." The ad hoc committee supported the name revision, but those present at the April 3, 1997, business meeting, rejected this name change. All the other amendments were endorsed, submitted to a vote by the SHFG membership in June 1997, and were overwhelmingly approved.

I will cover the most recent revisions to the SHFG's by-laws in a future column.

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).

#### **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 [thomas.faith@shfg.org](mailto:thomas.faith@shfg.org)

## **Making History**

### **Army Center of Military History**

The Center of Military History (CMH) has launched a World War I centennial website, which will tell the story of the U.S. Army in World War I. New content will be released periodically between January 2017 and May 2019 and will be organized into four parts containing a total of thirty chapters. The site will also provide a calendar of World War I commemorative events, a historical timeline, and a catalog of resources and related publications. It can be accessed from the CMH home page at [www.history.army.mil](http://www.history.army.mil).

### **Barack Obama Presidential Library**

The National Archives and Records Administration announced a new model for the preservation and accessibility of Presidential records. This follows an Obama Foundation announcement of its commitment to fund the digitization of all the unclassified Presidential records created during the administration of President Barack Obama. Instead of constructing a building to house the textual and artifact records, existing NARA facilities will house the original materials.

In this new model, NARA will administer neither a museum nor a traditional "Presidential Library," and will instead focus its resources and personnel on preserving and making accessible the Presidential records of the 44th President of the United States in digital format to the greatest extent possible. Once the records are digitized, NARA will store and preserve the original paper records, as well as the artifacts, in an existing facility that meets NARA's high standards for archival storage. Classified records will be stored in the Washington, DC area, where they can more efficiently and effectively be secured and reviewed for declassification. As classified records are declassified and released, NARA will make them available in digitized form.

The establishment of a digital archives for the records of President Obama continues NARA's efforts to establish new ways of reaching more researchers, educators, students, and citizens alike in the 21st Century, and sets the stage for a new era in the study of Presidents past and future as well as of the Presidency itself.

### **Center for Cryptologic History**

Records relating to the Vietnam Paris Peace talks of 1972–1973 have recently been declassified and posted to the NSA.gov website (<https://www.nsa.gov/news-features/declassified-documents/vietnam-war/peace-talks/>). These records are intelligence reports issued by NSA between November 1972 and January 1973. The reports in this release provided National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger and other senior American negotiators with unique insights into how their South Vietnamese allies were reacting to developments at the Paris Peace Talks with North Vietnamese envoy Le Duc Tho. They also provided Dr. Kissinger and his colleagues advance notice of positions being taken by Saigon with respect to initiatives put forward by Washington and Hanoi. While the skill of American diplomats, the political landscape at home and abroad, and the military situation on the ground in

See *"Making History"* cont'd on page 16

### “Making History” from page 16

Vietnam all played vital roles in the outcome, the NSA reports helped ensure U.S. envoys in Paris and their superiors in Washington were informed by the best possible intelligence as they conducted some of the most consequential negotiations in our nation’s history.

### Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior announced on May 5, 2017, the first ever formal public comment period for members of the public to officially weigh in on monument designations under the Antiquities Act of 1906, and the Department released a list of monuments under review under the President’s Executive Order 13792, issued April 26, 2017. A public comment period is not required for monument designations under the Antiquities Act; however, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and President Trump both strongly believe that local input is a critical component of federal land management.

Comments may be submitted online after May 12 at <http://www.regulations.gov> by entering “DOI–2017–0002” in the Search bar and clicking “Search,” or by mail to Monument Review, MS–1530, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

The Department will shortly publish a notice in the Federal Register officially opening the public comment period. Written comments relating to the Bears Ears National Monument must be submitted within 15 days of publication of that notice. Written comments relating to all other designations subject to Executive Order 13792 must be submitted within 60 days of that date.

### Department of State

The Department of State on April 6, 2017, announced the release of newly digitized versions of sixteen volumes from the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series, the official documentary record of U.S. foreign relations. These volumes cover events that took place between 1912 and 1918 and were originally published in print between 1919 and 1933.

The Office of the Historian released this material documenting World War I on the centennial of the U.S. entry into the war to commemorate that event and to honor those who served in that conflict. The Office plans to release the related material on the Versailles peace negotiations in the next quarterly release, scheduled for June 2017. In addition, the Office of the Historian is publishing a narrative account of the response by U.S. diplomats in Europe to the humanitarian catastrophe that accompanied the beginning of the war. This narrative will be published sequentially at <https://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/wwi>.



