



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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SHFG
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SHFG IS GOING PLACES

SHFG periodically organizes group tours of historical interest sites around the Washington, DC, area. Recent trips include a tour of the Naval History and Heritage Command inside the Washington Navy Yard, led by Senior Historian Michael J. Crawford, in November 2016. SHFG organized a tour of the Old Naval Observatory and the State Department's Office of the Historian in April 2017, led by Historian of the Department of State Stephen Randolph. On September 8, SHFG will visit the Department of the Interior building for a tour of its museum and historic murals, led by Curator Tracy Baetz. If you are interested in hearing about future tours and registration information, sign up for the SHFG e-bulletin at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/announcements>. Tours are free, but space is limited, so sign up fast!



The World Heritage Convention and the Role of the National Park Service

By Phyllis Ellin

When the United States established Yellowstone as its first national park in 1872, it initiated a worldwide movement to protect such areas as national treasures. One hundred years later, during the Richard M. Nixon Administration, the United States proposed the World Heritage Convention to the international community and was the first nation to ratify it. This Convention has become the most widely accepted international conservation treaty in human history, signed by 193 countries.

World Heritage Sites are the planet's most significant natural and cultural treasures. They include the Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal, and the Serengeti National Park as well as American icons such as the Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde and the Statue of Liberty. Just as national parks protect areas that are significant to the nation, World Heritage Sites are considered to be important to all humanity, and therefore their preservation is of global interest. There are now over 1,000 such sites in 167 countries, including 23 sites in the United States (see links below).

Each nation participating in the Convention voluntarily nominates sites within its territory that it believes meet the stringent selection criteria for "outstanding universal value." U.S. participation in the World Heritage program is a responsibility of the Department of the Interior, whose Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife



An NPS guide speaks to a group at the Statue of Liberty National Monument, a World Heritage Site.

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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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Phyllis Ellin (right) and the NPS delegation at the 2010 World Heritage Committee meeting in Brasilia.

“World Heritage Convention” from page 1

and Parks works in cooperation with the State Department on the program. The National Park Service’s Office of International Affairs is the staff office for the program and forms part of the U.S. delegation to the annual sessions of the World Heritage Committee. World Heritage sessions provide unique opportunities to communicate in person with colleagues of all countries and the World Heritage Committee’s staff and technical advisors.

The Office of International Affairs’ Historian plays a key role in World Heritage responsibilities for cultural properties, which can range from archaeological sites to modern architecture. The first stage in the World Heritage process is identifying properties for the U.S. World Heritage “Tentative List.” These are properties that appear to meet the World Heritage criteria and which are eligible to be nominated by the United States. The process for compiling the Tentative List has taken several different forms in past years, including open applications in 2007 and the formation of an expert working group to advise the Department in 2016. The office regularly receives unsolicited suggestions from the public, and the Historian is part of the team that considers and responds to suggestions. A critical aspect of these considerations is that properties must be significant in a global context, not the more familiar context of national

significance. This requires not only a different perspective, but also at least a passing familiarity with properties and topics around the world for comparison. Furthermore, the World Heritage criteria are different in some important ways from our National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark criteria. The most striking difference is that properties in most cases cannot be listed for associative value alone, such as being the site of an important event or associated with an important person; they have to be intrinsically significant as well.

Once selected for nomination by the Assistant Secretary from the Tentative List, it is primarily the responsibility of the property owner or their representatives to prepare a nomination document. For cultural properties, this process is overseen and advised by the Historian, a role informed by knowledge of the World Heritage Committee’s policies and precedents from other countries’ nominations, both successful and otherwise. World Heritage nominations are now typically lavishly illustrated documents of hundreds of pages, that take years to compile. Following a prescribed format, they include not only descriptive information and a justification of how the criteria are met, but also detailed information on legal protection and management.

Recent U.S. nominations have included Poverty Point National Monument in

Louisiana, a 3,500 year-old archaeological site; the Spanish colonial Missions in San Antonio, Texas; and a group of buildings around the country designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The latter, in a result indicative of the difficulty of getting sites through the evaluation process, was returned for revisions to the selection of properties for inclusion and their justification.

Advising the development of a World Heritage nomination typically includes several visits to the site to consider issues, discuss how best to frame the justification, and participate in workshops with both U.S. and foreign experts, whom the Office of International Affairs sometimes helps to identify and contact. Monthly phone meetings help organize the work. It is normal to review and edit several drafts of the nomination, as well as organizing its review by the Department and the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage. After a nomination is submitted, the Historian participates in the on-site evaluation of the nomination by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), so that they can make a formal recommendation on the nomination to the World Heritage Committee.

Once a property is included on the World Heritage List, the United States is responsible for supporting the protection mechanisms documented in the nomination. In addition to periodic reports made on a six-year cycle, via a detailed online questionnaire, we need to monitor activity at our World Heritage sites and notify the World Heritage Committee, through their UNESCO staff based in Paris, of any significant threats or planned developments, and conduct impact assessments if warranted.

In sum, it is a truly unusual job, but a fascinating one that provides an opportunity to learn about, showcase, and represent the best of the United States on the world stage.

More information can be found at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/internationalcooperation/worldheritage.htm> and at whc.unesco.org.

Phyllis Ellin is a National Park Service Historian in the Office of International Affairs, and has worked for the National Park Service since 1985—as a historian in the Northeast Regional Office and as Executive Director of the federal commission for the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, as well as in her current position.

Correction

Regrettably, the summer issue of *The Federalist* erroneously titled Chas Downs' From the Archives column "SHFG By-Laws (Part I)" (Number 54, Summer 2017, p. 13). The title should have read "SHFG By-Laws (Part II)."

Editor's Note

This issue of *The Federalist* marks my one-year anniversary as editor. Finding my way has been a significant time investment, but I have immensely enjoyed the job of meeting new people, learning about their work, and shepherding their stories to publication. I sincerely appreciate all of the authors and our regular contributors, who volunteered their time, labor, and expertise, to provide us with the content that *The Federalist* depends on—The opportunity to help them share their projects with the larger federal history community is a privilege. I hope you, as a Society member, will also accept my sincere appreciation for your continued support of SHFG and your stewardship of the history of the federal government.

Of course, *The Federalist* is your publication first and foremost, so if you have comments or suggestions for future content, please let me know using the contact information below. I am also always glad to receive more news items from federal agencies doing historical work, so, if your office has a new project that you would like others in the federal history community to be aware of, email me or forward a press release about it. SHFG and I are happy to help spread the word.

In this *Federalist*, **Phyllis Ellin** describes her fascinating work as a historian in the National Park Service's Office of International Affairs. **Bianka Adams** provides an in-depth profile of the Office of History at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The new director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, **Patrick X. Mordente**, graciously agreed to be featured in the latest History Professional interview. **Albinko Hasic** reviews one of the newest web-based projects from the Center for Land Use Interpretation, a database that showcases the present-day status of places associated with each U.S. president. **Jennifer Giambone**, Historian at History Associates, offers advice on creating effective web-based historical timelines. You will also find my review of the National Endowment for the Humanities 2017 list of grant awards.

