



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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2019 SHFG ANNUAL MEETING

The Society for History in the Federal Government will hold our annual meeting on April 25 and 26, 2019, at the National Archives and Records Administration Building in Washington D.C. The 2019 Annual Meeting will kick-off the Society's 40th Anniversary commemoration and is presented in collaboration with the National Council on Public History (NCPH).

Program and registration soon at www.shfg.org.



Corps of Engineers Historians Document Disaster Response as it Happens

By James T. Garber and Jonah Bea-Taylor

For many federal agencies, preserving history as it happens is a far more foreign concept than gathering information after the fact—for example, by collecting months-old documentation for after-action reports or lessons-learned reviews. However, the Office of History, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), finds that some of the best information is captured when historians meet face-to-face with individuals during major operations, including disaster response efforts. Memories are short, especially while people are working long hours in hectic operations centers hundreds or thousands of miles from home. Recording the voices of those responding to emergencies, obtaining copies of their documentation, and acquiring images of their work have become key methods for preserving USACE history and accurately capturing some of the agency's activities during historic moments.

Recognizing those historic moments is half the battle. During emergencies, the Corps supports the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the broad areas of public works and engineering. The Corps' standard missions include removing debris, installing temporary roofing, providing temporary emergency power and temporary housing, and repairing damaged infrastructure and critical facilities. Once a governor declares an emergency and requests federal assistance for one or all of those missions, FEMA must then assign the mission to the Corps of Engineers before the Corps can respond.



Flooding in Wharton, TX, in September 2017 after Hurricane Harvey. U.S. Coast Guard photo on DVIDS by Petty Officer 1st Class Mark Barney.

With flood season, hurricane season, fire season, and snow season, USACE responds to emergency situations on a regular basis, and usually the Corps will perform one or two of their missions over a short period of time. Most of those operations are fairly standard, and the Office of History certainly could not deploy staff for each one. The kinds of operations that become top priorities of the agency, grab national attention, and seem slated to become historic, however, are usually also those that require USACE to undertake multiple missions over long durations. Prior to 2017, those historic missions

See *"Documenting Disaster Response"* cont'd on page 4

INSIDE

Corps of Engineers Historians Document Disaster Response.....	1	The History Professional.....	8
President's Message.....	2	A Brief History of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission..	10
Editor's Note.....	3	From the Archives.....	12
Former SHFG Presidents Featured on Ben Franklin's World Podcast.....	3	Making Public Domain and Rights-Clear Content Easier to Find.....	13
Hurricanes Irma and Maria.....	6	Recent Publications.....	14
In Memoriam: John Douglas Helms.....	7	Making History.....	16
Newly Declassified Records.....	7	Calendar.....	20

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Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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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/Federalist>. Content listings for all issues are posted at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/page-18090>.

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

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President's Message

Jessie Kratz

On October 25, 2018, the Society held its annual Richard G. Hewlett Lecture at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. To a crowd of 50 members, Liza Mundy discussed her best-selling book, *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II*. Mundy was also available for a book signing.

The Society's first annual lecture was held in 1980 when Richard G. Hewlett himself gave a talk, "Reflections on a Career as a Federal Historian," about his time at the Atomic Energy Commission and Department of Energy. Mundy continued the tradition of highlighting Federal history by beginning the lecture with a big thank you to the Federal history community, saying her book would not be possible without all of their hard work and support.

Mundy undertook extensive archival research and conducted numerous oral interviews of the surviving code girls to write the story of these extraordinary women and their work to support the war effort. In the U.S. alone thousands of young women uprooted their lives and moved to Washington, DC, to decode German and Japanese communications during World War II.

Mundy recounted how the Army and Navy recruited these women from colleges and schools, their move to the nation's capital and new lives in Arlington Hall, the incredible work they did, and the countless lives their work saved. In telling these women's stories, Mundy gives us a glimpse into wartime Washington and how the Federal government operated during that era.

At the end of the war, when their services were no longer needed, Mundy said most of these women were simply thanked for their work and told never to talk about it. And many women did just that—throughout their entire lives they never spoke about their experiences, not even to their families. Women died without having told a soul about their work or even be properly acknowledged for

their contributions.

The woman who eventually talked about their experiences—many decades later—often underestimated the impact their work had. Mundy talked about how she located these women and convinced them to tell their stories, and moreover, once the book came out, more and more women have come forward with even more stories.

Mundy ended her presentation with short video clips of some of the women codebreakers, now in their nineties. We had the privilege to see and hear for ourselves one of the main subjects of the book, Dot Braden, as well as Anne Barus Seeley, Betty Bemis Robarts, and Dorothy Ramale.