This release is part of the Office of the Historian’s ongoing project, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center, to digitize the entire Foreign Relations series. These volumes are available online and as free ebooks at the Office of the Historian’s website (<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments>). This is the latest in a series of quarterly releases, which will continue until the *FRUS* digital archive is complete.

### Food and Drug Administration

On March 2, 2017, the Food and Drug Administration launched the first in a series of video blogs that draw upon the agency’s rich artifact collection to illustrate FDA’s work and the issues that have helped frame its public health responsibilities for more than a century. If you are interested in viewing this first installment or learning more about the series, please visit the FDA Voice blog post at <https://blogs.fda.gov/fdavoices/index.php/2017/03/opening-the-fdas-history-vault/>.

### George Washington Financial Papers

After three years of work, the George Washington Financial Papers project publicly released its website on February 22 at The Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon. Funded by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the GWFP’s two main objectives were to develop a freely accessible digital edition and an open-source editorial platform. Read more about the project and learn about future updates at <http://financial.gwpapers.org>.

### Government Publishing Office

The U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) has partnered with the Library of Congress to release the digital version of the bound *Congressional Record* from 1961–1970 on GPO’s govinfo ([www.govinfo.gov](http://www.govinfo.gov)). This release covers debates and proceedings of the 87th thru the 91st Congresses, approximately 380,000 *Congressional Record* pages.

### Herbert Hoover Presidential Library

An audio-visual archivist working at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library discovered that some of former First Lady Lou Hoover’s home movies may in fact be the earliest color home movies ever taken at the White House. The movie reels provide glimpses into the Florida fishing trip taken by Herbert and Lou Hoover in late January 1929, when he was President-elect. This would be the last vacation before assuming the Presidency on March 4, 1929, and before the burdens of his office began to wear on the First Family. Other reels capture playful scenes of grandchildren and vacation trips of taken by the Hoovers’ sons, and touristy images of Washington, DC, historic sites. Scenes of the White House gardens reflect Mrs. Hoover’s concept for the exterior appearance of the garden plots. The final reel of film shows the first color images of President Hoover in his morning routine of tossing a medicine ball with others. This activity would eventually become the game known as Hooverball.

Thanks to a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation,

which covered the costs of preserving the film and creating digital files, these restored color home movies will be available for public viewing after March 29, 2017, the 143rd anniversary of Lou Henry Hoover's birth, at [www.hoover.archives.gov](http://www.hoover.archives.gov).

### Historical Society of Washington, DC

The Historical Society of Washington, DC, honored Dr. Frank Smith, founding director of the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum and former City Council Member for Ward 1, with its fourth annual Visionary Historian Award. The Visionary Historian Award is presented to an individual whose work represents the highest achievement in the study of Washington, DC, and related history. Dr. Smith joins previous recipients Kathryn Schneider Smith, Dr. James M. Goode, and Lonnie Bunch III.

### HistoryIT

HistoryIT and the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education at the University of Southern Maine unveiled a new website designed to make the map library's world-renowned collection accessible to a vast and still-untapped online audience. We worked with the library to develop a new way of organizing their metadata, the descriptive information that makes items discoverable by an online search. This shift in direction has moved OML's digital interface from a simple online catalog that mainly served dedicated researchers to a robust digital collection that engages diverse public audiences. See it here: <http://www.oshermaps.org>.

### Library of Congress

A new exhibition at the Library of Congress, "Drawing Justice: The Art of Courtroom Illustrations," will feature original art that captures the drama of high-profile court cases in the last 50 years. The exhibition opened on Thursday, April 27, 2017, and will close on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017. "Drawing Justice" is made possible by Thomas V. Girardi and the Swann Foundation for Caricature and Cartoon. In addition, Girardi—the founding partner of Girardi Keese, a Los Angeles law firm—funded the acquisition of 95 high-profile trial drawings by Aggie Kenny, Bill Robles and Elizabeth Williams for the Library's collection. As a result of this benefaction, the Library's courtroom illustrations are the most comprehensive in any American institution. The 98 illustrations on display will represent court cases dating from 1964 to the present day, including trials for murder, crime and corruption, terrorism, political activism and landmark legal issues. Among those depicted will be Jack Ruby, James Earl Ray, Charles Manson, David Berkowitz, John Gotti, the Chicago Seven and Bernie Madoff. Artifacts from the Library's Manuscript Division and the Law Library will supplement the drawings from a legal perspective.