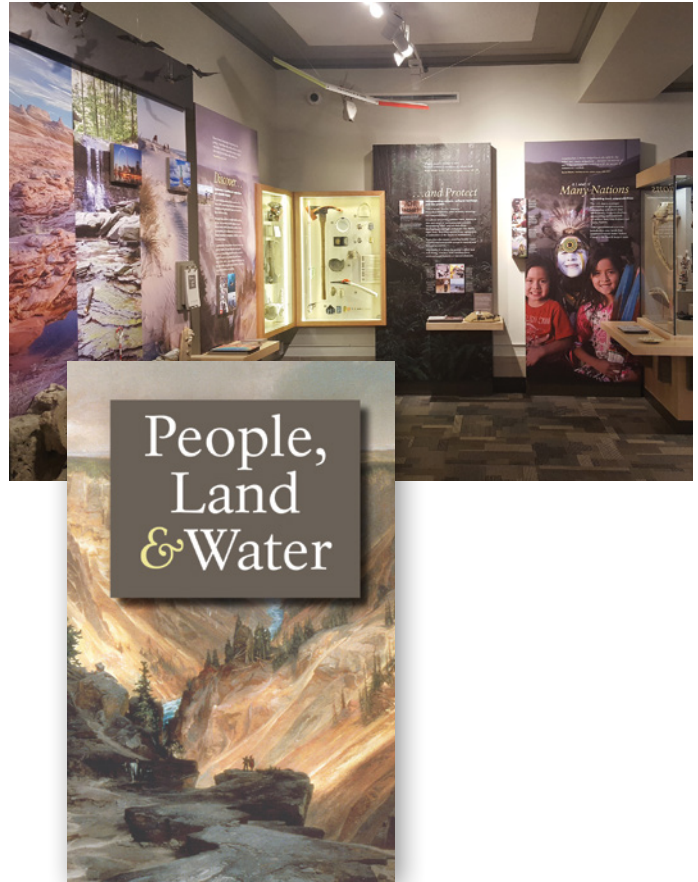
In our regular "From the Archives" feature, SHFG Archivist **Chas Downs** presents the final installment of his essential series of articles focusing on the genesis of SHFG by-laws. **A.J. Daverede** at the NDC examines a group of Marine Corps after-action reports from Vietnam in his "Newly Declassified Records." Readers will find calls for submissions for the OAH Leopold Prize and the Medical History of WWI Conference, an announcement for *People, Land & Water*—the latest exhibit at the Department of the Interior Museum, and announcements about new federal history books in "Recent Publications." Also, do not miss all the other exciting developments in federal history, found in the section on "Making History."

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

People, Land & Water at the Interior Museum

On June 12, 2017, the U.S. Department of the Interior Museum opened a new, long-term gallery installation, *People, Land & Water*. This state-of-the-art exhibition introduces audiences to the scope and influence of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Features of the updated visitor experience include more than 75 fascinating artifacts, an inspiring 14-minute orientation film, plus educational multimedia presentations to acquaint and actively engage the public with the Department's history, relevance, and missions. A timeline and broad interpretive themes of *discovering*, *protecting*, *contemporary cultures*, and *powering our future* provide a framework for understanding the interconnectivity among the Department's nine bureaus, as well as the projects in which its 70,000 employees are engaged nationally and internationally.

Since 1938 the Interior Museum has shared with visitors various aspects of the ongoing stewardship of the nation's public lands, natural resources and cultural heritage. The museum is located on the first floor of the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building at 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC. Museum hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8:30AM - 4:30PM (closed Federal holidays). Admission is free, but visitors are required to present valid photo I.D. and proceed through security/bag screening to access the building. For additional information, visit www.doi.gov/interiormuseum or call 202-208-4743.



CALL FOR PAPERS: Medical History of WWI

Proposals Deadline: November 10, 2017

Over March 22–25, 2018, the Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences will be co-sponsoring a conference on the medical history of WWI.

It will be hosted at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School in San Antonio, Texas.

Presentations on all facets of medicine and healthcare related to the war are welcome, to include: historical understandings of military medicine as practiced by all participants and in all geographic regions; consideration of the repercussions of the war on the practice of medicine; medicine in various campaigns; effects on the home fronts; postwar medical issues; mental health issues; the pandemic influenza; and related topics.

Presentations should be 30 minutes long, and two-paper panels are welcome.

As with the 2012 conference, we anticipate publication of selected papers.

Contact: Dr Sanders Marble, Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage, william.s.marble.civ@mail.mil

Richard W. Leopold Prize

The Richard W. Leopold Prize is given biennially by the Organization of American Historians to the author or editor of the best book on foreign policy, military affairs, historical activities of the federal government, documentary histories, or biography written by a U.S. government historian or federal contract historian. These subjects cover the concerns and the historical fields of activity of the late Professor Leopold, who was president of the OAH 1976–1977.

The prize was designed to improve contacts and interrelationships within the historical profession where an increasing number of history-trained scholars hold distinguished positions in governmental agencies. The prize recognizes the significant historical work being done by historians outside academe.

Each entry must be published during the two-year period January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2017.

The award will be presented at the 2018 OAH Annual Meeting in Sacramento, California, April 12–15.

Submission Procedures

The winner must have been employed as a full-time historian or federal contract historian with the U.S. government for a minimum of five years prior to the submission. If the author has accepted an academic position, retired, or otherwise left federal service, the book must have been published within two years of their separation date. Verification of current or past employment with the U.S. government (in the form of a letter or e-mail sent to the publisher from the office that employs or has employed the author) must be included with each entry for the Leopold Prize.

One copy of each entry, clearly labeled “2018 Richard W. Leopold Prize Entry,” must be mailed directly to the committee members. Each committee member must receive all submissions postmarked by October 2, 2017. Full details and submission information is available at <http://www.oah.org/programs/awards/richard-w-leopold-prize/>.

Newly Declassified Records

This issue’s featured declassified series is another small collection of four Federal Record Center boxes coming from Record Group 127, Records of the U.S. Marine Corps. This series is Entry UD-UP 79 and bears the title of Vietnam After-Action Reports. That title is quite accurate as the boxes contain the message traffic associated with all (or at least most) of the named Marine operations conducted in the Republic of South Vietnam from Operation Starlite in August 1965 through the end of 1968. Each folder bears the name of the operation and are arranged alphabetically by operation name. Each folder contains the formatted after action report messages sent from Fleet Marine Forces Pacific to the Commandant of the Marine Corps supplemented, in some cases, by typed chronologies, briefing slides, and other miscellaneous content. The readability of the messages varies greatly, as some of the copies have faded badly over the years.

Like most previous series described in this column, documents have been withdrawn from these records. For the withdrawn documents, standard National Declassification Center withdrawn item notices have been inserted, each bearing enough information for the researcher to make a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) request. To discover more record series declassified by the NDC, please visit the NDC Blog at <http://blogs.archives.gov/ndc/> for complete lists of declassified record series made available as soon as declassification processing is complete. Visitors to the blog also have an opportunity to set processing priorities on a number of record series awaiting indexing.

– A. J. Daverede, NARA, NDC



The product of a bored Marine in the Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Operations shop: this is the cover of the folder for Operation Deckhouse I in June 1966.

NEH 2017 Awards

By Thomas Faith

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) recently published its 2017 list of grant awards, and many of the projects that received grants will interest federal history practitioners. While the White House supported the elimination of the NEH in its most recent budget blueprint, Congress has continued to fund the organization. The NEH has made possible many projects that are essential to telling the story of the United States of America and its people. Many of those projects, like the ones highlighted below, are critical to making information and resources related to the history of the federal government more accessible.

This year, the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, received a Digging into Data grant to support a project on “Global Comparative Analysis of News Coverage about Terrorism from 1945 to present.” This project will use text analytics methods on an incredible scale to assess 70 years of terrorism coverage from around the world to identify successful reporting strategies, with historical depth across multiple languages. The St. Croix Landmarks Society received a \$200,000 Planning grant to support the establishment of a provisional U.S. Virgin Islands State Humanities Council to increase cultural awareness through the humanities and engage the diverse population of the Virgin Islands in innovative programming. The New York City Department of Records & Information Services, which maintains an extensive archive of records related to the city’s governance (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/home/home.shtml>), received a grant to help process health commissioner records in their collection dating from 1929 to 1991.

Some NEH awards went to projects focusing on various aspects of legal history. The Harvard Law School Library was awarded a Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant to help digitize a portion of their large collection of documents relating to Nazi war criminal trials after WWII. Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, received \$262,000 to support the development of the American Prison Writing Archive, a web based project where American prison writers will be able to document their experiences.

Several grants were awarded as part of the NEH’s Dialogues on the Experience of War program, which supports “the study and



NEH announces new grant recipients.

discussion of important humanities sources about war, in the belief that these sources can help U.S. military veterans and others to think more deeply about the issues raised by war and military service.” Institutions including Appalachian State University, Community College District 502, East Carolina University, George Mason University, Governors State University, and Operation Opportunity Foundation, will host programs on issues related to war in the humanities with funding from these grants.

More NEH grant recipients include the Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ, which was awarded an implementation grant for an exhibit scheduled to open in 2018 on “Tragedy and Triumph: The American Indian Boarding School Experience.” The Go For Broke National Education Center in Los Angeles, CA, received a \$193,080 Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant to improve access to their Hanashi Oral History Project, 1200 moving image oral histories that constitute the world’s largest collection of oral histories from Japanese American WWII veterans, and an audio edition of The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers is also supported by a Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant awarded to George Washington University.