Mundy is a journalist and author of four books. In addition to *Code Girls*, Mundy has written *The Richer Sex: How the New Majority of Female Breadwinners is Transforming Sex, Love, and Family*; *Michelle, A Biography of First Lady Michelle Obama*; and *Everything Conceivable—A Look at the Assisted Reproduction Industry*. She is currently looking for topics for her next book so contact her if you have any ideas: lizamundy@gmail.com.

Thanks to everyone who helped make possible yet another successful Hewlett lecture, and a special thanks to the staff at the Wilson Center who were once again gracious hosts. The Society is ending the year with the annual holiday party which will be on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at Busboys and Poets located at 450 K St. NW. The party is free but please register at www.shfg.org so we can get a head count. Happy holidays!

Correction

Regrettably, the fall issue of *The Federalist* erroneously spelled Dr. Victoria Harden's name as Hardin in the text of Chas Downs' From the Archives column "The SHFG's Draft Executive Order on Federal Historical Offices" (Number 59, Fall 2018, pp. 10–11).

Editor's Note

The end of the calendar year traditionally invites us to take stock of what we have accomplished, and what is true of individuals is true of organizations on that score. Particularly on this, the eve of SHFG's 40th anniversary, the Society has a great deal of accomplishments to reflect upon as it plans for the future. In this issue of *The Federalist*, please note the many accomplishments that are represented here by the individuals and organizations that have highlighted them.

James T. Garber and **Jonah Bea-Taylor** describe critical efforts by historians of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to document disaster response. **Christopher Eck**, recently appointed Executive Director of the NHPRC, reflects on the history and significance of the organization he helms in the first of a two-part series "A Brief History of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission." Retired archivist **Bob Ellis** reflects on his accomplishments with judicial records at the National Archives and Records Administration in the History Professional feature. *The Federalist* also highlights two new online resources: the NPS Cultural Resources Geographic Information Systems story map on how cultural resources are threatened by hurricanes, and the Library of Congress' Free to Use and Reuse public domain image webpage.

Chas Downs offers a history of SHFG's holiday reception in his timely From the Archives column. In Newly Declassified Records, **A.J. Daverede** describes a group of records relating to Micronesia status negotiations that took place during the administration of President Ronald Reagan. This *Federalist* also features an announcement about two former presidents of SHFG who were recently hosted on the podcast Ben Franklin's World, and an obituary for historian John Douglas Helms. Please also see a call for papers for the 2019 Symposium on Cryptologic History, call for articles from SHFG's journal *Federal History*, new book titles in Recent Publications, and news announcements in Making History, in this issue of *The Federalist*.

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

Two Former SHFG Presidents Featured on Ben Franklin's World Podcast

Matt Wasniewski, the Historian of the United States House of Representatives and Terrance Rucker, a Historical Publications Specialist in the Office of the Historian at the United States House of Representatives, led an exploration of why and how the United States Constitution established a bicameral Congress and how and why the House of Representatives took the shape and form that it did during its early meetings.

During this exploration, Matt and Terrance revealed information about the United States House of Representatives' Office of the Historian and the work its historians do; Details about the first three congresses of the United States: The First and Second Continental Congresses and the Confederation Congress; And the types of precedents and procedures early members of the House of Representatives established for later members and how and why they created those precedents. More information and the podcast at: <https://www.benfranklinworld.com/episode-202-early-history-united-states-congress/>

Ben Franklin's World is a podcast about early American history. It is a show for people who love history and for those who want to know more about the historical people and events that have impacted and shaped our present-day world. Each episode features a conversation with a historian who helps shed light on important people and events in early American history. Ben Franklin's World is a production of the Omohundro Institute.

Thanks to Those SHFG Members who have Joined at the Patron Level!

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2019 Symposium on Cryptologic History

The National Security Agency/Central Security Service (NSA/CSS) and the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation invite proposals for the 2019 Symposium on Cryptologic History. The Symposium will be held on October 17-18, 2019, at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory's Kossiakoff Center in Laurel, MD. The theme of the 2019 Symposium is "From Discovery to Discourse." Proposals are due February 4, 2019. For details please visit: <https://www.nsa.gov/about/cryptologic-heritage/center-cryptologic-history/>

“Documenting Disaster Response” from page 1

have included the responses to Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, and the Office of History dispatched historians to both.

In 2017 alone the Office of History sent personnel to document disaster response efforts more times than it had during the previous decade. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria were some of the most catastrophic storms to strike the United States and its territories, and they all occurred within weeks of one another. Recognizing these were probably going to be historic events, the Office of History deployed historians to the most affected regions. Also recognizing the importance of collecting oral history interviews and documents in the extraordinarily active hurricane season, the National Guard Bureau for the second time in its history (the first was during Hurricane Katrina in 2004) sent U.S. Army Military History Detachments (MHD) to the impacted areas and also coordinated the deployment of a separate team of two historians.