The Library has also launched a World War I web portal, providing comprehensive access to the Library's World War I resources and programming. Featured content includes digitized collections, such as World War I Posters; Maps of Military Battles and Campaigns; World War I Sheet Music; The Stars and Stripes Newspaper; and the Veterans

History Project. Resources for K–12 teachers, blog posts, guidance for researchers, exhibitions, lectures, symposia and other events are listed. Please visit [loc.gov/wwi/](http://loc.gov/wwi/).

### National Air and Space Museum

"Artist Soldiers: Artistic Expression in the First World War" opened at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC, on April 6. Through the perspectives of professional artists who were recruited by the U.S. Army and of soldiers who created artwork, "Artist Soldiers" examines the emergence in WWI of war art that captured the moment realistically by firsthand participants. The opening of this collaborative exhibition with the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History marks the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into war April 6, 1917. For more information about "Artist Soldiers," visit <https://airandspace.si.edu/exhibitions/artist-soldiers>.

### National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives will open a new exhibition, "Remembering Vietnam: Twelve Critical Episodes in the Vietnam War," on November 10, 2017. The exhibit examines 12 critical episodes in the Vietnam War to provide a framework for understanding the decisions that led to war, events and consequences of the war, and its legacy. This 3,000-square-foot exhibit uses more than 80 original records from the National Archives—including newly declassified documents—to critically reexamine major events and turning points in the war and address three critical questions about the Vietnam War: Why did the United States get involved? Why did the war last so long? Why was it so controversial? Remembering Vietnam is free and open to the public, and will be on display in the Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery of the National Archives Museum in Washington, DC, through January 6, 2019.

### National Building Museum

The National Building Museum presents an exhibition that explores the architecture and landscape architecture of St. Elizabeths. "Architecture of an Asylum: St. Elizabeths 1852–2017" is open to the public March 25, 2017, through January 15, 2018. The Government Hospital for the Insane, as the campus was originally named, opened in 1855 as a federally-operated facility. The multi-disciplinary exhibition will tell the story of St. Elizabeths' change over time, reflecting evolving theories of how to care for the mentally ill, as well as the later reconfiguration of the campus as a federal workplace and mixed-use urban development.

An important collection of architectural drawings held by the Library of Congress will anchor the exhibition. These archival materials comprise plans and elevations spanning the period from the 1850s through the 1980s. Drawings include Thomas U. Walter's plans for



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the institution’s first structure, the 1855 Center Building, as well as plans for later residential “cottages,” farm structures, and an auditorium. A spectacular 1904 model created for the St. Louis World’s Fair is a dramatic centerpiece for the exhibition.

The Architecture of an Asylum will present a remarkable story about American healthcare, architectural history, and promising adaptive reuse. Under the General Services Administration’s control since 2004, the historic site—much of it vacant and deserted for decades—is now undergoing massive change. Visitors, always curious about the troubled history of mental health care, and interested in expansive plans for urban renewal, will be fascinated by the surprising story of this hospital and its urban campus.

**National Endowment for the Humanities**

The National Endowment for the Humanities has recently launched NEH Matters, an online platform that helps users find information about the vital role the NEH plays in preserving our nation’s heritage and expanding access to America’s diverse cultural and historic treasures. NEH Matters features information on NEH funded projects nationwide, NEH funding facts, and a map showing the geographic distribution of NEH supported projects in communities across the country. See it at <https://www.neh.gov/neh-matters>.

**National Library of Medicine**

George P. Noon, MD, and Shelley McKellar, PhD, gave the inaugural Michael E. DeBakey Lecture on March 21, 2017, in the Lister Hill Auditorium at the National Library of Medicine. The presentation is part of an ongoing history of medicine lecture series, which promotes awareness and use of the National Library of Medicine and other historical collections for research, education, and public service in biomedicine, the social sciences, and the humanities. All lectures are live-streamed globally, and subsequently archived, by NIH VideoCasting. See it at <https://videocast.nih.gov/summary.asp?live=22006&bhcp=1>, and stay informed about the lecture series on Twitter at #NLMHistTalk.

**National Museum of African American History and Culture**

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Library of Congress announced the joint acquisition of an album of 44 rare photographs, including a previously unrecorded portrait of abolitionist and Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman and the only known photograph of John Willis Menard, the first African American man elected to the U.S. Congress. The collaboration ensures these pieces of American history will be accessible to the public in perpetuity.