These NEH supported projects represent some of the most promising humanities work being done in the United States, and they have the potential to influence a variety of historical subfields related to federal history. Moreover, these projects represent a national historical heritage that collectively belongs to every American. It is hoped that Congress will continue to support funding more such projects in the future.

Read the full list of grant awards here: <https://www.neh.gov/news/press-release/March2017Grants>

Donate to SHFG

Support New SHFG Events

Please donate to SHFG’s current efforts to organize and promote new events and workshops. These events will provide opportunities for professional development: to meet colleagues, exchange ideas, and learn more about the federal community. We urge you to contribute to our General Fund. You can donate the amount of your choice, either by check or online payment (at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Donate>)

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

History Office Profile

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History

By *Bianka Adams*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History (CEHO) traces its history back to 1943 when the Office of the Chief of Engineers set up a small Historical Section charged with collecting documents, maps, and oral histories to write the official history of the Corps in World War II. After war's end, the section became the Engineer Historical Division and began work on four volumes in the *U.S. Army in World War II* series, known as the “green books” for the color of their covers. Beginning in the mid-1960s and at an accelerated pace in the 1970s, the division's scope of work expanded to include support for and supervision of field offices' historical activities. As a result, more than fifty districts and divisions published their histories in time for the celebration of the nation's bicentennial in 1976.

The Historical Division's mission continued to evolve in the 1980s. At that point the Corps' historians greatly augmented the division's oral history interview collection, published *Engineer Memoirs*, and worked on new topic areas such as water resources and environmental awareness. In the 1990s, the newly redesignated Office of History deployed historians to disaster areas in the United States and to Kuwait during the Persian Gulf War to collect records and to conduct oral history interviews with USACE personnel. That trend continued after the terrorist attack of 9/11 when the U.S. fought its first “digital wars” in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In the following years, the collection, storage, and management of digital records would become even more important. With a staff of five historians, a curator, and two contractors, the Office of History concentrates its efforts on researching and writing history, collecting data, and making that data more accessible to researchers, the Corps, and the public. Projects such as digitization of more than 130 field histories into searchable PDF documents and digitizing the Office's large collections of oral history interview transcripts and images were the first steps. In the meantime, collecting and storing born-digital records, saving work on share drives, and collaborating on projects on share points has become routine. Digital recording equipment has replaced tape recorders in oral history interviews, allowing for faster transmission of the sound files to transcribers. Further, the increasing importance of the internet as a resource and a vehicle for outreach brought with it yet another broadening of the scope of CEHO's mission. Historians now also write web content such as historical vignettes, design web pages, and prepare data and images for upload to online data bases.

At the same time, the Office continues to work on traditional book-length projects such as the recently published *Two Centuries of Experience in Water Resources Management: A Dutch-U.S. Retrospective* in collaboration with the



CEHO publications.

Rijkswaterstaat, the Dutch equivalent to the Corps of Engineers. Like many of CEHO's products, it was designed and published by the Government Publishing Office (GPO). In a break with tradition, the Office has also released short-length products such as *The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the District of Columbia* brochure. Another product designed for quick and easy dissemination is an Engineer poster with 105 historic images available in print and online.

For the foreseeable future, collection, storage, and management of electronic records will remain one of the Office of History's main challenges. While the office has already invested considerable effort to store and organize digital records in a permanent Digital Record Collection, the engineer historians are still only in the beginning stages of devising a system for collecting, arranging, and preserving electronic records in a fairly comprehensive way. Under the leadership of its current chief, John Lonnquest, the Office of History divides its historical activities into five areas: research and writing, field histories, oral history, as well as its research and historical artifact collection.

Research and Writing

The Office of History pursues a robust research and writing program designed for internal and external audiences. The Office produces many products in-house but also engages respected contractors to produce historical materials. The office staff routinely provides reference and research services in response to queries from internal and external customers. They frequently research and write short studies on various topics to help inform decision-making by USACE leadership. The Office also reaches out to the Corps' divisions and districts and to the public through brochures, posters, web-based vignettes and exhibits, and the like. Most notably, the Office also produces book-length authoritative histories, printed and electronic, on many of the Corps' activities—its participation in the nation's

wars; its civil works program, such as construction of domestic infrastructure and management of America's rivers, locks, and dams; and its other mission areas. Seven books are currently underway including *Engineers in the Exploration of the American West*; *Engineers in World War I*; *Engineers in the Great Depression*; and *Engineers in Post-World War II Emergency Operations*. Recent publications include: *Bricks, Sand, and Marble*, on military construction in the Mediterranean and Middle East over fifty years; *Capital Engineers*, on the army engineer involvement in the District of Columbia; *Nothing But Praise*, a retrospective of an African-American engineer regiment during World War II; and *Situation Desperate*, a history of the Army's early disaster relief missions.

Field History Program

CEHO supports USACE's nine divisions, forty-three districts, and nine centers and labs with guidance and hands-on training to enable them to identify, collect, and preserve their historical documents, artifacts, and institutional knowledge. Historians visit field offices to provide assistance with oral history training, record collection, and the preparation of organizational histories. For book projects, the Office helps with selection of suitable authors, review of manuscripts, selection of images, and design.

Oral History

The goal of CEHO's oral history program is to collect history as it happens and to capture voices and perspectives that are often not found in the official record. Over the last three decades, an era when collecting and preserving electronic documents has gotten increasingly more difficult, the office's oral history program has become increasingly more important, both as a source of information and as a guide to the digital records we are collecting. All in all, CEHO's oral history collection contains about 3000 interviews. The earliest interview notes on file date back to the 1940s, and the oldest transcript is from 1967. In recent years, the Office and its contractors have conducted approximately 700 interviews about events, programs, and operations ranging from support to the recovery effort after the 9/11 terrorist attacks to response and recovery after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Sandy, to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Research Collection

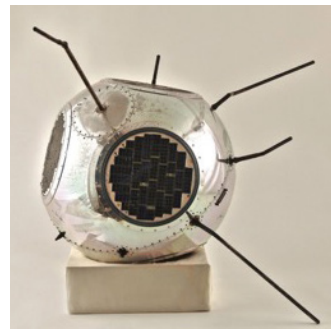
The Historical Research Collection (HRC) supports CEHO's mission to preserve, interpret, and disseminate the history and heritage of the Corps of Engineers. The staff ensures key documents, interviews, visual materials, and other primary source documents pertaining to significant operations and events are retained in the HRC. The HRC is a rich and varied collection that mirrors the long history of the US Army



Above: Panama Canal Exhibit at Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Below Left: Type I ball-type backup satellite from the Sequential Collation of Ranges (SECOR) geodetic survey system in the 1960s. Developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the system helped to map the shape and size of the earth and determine locations on the earth from space and is a predecessor of today's GPS.

Below Right: Mid-nineteenth-century surveying transit.



Corps of Engineers from its inception during the American Revolution to the present. The collection centers on the Corps' civil works and military construction and the ancillary partnering activities related to them. The collection consists of personal papers, oral histories, manuscripts, maps, diaries, photographic images, slides, film, and other primary and secondary sources. The collection's particular strengths are in the areas of the Corps' civil works and military construction missions; water resources development; and disaster response activities. The HRC also holds a significant civil works images collection and oral history collection.

The HRC actively collects and preserves materials that fall within its scope and digitizes them as appropriate to make them available to researchers and the public. A new 1,600 square foot Document Processing Center will greatly facilitate that effort. CEHO is meeting the challenges of digital data management head on—capturing and, at the same time, structuring perishable data; migrating data; and maintaining legacy systems compatible with older storage devices. CEHO also maintains and manages a Digital Research Collection that gains in importance as more and more records are born digital.

See "History Office Profile" cont'd on page 9

Executive Decisions: The Personal Landscape of American Presidents

By Albinko Hasic

Located in Southern California, the Center for Land Use Interpretation (CLUI) is a non-profit organization that has made a mission of highlighting a deeper meaning behind land use and infrastructure. Combining research and education, the organization believes that “manmade landscape is a cultural inscription, that can be read to better understand who we are, and what we are doing.” Since 1994, the center has produced numerous research programs and exhibits on land use for public institutions all over the world.

One of the most recent projects that the organization has completed is the “Executive Decisions: The Personal Landscape of American Presidents” project. (<http://www.clui.org/section/executive-decisions-personal-landscape-legacy-american-presidents>) This exhibit is an online database that showcases the present-day status of places and objects associated with each U.S. president. According to the organization, nearly a thousand captioned images were gathered by CLUI researchers at hundreds of presidential locations across the country. Tying the landscape to each president, the Center believes in a kind of presidential “terroir” emanating from these places that lends itself to creative interpretations. Beginning with George Washington and his restored home at Mount Vernon, the database traces the life path and legacy of each U.S. president in a

sort of breadcrumb trail of objects and remains. The on-site physical exhibit at CLUI features a display with several voting booths, installed with computers that allow visitors to browse the database and explore each presidential site at their own pace.

While some of the sites pictured in “Executive Decisions” have been carefully preserved across generations, other sites are in disrepair or have been demolished entirely. Mount Vernon and Monticello, two of the most famous presidential sites in the CLUI database, have been carefully restored and maintained at great expense. Andrew Johnson’s tailor shop in Greenville, NC, is now inside a second structure that was built to preserve it in 1923. “Executive Decisions” juxtaposes such preservation efforts with sites like Franklin Pierce’s birth home in Hillsborough, NH, which is entirely submerged beneath the waters of the Franklin Pierce Reservoir. President Rutherford B. Hayes’ birth home in Delaware, OH, is now a gas station distinguished by a stone marker.

This extensive online database is worthy of praise and offers historians another digital resource for interpretation and scholarship. In many ways, the project reclaims often forgotten cultural and historic entities and further preserves them in the digital space, which has been a burgeoning arena for historic scholarship and public history in recent years. More than raw data, these presidential sites offer a glimpse into the personal world of each U.S. leader and places another arrow in the quiver of historians and scholars who seek to reconstruct the past.

Albinko Hasic is a history PhD candidate at Syracuse University and the creator of @WarThroughArt on Twitter.

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Historic Artifact Collection

CEHO has responsibility for more than 7,800 engineer artifacts that reflect the history and material culture of the Engineer Regiment, with a special focus on USACE missions such as civil works, navigation, disaster response, and military construction. Many of the artifacts are unique to CEHO’s collection and reflect the Engineers’ changing mission, technology, and organizational structure over the past two centuries. CEHO’s Historical Collection, an element of the Army Museum Enterprise, is stored at the Humphreys Engineer Center. While the Corps of Engineers does not have a public museum in the Washington, D.C., metro area, through displays in dedicated spaces at USACE Headquarters, online, and in museum exhibitions in collaboration with the Engineer Museum in Fort Leonard Wood, The National Park Service, and at the forthcoming National Museum of the United States Army, these artifacts serve to make engineer history tangible and highlight important projects.

Mission

The mission of the Office of History is to collect, document, interpret, disseminate, and preserve the history and heritage of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We are a staff of six and a separate office of the Headquarters located at the Humphreys Engineer Center on Telegraph Road in Alexandria, Virginia. Our office maintains substantial research and historic artifact collections. The former includes approximately 3000 oral history transcripts and related tapes; more than 50 separate personal paper collections spanning two centuries and including those of Arthur Maass, Gilbert White, Henry Abbot, and David du Bose Gaillard; more than 35,000 historic images in varied formats; and 11,000 books related to USACE history. Our historic artifact collection consists of approximately 7,800 objects and includes examples of Corps flags, equipment, and historic uniforms and headgear. The Office of History accomplishes its mission through research and writing, a field history program, an oral history program, an extensive research collection, and a historic artifact collection.

Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Office of History

7701 Telegraph Rd.

Alexandria, VA 22315

<http://www.usace.army.mil/About/History.aspx>

From the Archives

SHFG By-Laws (Part III)

By Chas Downs

On April 11, 2002, the next proposed revision to the by-laws was presented before the SHFG business meeting, brought on by problems in filling appointed administrative staff positions. The post of *Federalist* editor had become vacant, and the position of executive director went unfilled following Maryellen Troutman's departure. With the increasing use of the internet by the SHFG, a webmaster was needed to administer the Society's website. Because of these circumstances, the executive council needed more flexibility in appointing and assigning or reassigning their duties to members of the council. The proposed change read: "The Society may have administrative staff appointed by the executive council including an executive director, an editor, an archivist/historian, among others as the executive council may deem appropriate."

The other 2002 amendment would allow the Nominating Committee to select only a single candidate for Vice President. This would conform with the practice of other professional organizations to avoid competitive elections for the top position, and would facilitate the recruiting and selection of candidates qualified to the Society. In practice, the change altered the duties of the Nomination Committee, which had been required to nominate two candidates for all positions. These amendments were ratified by members present at the business meeting, sent for a vote by the full membership in June 2002, and approved.

Ten years later the by-laws were reviewed again, by a committee consisting of SHFG President Matt Wasniewski, former President Mike Reis, and publications director Ben Guterman. In a memorandum to the SHFG membership dated March 1, 2012, Wasniewski explained the need for a revision of the by-laws:

New technologies, responsibilities, and possibilities prompted these revisions. The proposed changes are intended to foster greater participation and volunteerism and to help the SHFG reach a wider and more diverse audience. They also provide for a more efficient and fiscally sound organization.

These changes included the creation of two additional council spots, the creation of standing committees for membership and publications, and more explicit descriptions of the duties of *ex officio* members. The Roger R. Trask Award, specifically mentioned as "a centerpiece of the annual meeting," would have its own special Award Committee. There were two additional amendments which were not included in the Wasniewski memorandum, but appeared in the Spring

2014 *Federalist* (2nd Series, No. 41, p. 3). One of these would create the position of Past President. The Past President was designated to preside over the Program Committee, work with the Vice President to plan the Society's annual conference and other special events, serve as advisor to the Executive Council, and represent the Society on outside boards and committees. The other revision directed that amendments approved in the general business meeting would have to be concurred in by a majority of members participating in either a mail ballot or by a new option utilizing online technology, an electronic ballot.



Matt Wasniewski



Terrance Rucker

The *ex officio* positions which had their duties more clearly specified were the Publications Committee Chair, the Webmaster, and the Archivist/Historian. The Chair of the Publications Committee was to oversee the various SHFG publications, including *The Federalist* newsletter, *Federal History* journal, as well as brochures, and the e-Bulletin. The Chair selected the editor of the e-Bulletin. While the Chair coordinated with the various publication editors, it was the responsibility of the editors to "carry out all activities associated with the development, editing, printing, and publication of their respective publications." The Webmaster's duties included maintaining the SHFG web site online payment system, acting as its content editor, and ensuring prompt online notice of SHFG events. The Archivist/Historian was to "maintain the noncurrent records of the Society," and make them available to members on request, as well as performing other duties as assigned by the Executive Council. Specifically noted was the responsibility of the SHFG President, at the end of his or her term, to provide "the accumulated permanent records of the office to the Archivist/Historian."

All of these amendments were ratified at the SHFG business meeting on March 21, 2014, and approved by the Society's membership by mail-in ballot May 15, 2014.

In 2017, it was proposed to amend the Bylaws to clarify the position and duties of Past President. Appropriately, Terrance Rucker, who was the first to hold the post of Past President, led the move to include these revisions. They

See "*SHFG By-Laws*" cont'd on page 15

Making the Most of Milestones: Four Tips for Creating Effective History Timelines

By Jennifer Giambrone, Historian at History Associates

With its 35th anniversary approaching, History Associates (www.historyassociates.com) faced a question that will be familiar to many companies and institutions—how to mark the occasion. How best to highlight events in our past, while also telling a story about who we are and what we do? What form should it take? In years past we have written articles and a lengthier history and even produced a short video, but wanted to try something new this time around.

We chose to create an interactive, online history timeline (www.historyassociates.com/who-we-are/our-history/history-timeline/) for a number of reasons. In the words of my colleague Carlyn Swaim, an expert in creating multimedia presentations for a variety of museums and organizations, timelines create “more engaging experiences” that “take advantage of Web technologies and ultimately appeal to a wider audience.” They are multidimensional, and allow users to modulate their level of engagement—they can scan headlines, peruse entries, or dive deeper with links to additional content. As noted in the infographic on the right, timelines also tend to be light on text and lend themselves to the incorporation of visual media, creating opportunities for additional messaging through imagery.