**National Museum of American History**

NMAH is hosting three new exhibits for the First World War Centennial. “Gen. John J. Pershing and World War I, 1917–1918,” is a display that will give the visitor a sense of America’s global reach and influence in World War I and reveal how the U.S. fit into a

reshaped global community. “Uniformed Women and the Great War” is a selection of uniforms on display that highlight the varied roles of uniformed women in WWI. “Modern Medicine and the Great War” exhibits WWI medical technologies and procedures some of which reflect the larger concerns and prejudices of early 20th-century America.

**National Postal Museum**

The National Postal Museum currently hosts a special exhibition: “My Fellow Soldiers: Letter from World War I,” an exhibition of first-hand accounts of love, longing, and loss in wartime. The exhibition will be open to the public from April 6, 2017 until November 29, 2018. “My Fellow Soldiers: Letters from World War I” was created by the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum in collaboration with the Center for American War Letters at Chapman University. This event is sponsored by Chapman University Leatherby Libraries. (<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/MyFellowSoldiers>)

**National Women’s History Museum**

We are pleased to report that U.S. Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D–NY) and Ed Royce (R–CA) introduced H.R. 19, the Smithsonian Women’s History Museum Act, in the U.S. House of Representatives in March. We greatly appreciate Reps. Maloney’s and Royce’s leadership, and introduction of this bill is a positive step forward in making the National Women’s History Museum on the National Mall a reality. Nothing moves fast in Washington, and we are certain aspects of the bill will change as it makes its way through the legislative process. We will keep you informed as it moves forward.

**Office of National Marine Sanctuaries**

Can’t get to your national marine sanctuaries? Thanks to the wonders of 360-degree photography and virtual reality, these underwater treasures now are as close as the tips of your fingers. NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has launched a virtual dive gallery, complete with immersive 360-degree views of five national marine sanctuaries: American Samoa, Florida Keys, Flower Garden Banks, Gray’s Reef, and Thunder Bay. See the dive gallery here at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/vr/>.

**Papers of James Monroe**

The Papers of James Monroe is a documentary editing project based at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The goal of the project is to publish a scholarly ten-volume collection of selected letters and papers documenting the life and career of the fifth president of the United States. The project most recently published Volume 6, covering 1811–1814 and drawing on correspondence from the War of 1812 and Monroe’s concurrent cabinet positions as Secretary of State and Secretary of War.

**Papers of the War Department**

April 2017 marked the seventy-second month since we opened the War Department archives to community transcription, and over

five years after launch we still receive requests for transcriber accounts! Here is a snapshot of transcription activity for last month: Twenty-two new transcribers signed up last month which brings the total number of transcribers up to 2,896 as of April 30, 2017. Our community of transcribers have added 147 transcribed pages to War Department documents, with the total number of saves being 20,359. Overall, we have had 700,076 page views.

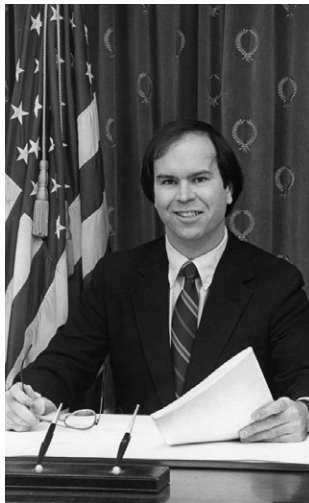
Follow us on Twitter (@wardeptpapers) where we'll be posting documents in need of transcription throughout the month. Interested in contributing to the project? Individuals can register for a transcription account and become a transcription associate.

### **Puget Sound Navy Museum**

The U.S. Navy's fleet of big ships is balanced by a diverse collection of smaller vessels including speedy patrol boats. Of these, hydrofoil patrol boats were some of the most unusual vessels of the U.S. Navy fleet. And now, thanks to the Puget Sound Navy Museum's newest exhibit, "Patrol Boats on Puget Sound," visitors can see first-hand hydrofoils and other small, fast patrol boats that have operated on Puget Sound for more than a century! "Patrol Boats on Puget Sound" opened on March 3, 2017 and will remain on view for two years. (<http://www.pugetsoundnavymuseum.org/>)

### **Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education**

The Byrd Center is excited to announce that we are opening for research the papers of Congressman Harley O. Staggers, Jr. This collection chronicles Congressman Staggers, Jr.'s one term in the West Virginia Senate (1980–1982) and his five terms in the United States House of Representatives (1983–1993). Records include papers and audio visual materials of his campaigns, casework, activities on various committees, office organization, and correspondence which make up the bulk of the collection. Visit <https://www.byrdcenter.org/harley-o-staggers-jr-congressional-papers.html> for more information.