But making a timeline is not a simple matter of stringing together a series of events in an organization’s history. The infographic illustrates the deliberate steps that we went through to create a timeline that tells our story on multiple levels. We have helped many clients navigate this process and the many questions and decisions that come up along the way. Throughout our experiences we have also developed best practices for building effective timelines. Here are a few of our key findings.

Choose the Right Platform

Think carefully about your needs and constraints before selecting a platform for your online timeline. We chose to use the Zoom Timeline tool, a low-cost option that could be easily integrated into our website architecture, but we have also worked with clients who chose to build impressive customized timelines that allow for greater interactivity and flexibility of design—the National Philanthropic Trust’s History of Modern Philanthropy, for instance. Custom websites require more technological know-how to build and maintain compared to the relatively user-friendly out of the box options. However, out of the box options might not support the look and feel you need.

Connect to Online Content

Whichever platform you choose, you should make the most



of your timeline. It will teach users about your organizations’ past, but can also serve as a gateway to other pages on your website. Use hyperlinks that will lead to information about services, products, and expertise.

Maintain Goals

It is critical to develop goals for your project before selecting events and developing content. Developing a short list of themes and criteria for the timeline will help ensure that each entry stays on message and contributes to the overarching story. Once events are chosen, we recommend using a matrix to track how the themes apply to each event. A matrix will illustrate consistency and relevance, and help weed out events that do not meet your goals as well.

| | Theme A | Theme B | Theme C | 1980s | 1990s | 2000s | 2010s |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Entry 1 | X | | | X | | | |
| Entry 2 | | X | X | X | | | |
| Entry 3 | X | | | | X | | |
| Entry 4 | X | | | | X | | |
| Entry 5 | | X | X | | | X | |
| Entry 6 | | X | | | | | X |
| Entry 7 | | | X | | | | X |
| Entry 8 | X | | X | | | | X |
| TOTALS | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

Using a simple matrix can help you track your goals and make sure your timeline events are evenly distributed thematically and chronologically.

The History Professional *An Interview with Patrick Mordente*

Patrick X. Mordente was named the director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in February 2017. A 29-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a command pilot with more than 2,700 hours of flight time in T-37, T-38, and C-130 aircraft, Mordente graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1987 and attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi. He served on multiple high level staffs within the Department of Defense, including the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. He is a combat veteran who served in Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. As a wing commander, he worked closely with military historians to preserve unit and installation records. In October 2016, he retired as the vice commander of 18th Air Force at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.



Patrick Mordente

Interview by Thomas Faith

What are your current duties?

As director of the library, I am ultimately responsible for all of the work done here. We have a large archival staff, and I keep very informed on their processing and reference activities. Our museum staff is busy planning future exhibits and taking care of our huge collection of artifacts. With the new “Situation Room Experience,” our education specialist is conducting exciting and fun programs with local schools and Southern Methodist University (SMU). I help with all of those activities and also keep an eye on our administrative operations. On top of that, I feel a big part of my job is creating partnerships and making the broader community aware of what National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum are all about, so I am constantly talking to groups and connecting with the local community. I also take a very active role in the design of future museum exhibits, working in close cooperation with our partners.

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

As a retired Brigadier General with 29 years of military experience, I have managed large organizations, shaped organizational strategic vision, and been responsible for the overall performance of complex units with varying mission requirements. I have been extremely successful developing productive teams and fostering effective partnerships. I believe this is because of the importance I place on individuals and building positive working relationships.

The George W. Bush Library is a relatively new institution, what are some things you hope to accomplish there in the next few years?

NARA’s mission is to drive openness, cultivate public participation, and strengthen our nation’s democracy through public access to high-value government records. What better place to provide this kind of access to history than right here at the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum? First, I plan to

continue the great work begun by my predecessor, Alan Lowe, and to further grow our strong partnerships with the Bush Center and SMU. I also want to capitalize on our many outreach programs with local school districts and college campuses to increase understanding about how our government works and the many challenges our nation faced during President Bush’s Administration. Finally, I am very interested in implementing advanced technology, in line with the National Archives’ vision, to provide better, faster, and easier access to the volumes of records here at the Presidential Library.

What makes its location at Southern Methodist University in Dallas a good site for the Library?

The process of choosing a location for the Bush Presidential Center started years before the dedication. Several Texas institutions submitted proposals; but in the end, President Bush chose SMU. SMU put forth an excellent plan detailing both the location of the facility and ways the various institutions could work together. The Bush family appreciates the high quality of SMU as an institution of learning, as First Lady Laura Bush serves on the SMU Board and obtained her degree in education there in 1968. The University also has the benefit of being well-situated in Dallas, a major metropolitan area in the heartland of the nation. An academic institution of 11,000 students near downtown Dallas, SMU has proven to be a significant partner. Every day, the Bush Library works closely with SMU students and faculty on a wide range of educational activities and programs.

How is the Library addressing the challenge of making electronic records accessible?

Since George W. Bush’s Presidential records became subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) on January 20, 2014, the number of records open and available to the public has surpassed 1.4 million pages, more than 82,000 email assets, and 12,384 digital photographs. The George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum’s website makes research into the Bush Presidency easier for the general public. Researchers can view born-electronic on the computers in our Research Room or

purchase a disc of the electronic files. We are working toward a process to automatically export electronic records from our Electronic Records Archive (ERA) directly into the National Archives Catalog (NAC). This way, researchers can access these records from the NARA's website. For open textual records, NARA staff members located here are steadily digitizing these holdings and continue to work closely with the NARA's Office of Innovation to ensure they are included in the NAC and posted in our website's Digital Library. Our goal is for researchers, no matter where they are, to have the opportunity to access the records of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Has the Library encountered challenges processing the volume of FOIA requests it receives?

The primary mission of every Presidential Library is to make information available to the public, and at the heart of that mission is the Library's archival collections. What differentiates the Bush Library from previous Presidential Libraries is the incredible size of our electronic records archive—80 terabytes of electronic information with 200 million emails. If these emails were printed, it would total more than 1 billion pages. Add this to our textual collection of roughly 70 million pages of paper records and the audio-visual archives of 4 million photographs and roughly 60,000 audio and video records. With the hundreds of FOIA requests the Bush Library receives each year, our challenge is to understand each researcher's request to determine how to best search the records to find the material most relevant to their project.

Are there efforts to share and standardize practices across the Presidential Libraries system?

As a new director—and as someone who comes to this role from the military—I am just beginning to learn all of intricacies that go into running a Presidential Library and being part of the National Archives. I have met with the Archivist of the United States, his senior leaders, and my fellow library directors. What I've learned is there are certain archival and preservation standards that all of the Libraries use in their work. At the same time, however, each Library has its own unique resources and attributes based on its location, the president whose story it holds, technology available during that president's administration, and its relationship with various partners. The ideal is for each Library to be entrepreneurial and innovative in how it provides access to its records and engages audiences in historical inquiry, while also ensuring we properly protect and preserve the treasures in our care.

How do you approach the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, as a historical subject?

"A Nation Under Attack" exhibit in the Museum, which includes steel from the World Trade Center, the bullhorn President Bush used to address the crowd at Ground Zero, and letters he received in the days following the attacks, is a solemn and

moving memorial to a pivotal moment in our Nation's history. Using actual TV news footage, the exhibit takes visitors through how Bush's presidency—and the world—abruptly changed course on Sept. 11. It was important to put the information there and let visitors experience it for themselves. It is full of emotion as it is, and we did not want to, in any way, shape the story. I believe this is particularly important for younger visitors. For many of us, we remember what happened, where we were, and how we felt; but for our younger visitors, they either were not yet born or too young to remember. Being able to show the videos, see the names, touch the steel, and experience in a small way what happened, is critical to understanding our world now and how things changed.

What role does President Bush or members of his administration play in programming at the Library?

Without saying, the Library's greatest partners are President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush. Without their service and their inspiration, the Library would not exist. They are tremendously supportive. The Bush Center continues to support a variety of library activities. For example, the Library mounts at least two special exhibits every year. One is always a holiday exhibit that follows chronologically the holiday themes from the Bush White House. The other is on a topic of relevance to the Bushes, the Bush Administration, the presidency, and/or American history. Thus far, the Bush Center has funded all the Library's special exhibits including our current exhibit, "Portraits of Courage: A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors." This inspiring exhibit brings together 66 full-color portraits and a four-panel mural painted by President Bush of members of the United States military who have served our nation with honor since 9/11—and whom he has come to know personally.