### **Society of American Archivists**

An internship directory has been added to SAA's Career Center. Any institution/employer can post their internship opportunities for free. Looking for an internship? Ready to take the first steps in your archival career? Or would you like the opportunity to help new archivists gain hands-on experience? SAA's Internship Directory is the perfect place for students and new professionals to connect with employers as they start their archival careers. Visit at <http://www2.archivists.org/internship-directory>.

### **UNESCO World Heritage Centre**

During the Blue-Helmet-Blue-Shield Forum Austria 2017 held at the Kunsthistorische Museum, Vienna, on 3 March 2017, the focus was "Best Practice on Peace Keeping and Cultural Property Protection." The event was attended by experts from ICOM, UNIFIL, NATO and Blue Shield. Mechtild Rössler, Director of the Division of Heritage of UNESCO, highlighted that "security forces, military personnel, police and customs officials, all have tremendously important roles to play in heritage protection and need to coordinate closely with cultural institutions to this end." She shared with the participants legal frameworks and practical tools, including UNESCO's experiences on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict under the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols, as well as the prevention of illicit trafficking of cultural objects under the UNESCO 1970 Convention. UNESCO's recent publication, *Military Manual on the Protection of Cultural Property*, which is the first of its kind in this field, was also presented. The *Manual* addresses a variety of subjects, including preparatory measures, measures designed to increase respect for cultural property, precautionary procedures in the event of launching attacks, the protection of cultural property in occupied territory, and penal measures.

In addition to monuments and sites, museums and collections need special protection during conflict, particularly with regard to looting and illicit trafficking. Ms. Rössler elaborated on UNESCO training tools and workshops for Museums in Emergency Situations and Conflicts, and presented UNESCO 2015 *Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society*.

### **Veterans History Project**

The Veterans History Project (VHP) launched "PTSD: A Lasting Impact of War," the latest installment in its online "Experiencing War" website series. The site examines 12 digitized collections found in the VHP archive, all of which include veterans describing their military service, its impact on their mental health and the challenges they have faced in finding the care they need while living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Some of the veterans featured were diagnosed as a result of serving in combat or being held as prisoners of war (POW), while others experienced the trauma of sexual assault. The veterans, ranging from World War II to the Iraq War, represent a variety of branches, service locations and military roles. See it at <http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/ex-war-ptsd.html>.



# The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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## Federalist Calendar

**June 21–24, 2017. The Association for Documentary Editing.** Annual Meeting, Buffalo, NY. Visit [http://www.documentaryediting.org/wordpress/?page\\_id=3277](http://www.documentaryediting.org/wordpress/?page_id=3277)

**June 22–24, 2017. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR).** Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA. Visit <https://shafrr.org/conferences/annual/2017-annual-meeting>

**July 20–23, 2017. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR).** 39th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. Visit <http://www.shear.org/annual-meeting/>

**July 23–29, 2017. Society of American Archivists (SAA).** Annual Meeting, Portland, OR. Visit <http://www2.archivists.org/conference#.V6yRuxI96sg>

**Oct. 19–20, 2017. Center for Cryptologic History.** Symposium. “Milestones, Memories, and Momentum.” Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory’s Kossiakoff Center in Laurel, MD. Visit <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01611194.2016.1199447>

**Oct. 19–21, 2017. Ohio Valley History.** 33rd Annual Conference, Murray State University in Murray, KY

**Jan. 3–7, 2018. Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society.** Biennial Convention, New Orleans, LA. Visit <http://phialpha-theta.org/biennial-convention-2018>

**Jan. 4–7, 2018. American Historical Association.** 132nd Annual Meeting. “Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism in Global Perspective.” Washington, DC

**Apr. 5–8, 2018. Society for Military History.** 85th Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY

**Apr. 12–14, 2018. Organization of American Historians.** Annual Meeting, Sacramento, CA

**Apr. 14–18, 2018. American Society for Environmental History.** Annual Conference, Riverside, CA. Visit <http://aseh.net/conference-workshops/2018-conference-riverside-ca>

**Apr. 18–21, 2018. National Council on Public History.** Annual Meeting. “Power Lines.” Las Vegas, NV. Visit <http://ncph.org/conference/2018-annual-meeting/>

**Nov. 1–2, 2018. 10th Blount Postal History Symposium.** “World War I and its Immediate Aftermath.” Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington, DC. Visit <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/research/symposiums-and-lectures/>

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