What is your favorite aspect of your duties?

My favorite part is interacting and talking with the young people who visit the Museum and participate in our various Education programs. Camp43, our three-day summer camp for 2017, 2018, and 2019 high school graduates, recently wrapped up. Using a series of engaging speakers, personality tests, and fun team activities, this unique training opportunity presses students to discover their own leadership qualities while learning about the principles that guided George W. Bush during his presidency. It was great fun to watch these students actively engaged in lessons and discussions, and then experience that lightbulb moment.

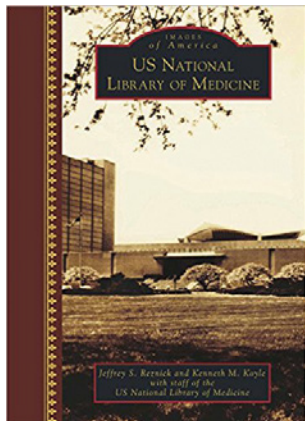
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Recent Publications

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



Introducing *US National Library of Medicine* in the popular Images of America series of Arcadia Publishing. A hardback version of the book is available from booksellers, and an electronic version of the complete book (<https://collections.nlm.nih.gov/ext/pub/ImagesofAmericaNLM.pdf>) and original versions of the 170+ images, which appear in it in black and white, are archived and freely available in NLM Digital Collections (<https://go.usa.gov/xNfnw>).

The Intramural Research Program of the US National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine, supported the research, writing, and editing of this publication. We hope that you will add it to your summer reading list!

Many individuals have written about the National Library of Medicine and its origins in the early 19th century, from a few dozen books in what was then the Library of the Surgeon General's Office of the US Army to its development into the late 20th century. However, this new book is unlike previous publications because it is intended for a general audience, and it illustrates the broad history of the Library from the early 19th century through the late 20th century through over 170 images from our own rich collections, and a handful of other images from the collections of the National Archives, the National Museum of Health and Medicine, the Smithsonian Institution Archives, and the Rudolph Matas Library of the Health Sciences at Tulane University.

This new book is also different from earlier publications because it showcases the research and writing talent of our colleagues at the Library, including archivists, conservators, curators, historians, librarians, and technical specialists. Every day these individuals care for, curate, and provide public access to one of the world's finest collections of historical material related to human health and disease. Built over many years, passed down from one generation to the next, and including material from antiquity to the present and from virtually every part of the world, this collection includes books, journals, manuscripts, photographs, films and videos, artwork, postcards, pamphlets, websites, social media, scientific data, and much more.

We hope this book will inspire you to learn more about the development of the Library and the many people who contributed to it, and to learn more about our institution as it exists today and serves the world from its home here on the campus of the NIH. We envision this publication as a companion to *Hidden Treasure:*

The National Library of Medicine, produced by the NLM in 2011, further inspiring readers to explore the Library's programs and resources, to visit for a tour, and to conduct research in our world-renowned collections which span ten centuries and represent nearly every part of the globe. We warmly welcome you!



New World War I book of essays written by eminent historians now available: One hundred years ago, the United States entered the Great War, forever changing the country. In a matter of years, the United States was transformed from an inwardly-focused nation into the world's leading economic and military power—marking the start of the “American Century.” From dramatic transformations in industry and technology, to the nation's evolving perspectives on race, gender, and immigration,

to debates about America's role in the world and about civil liberties in times of national crisis, the reverberations of World War I ring loudly in nearly every aspect of American life today. To coincide with this anniversary, the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, has published *World War I Remembered*.

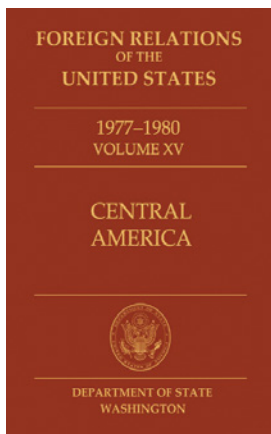
This collection of essays by eminent World War I scholars, including David Reynolds, Margaret MacMillan, and Eliot Cohen, does more than detail military contributions of the United States to the Allies' victory. “WWI Remembered is a superb primer outlining our nation's role in World War One,” said book editor and ABMC Acting Secretary Robert J. Dalessandro. “The war profoundly changed our country, setting up an American century and forging the accomplishments and failures of the next hundred years.”

In the course of 14 essays, the authors examine the country's political and diplomatic path from neutrality to war; explore how the war shaped the roles of women, African Americans, immigrants, and other minorities; examine the evolution of the country's industrial and agricultural capabilities, along with weaponry advances and fighting techniques; and reflect on American memory of the war and the purposes of commemoration.

Chapters are complemented by sidebar articles on topics ranging from the introduction of armored vehicles and the legendary “Harlem Hellfighter” unit of African-American soldiers, to food in the war and the first American women to serve in uniform. Illustrated with vivid color images from period posters and publications, as well as historic photographs from archives and personal collections, this book serves as a resource for the World War I novice or experienced historian. Intentionally written for a

broad audience, this book can provide new insights and information to those familiar with the events of 100 years ago or paint a clear picture of what occurred for those who are new to the topic. It also includes maps and lists of NPS sites that have World War I connections, WWI military installations in the United States, and ABMC's World War I cemeteries and monuments and Europe.

ABMC hopes that this book, edited by ABMC Acting Secretary Robert J. Dalessandro and former NPS chief historian Robert K. Sutton, will help commemorate the efforts of the generation of Americans who raised "the greatest generation," and who aspired to leave future generations a world without war. *World War I Remembered* is available for purchase online (<http://www.eparks.com/store/product/142717/World-War-I-Remembered/>).

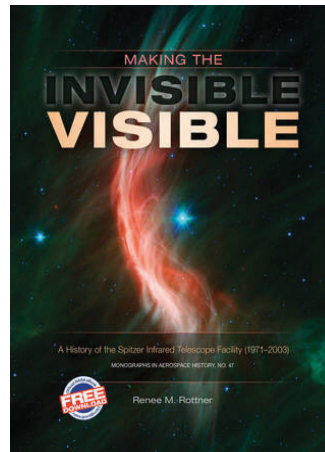


The Department of State released *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977-1980, Volume XV, Central America*. This volume is part of a *Foreign Relations* subseries that documents the most important foreign policy issues of the Jimmy Carter administration.

The Carter administration's policy toward Central America stressed human rights and non-interventionism with an aim to expand democracy in the region. Carter's diplomats worked with Guatemala and Belize to secure a

basis for Belize's future independence from the United Kingdom. In Nicaragua, the Carter administration sought to advance political moderation as the Sandinista National Liberation Front rose against President Anastasio Somoza. After July 1979, Carter offered aid and counsel to the Government of National Reconstruction. Bilateral relations with Costa Rica were dominated by the events in Nicaragua due to Costa Rica's territorial proximity, and then by the political situation in El Salvador. In Honduras, the United States advised the military Junta government to hold elections and broaden the representation within the government. In El Salvador, a military government faced growing popular opposition from the political left and right. Carter opted to offer military and economic aid in exchange for improvements in human rights practices and progress toward open elections.

This volume was compiled and edited by Nathaniel L. Smith. The volume and this press release are available on the Office of the Historian website at <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1977-80v15>. Copies of the volume will be available for purchase from the U.S. Government Printing Office online at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov> (GPO S/N 044-000-02688-1; ISBN 978-0-16-093948-8), or by calling toll-free 1-866-512-1800 (D.C. area 202-512-1800). For further information, contact history@state.gov.



New from the NASA History Division: *Making the Invisible Visible: A History of the Spitzer Infrared Telescope Facility (1971-2003)* by Renee M. Rottner. In the early 1970s, there was a small group of advocates for an infrared space telescope; however, the field of infrared astronomy was only a few years old, and no one had ever built a space-based observatory of the required complexity. Considering the technical, political, scientific,

and economic uncertainties, it was not obvious that a project like SIRTf could—or should—be dared by NASA. How did SIRTf manage to overcome these uncertainties? This monograph makes visible the invisible forces that influenced the design of SIRTf's innovative technology. The lessons learned by the project team over the course of building SIRTf, now better known as the Spitzer Space Telescope, are about managing innovation over time and in the face of uncertainty. Printed copies are available free at the NASA Headquarters Information Center, 300 E St. SW, Suite IU72, Washington, DC 20546. Ordering information and more details can be found online at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/hqlibrary/ic/ic2.htm>.

"SHFG By-Laws" from page 10

specified that the SHFG President automatically became Past President after the end of their term as President, and would serve a one year non-renewable term as Past President. The Past President was also allowed to vote in the Executive Council.

Major changes were also proposed for the Program Committee, which the Vice President formerly had been tasked with organizing and chairing. Those duties were assumed by the Past President, although the Vice President was still included on the Committee. A Society member, who either held no other elective offices or was a member of the Executive Council, would also be appointed to the Committee.

These changes were approved in the SHFG business meeting held during the SHFG Annual Meeting at the National Archives Building on April 13, 2017, and approved by the SHFG membership as part of the electronic balloting for SHFG officers on May 16, 2017, which thus became the effective date for the SHFG's current by-laws. They are posted on the SHFG website at www.shfg.org/about/by_laws.

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.

Making History

Barack Obama Presidential Library

The Obama Foundation announced that Louise Bernard, PhD, will be the director of the museum at the Obama Presidential Center. As museum director, Bernard will lead the design, development and operation of the Obama Presidential Center's museum. Prior to joining the Obama Foundation, Bernard was the director of exhibits at the New York Public Library. In a previous role at the museum design firm Ralph Appelbaum Associates, she worked on the design team that developed the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, along with several other international projects.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum

Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero announced the appointment of Dawn Hammatt as the new Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, effective May 28, 2017.

In making the announcement, the Archivist said, "In light of the renewed scholarly interest in President Eisenhower and on the cusp of a major new redesign of its museum, Dawn Hammatt's experience leading museums, managing historic collections, and overseeing educational programming make her uniquely qualified to lead the Eisenhower Library forward as it plans a major renovation to its permanent galleries and facility." Ms. Hammatt comes to the National Archives from the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience in Meridian, Mississippi, where she has been managing the design and fabrication of a new 22,000-square-foot exhibition. She has also been active in the Southeastern Museums Conference and currently serves as the vice president.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the National New Deal Preservation Association hosted and webcasted "The New Deal Today: The Grandchildren Speak" on August 19, 2017, at the Henry A. Wallace Center. Panelists included: James Roosevelt, Jr., David Wallace Douglas, June Hopkins, and Tomlin Perkins Coggeshall. The panelists focused on what happened between 1933 and 1943 as carried out by their grandparent, what they were like personally, and how they impacted their children's and grandchildren's lives. A presentation by the National New Deal Preservation Association of the Kathy Flynn Preservations Awards followed the discussion.

Historical Society of Washington, DC

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. offices, research services, and exhibits in addition to the D.C. Public Library's Special Collections-Washingtoniana services, are on hiatus in order to plan and prepare for the restoration of the Carnegie Library. Services will resume in the early fall from the Historical Society's temporary new home at the Newseum. The Historical Society will return to the

Carnegie Library as co-tenants with Apple once the restoration is complete.

While this closure represents a short-term inconvenience to the public, the Apple restoration project is a great opportunity for the future of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. and the Carnegie Library. The restoration as proposed will provide state-of-the-art updates to the building, extend hours for public access, and allow the Historical Society to preserve and present its collections in museum-quality facilities.

Holocaust Memorial Museum

On Sunday, August 13, 2017, the Museum issued the following statement: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum mourns the loss of life in Charlottesville, Virginia, and strongly condemns the violence and the neo-Nazi, racist, and antisemitic symbols and language used by some of the participants, including reported chants of "The Jews will not replace us." Neo-Nazism in any form is antithetical to American values and has no place in American society. Holocaust history teaches that the targeting of Jews was central to Nazi racist ideology and that it began with hateful rhetoric. By the end of World War II, the Germans and their collaborators had murdered six million Jews and millions of other innocent civilians, many of whom were also targeted for racial reasons.

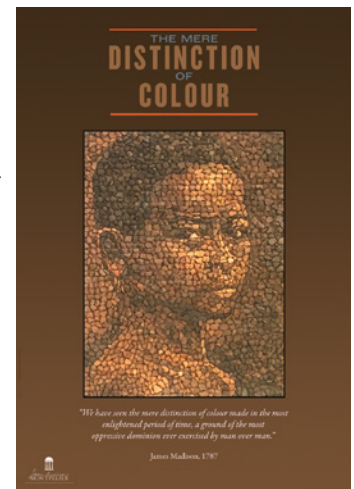
James Madison's Montpelier

Montpelier endeavors to tell a more complete American story with a new type of slavery exhibition. *The Mere Distinction of Colour* is the culmination of years of archaeological and historical research, endeavoring to tell a more complete American story. The exhibition spans the cellars of the James and Dolley Madison plantation home, and the South Yard of the property, where the domestic and field slaves lived and worked.

Provocative, interactive, and emotional, *The Mere Distinction of Colour* offers visitors the unique opportunity to hear the stories of those enslaved at Montpelier told by their living descendants, and explore how the legacy of slavery impacts today's conversations about race, identity, and human rights. Visitors will also see Montpelier's connection to the national story of slavery—and discover the economic, ideological, and political factors that cemented it in the newly-created American nation and Constitution.

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress launched a new way for visitors with visual impairments to experience the Thomas Jefferson Building.



“Touch History” is an accessible tour that brings building details to life for visitors through their sense of touch. The tours will be led by trained docents who will use vivid language to describe the building to participants. Combined with the docent’s descriptions and stories of the institution as a whole, the hands-on approach is designed to leave visitors with an enriched picture of the aesthetics of the Thomas Jefferson Building. Participants will be able to feel various shapes, wall carvings and sculptural elements. The Architect of the Capitol has also provided materials, such as pieces of marble and granite, that provide an intimate encounter with the variety of textures and the weights of materials used in the building’s construction. Full press release at: <https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-17-105>.

The Library of Congress and The Royal Archives announced plans for a landmark joint exhibition in 2021 that will explore the overlapping yet distinct worlds of two globally significant figures of the late 18th century: the two Georges—King George III (1738–1820) of England and George Washington (1732–1799). The joint project will draw on the considerable collections held by the Library of Congress in the United States and The Royal Archives in the United Kingdom. It builds on a memorandum of understanding among the two organizations and King’s College London, signed at the British Embassy in Washington last autumn. The exhibition will be seen first at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. and subsequently at a major venue in the U.K. It will explore both commonalities and contrasts between the two men and also the global political, cultural and social contexts for their lives and leadership. Read the full press release at <https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-17-092>.

National Declassification Center

The NDC has released a listing of 94 entries (<https://archivesdeclassification.files.wordpress.com/2017/07/release-list-for-blog-jan-june-2017.pdf>) that have completed declassification processing between January 3 and May 26, 2017, and are now available for researcher request. This release consists of records from both military and civilian agencies.

Highlights include:

- Department of State, Records Relating to Cuba,
- Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, Indonesia, U.S. Embassy, Djakarta: Classified Files of Ambassador Francis J. Galbraith,
- Joint Chiefs Of Staff, Office Of The Secretariat, Central Files,
- Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Records Regarding the Monthly Summary of Naval Forces in Vietnam,
- Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Naval History and Heritage Command, Submarine War Patrol Reports, 1946 – 1963,
- Office of the Secretary of Defense, Subject and Decimal Files, and
- Army Staff, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 (Intelligence), Secret Project Decimal Files

Requests to access the newly released records or to order copies should be directed to Archives 2 Reference at 301–837–3510 or

archives2reference@nara.gov. Please note that some series may contain other restrictions such as privacy or law enforcement and may require screening or a FOIA request prior to access.

National Endowment for the Humanities

William D. Adams, the tenth chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, announced his resignation from the agency, effective May 23, 2017. Adams was nominated by President Barack Obama in April 2014 and was confirmed by the United States Senate three months later. In a brief statement to staff, Adams expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the chairman of NEH and his admiration for the work of the agency. President Donald Trump appointed Jon Parrish Peede as the Acting Chairman. Peede joined the NEH in April and was the Senior Deputy Chairman of the agency. Previously, he had been appointed to senior leadership roles at the National Endowment for the Arts.

National Museum of American History

This June, we were thrilled to throw open the doors to our newly complete west wing on the museum’s second floor. Featuring new signature exhibitions, powerful stories, an interactive space for visitors of all ages, free experiences, hands-on activities, and theater programs, this new floor looks into the context of the country’s founding and its evolution to today. Visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu/> for more information.

National Museum of the U.S. Army

Right now is a very exciting time for the National Museum of the U.S. Army. Basement walls are going up and soon the first floor concrete slab work will start. The largest of the macro artifacts will be brought in early so the



walls of the first floor can be built around them. These will include a FT 17 Light Tank from WWI, a M4 Sherman Tank, Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel (LCVP), and a Bradley Fighting Vehicle. These macro artifacts will be transported to the site and moved in later this summer. Stay tuned for continued construction updates.

National Postal Museum

The Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum opened “Trolley Car Mail,” an exhibition on display through September 10, 2017. In 1892 St. Louis, Missouri added specially-outfitted cars to their mail vehicles. By 1908 there were mail trolleys in Brooklyn, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Rochester, Pittsburgh, Seattle and Cleveland. Mail trolleys were a great success, but everything has its day and most cities stopped using

mail trolleys between 1913 and 1919. Read more about the story behind this exhibit here: <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibits/current/customers-and-communities/serving-the-cities/overcoming-congestion/trolley-mail-service.html>.

National Security Agency Center for Cryptologic History

The National Security Agency (NSA) has released approximately 5,000 pages of Army Security Agency (ASA) histories from the period 1945-1963. The material can be found at <https://www.nsa.gov/news-features/declassified-documents/army-security-agency/>. While the documents are partially redacted, they shed light on the transition of Army signals intelligence (SIGINT) operations from the last months of World War II through the early part of the Cold War. As part of this release, one additional volume of the history of ASA's immediate predecessor, the Signal Security Agency (SSA), has also been released and can be found at https://www.nsa.gov/news-features/declassified-documents/cryptologic-histories/assets/files/History_Vol_2.pdf.

The level of detail and quality of writing vary widely from year to year. Some histories are quite comprehensive, and others are short and straightforward. In any given volume, readers might find information about visitors, budgets, projects, expansion and/or contraction of resources, SIGINT operations, communication security measures, equipment, studies, and plans. There is much here to inform and intrigue the scholar and practitioner.

National Woman's Party

We have exceeded our contribution goal for the restoration of the "Failure is Impossible" picket banner! Your support will allow us to restore this iconic banner in time to be displayed loud and proud at the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, as well as public institutions across the country, during the centennial of women's right to vote. The centennial will be here before we know it, and we will be able to have this one-of-a-kind banner cleaned, repaired, and ready in time for 2019 and 2020 programs and exhibits honoring the passage of the 19th amendment in Congress and its ratification by the states.



OSS Society

A ceremony was held June 16th in front of the OSS headquarters on Navy Hill to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the OSS' founding. You can read a press release about this event by visiting <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/75th-anniversary-of-the-office-of-strategic-services-predecessor-to-the-cia-and-so-com-300475785.html>. You can watch clips of remarks made CIA

Director Mike Pompeo; SOCOM Vice Commander Lt. Gen. Thomas Trask, USAF; Asst. Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research Amb. Daniel Smith; and OSS Society President Charles Pinck at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheOSSociety>. The OSS—and first CIA—headquarters were added to the National Register of Historic Places this year. OSS will receive a Congressional Gold Medal later this year. The OSS spearhead continues to point the way forward.

Papers of Martin Van Buren

We are thrilled to share the news that the Van Buren Papers received an NHPRC grant for 2017–18. From the official Cumberland University press release: Cumberland University received a grant for \$60,752 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) for the Papers of Martin Van Buren (PMVB) project. The funds will support the creation of the digital version of the papers of Martin Van Buren, which will make accessible approximately 13,000 documents belonging to the eighth president. Full details at <http://vanburenpapers.org/content/van-buren-papers-receives-nhprc-grant>.

Papers of the War Department

June 2017 marked the seventy-fourth 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:

Five new transcribers signed up last month which brings the total number of transcribers up to 2,922 as of June 30, 2017. Newly transcribed documents include ones regarding bayonets to bayonet scabbard contractors for fitting, certificates due Mrs. Williams and John Jones, call for militia to defend the western territory, loss of faithful clerks, construction and insurrection, and strength of character, quality of pay.

Our community of transcribers have added 99 transcribed pages to War Department documents, with the total number of saves being 20,616. Overall, we have had 709,285 page views.

Society of American Archivists

In order to facilitate greater communications between archivists whose institutions hold collections related to the military and its impact on society, the Military Archives Section is compiling a Directory of Military Archival Collections. This directory is open in any institution, large or small, military or government, academic, public or private which holds military related archival materials. Even if this is not the primary focus of your institution, all archives holding such materials are encouraged to contribute and join our collaborative community. POC for adding your materials to the directory is: Jim Ginther. Email james.ginther@usmcu.edu

Veterans History Project

The Veterans History Project has launched a web exhibit that complements the Library of Congress's major exhibition "Echoes of the Great War: American Experiences of World War I." The three-part web companion, "Experiencing War," will help tell the larger story of

the war from the perspective of those who served in it. Part I is now available at loc.gov/vets/. Part II and Part III will be available in July and September 2017.

World War I Centennial Commission

The U.S. WWI Centennial Commission will conduct the official groundbreaking ceremony for the National WWI Memorial at Pershing Park in Washington, DC, on November 9, 2017.



The new memorial—developed by the design team of Joseph Weishaar, who won the design competition for the memorial project, along with John Gregg (GWWO Architecture), Phoebe Lickwar (Forge Landscape)—will consist primarily of a 65-foot long bronze bas-relief sculpture by acclaimed American sculptor Sabin Howard, that will be located along the western edge of the water feature, along with additional commemorative elements in the park.

Pershing Park is a 2-acre site on Pennsylvania Avenue, one block from the White House. The park currently features a statue honoring General John Pershing, the commander of American forces in World War I, and a pool of water set in a modernist landscape design by M. Paul Friedberg.

“Milestones” from page 11

Tell a Story

Perhaps the most obvious approach to creating a company history timeline would be to select events that seem to have had the most immediate impact, but that can result in a timeline that feels disjointed and random. Standalone events do not always contribute to an overarching narrative. Instead, use your themes to find events that tell a cohesive story about the evolution of your organization. While developing our timeline, for instance, we chose not to mark each time the company moved into a new office. While the moves had a considerable impact on staff at the time, they do not have much meaning to outside audiences. Nor did they have a long-term impact on the nature of our company. We chose instead to highlight events that demonstrate History Associates’ wide array of capabilities and clients, giving readers a better idea of who we are and what we do.

Throughout our 35 years in business, History Associates has worked with a wide range of clients to tell their story in the best and most effective way possible. Think a timeline might be right for you? Contact us to learn more about how we can help you record and celebrate your organization’s past.

This article was originally posted at the History Associates blog on December 9, 2016, (www.historyassociates.com/resources/blog/creating-effective-history-timelines/) and is reprinted here with permission.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Hewlett Lecture & Reception

Wednesday, October 18, 6 pm

Woodrow Wilson Center,
Washington, DC

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 shfgfederalist@gmail.com.



The FEDERALIST

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Federalist Calendar

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>

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

Mar. 1–3, 2018. Missouri Valley History Conference. 61st Annual Conference. “Resistance and Activism Throughout History.” Omaha, NE

Apr. 5–8, 2018. Society for Military History. 85th Annual Meeting. Louisville, KY. Visit <http://www.smh-hq.org/2018/2018annualmeeting.html>

Apr. 12–14, 2018. Organization of American Historians. Annual Meeting. Sacramento, CA. Visit <http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/2018/>

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/>

May 4–5, 2018. Dumbarton Oaks. Garden and Landscape Studies Symposium. “Military Landscapes.” Washington, DC. Visit <https://www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/scholarly-activities/military-landscapes>

June 20–23, 2018. The Association for Documentary Editing. Annual Meeting, Olympia, WA

June 21–23, 2018. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. Visit <https://shafr.org/conferences/annual/2018-annual-meeting>

July 19–22, 2018. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR). 40th Annual Meeting. Cleveland, OH

Aug. 12–18, 2018. Society of American Archivists (SAA). Joint Annual Meeting. Washington, DC

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/>