From the Office of History, historians Matthew Percy and Jonah Bea-Taylor deployed to Texas from 12 to 23 September during the devastating flooding that resulted from Hurricane Harvey. Their primary objective was to interview the senior leaders who were coordinating the response and to collect documents and images. As often happens, USACE emergency response operations were spread across a wide area, and after driving around Dallas, to Austin, onward to Galveston, and ending up back in Fort Worth, Percy and Bea-Taylor had collected roughly 150 documents, captured 500 images, and conducted 21 oral history interviews. The collection they created was instrumental in the preparation of a historical summary of the Corps’ disaster response efforts and will be valuable source material for a chapter on the 2017 storm season as part of USACE’s comprehensive history anthology.

Just weeks after Harvey’s landfall, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, which then faced a desperate need for recovery assistance. After Governor Ricardo Rossello requested federal aid, FEMA assigned USACE nearly all of its standard disaster response engineering missions, including the provision of temporary roofing and emergency power, removal of debris, and emergency repair to critical public facilities. In addition to these standard missions, FEMA also tasked USACE to repair the island’s aging power grid and to restore its failing electrical power plants. To perform the necessary work, USACE deployed hundreds of trained personnel on emergency management teams along with members of senior leadership to oversee the operations.

To record the monumental efforts underway in Puerto Rico, historians Matthew Percy and James Garber deployed there between 16 and 23 October 2017. Arriving in Puerto Rico so soon after the storm’s passing was a remarkable experience for the two historians. Much of San Juan was without power, meaning traffic signals, street lights, restaurants, shops, hotels, and office buildings were dark and without climate control. Responders arrived in San Juan on half-empty flights every few minutes, while oversold outbound flights were filled with Puerto Rican families and as many of their belongings as they could fit into suitcases. Facing a weeks-long waiting list for hotel rooms, the six-foot-one-inch-tall



Above: USACE historian James Garber conducts an oral history interview in a Puerto Rico Convention Center service corridor in San Juan after Hurricane Maria. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo by Matt Percy.

historians spent two nights on five-foot-eleven-inch-long cots in the basement of the Puerto Rico Convention Center in San Juan, along with hundreds of other emergency responders. However, FEMA had arranged for a large, long-haul ferry to dock near the convention center and act as a floating hotel, so for the remainder of the trip, the two shared a bunk room aboard the vessel.

The main task for the historians was to conduct as many oral history interviews with responders and coordinators as possible. However, USACE coordinating staff was spread across three locations in San Juan, and responders were working throughout the entire island. Getting to these widespread work sites required renting a car; navigating around flooded, closed, or otherwise hazardous roads; and traversing the island without the benefit of reliable cellular service. The working conditions in Puerto Rico often seemed as chaotic as the roads. FEMA personnel tightly packed the joint field office (JFO) in the convention center. Each floor of the center teemed with emergency response coordinators, most at long tables, sitting elbow to elbow hunched over laptops or shouting into cell phones while trying to hear their conversation over the hundreds of others. Finding a moment simply to speak to a response coordinator was difficult, but asking one for 45 to 60 minutes in a quiet place for an interview was daunting. Without dedicated office space or even a passably quiet spot in the public area of the convention center, the historians resorted to exploring the cinder block service corridors normally used only by cooks and cleaning staff. Despite the occasional odd glance from passers-by or the noise from rolling carts, the echoing corridors were the only reasonable places in the JFO to conduct and record oral history interviews, and they became the historians’ de facto office when in San Juan.

In addition to conducting over 18 hours of interviews, the historians collected official photographs and video footage. They rode along with inspection and assessment teams into the field, where they visited debris staging areas and landfills and where they witnessed the installation of temporary roofing and emergency power generators. Visiting project sites was invaluable, as the words spoken by the oral history interviewees came to life. Recording people’s explanations and experiences can illuminate



Below: Lt. Col. John F. Lory being interviewed by USACE historian Jonah Bea-Taylor on March 21, 2018, during wildfire cleanup operations in Sonoma County, CA. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo by Bianka Adams.

the past, but witnessing events for oneself greatly enhances a historian's understanding and ultimately benefits the historical products he or she produces. In the evenings in the cramped quarters aboard the ferry, Garber and Percy transferred the day's oral history interviews from recorder to hard drive, revised questions lists, and scheduled the next day's tasks.

After returning home, Percy and Garber continued conducting oral history interviews, while Jonah Bea-Taylor collected electronic documents from the network drives of other emergency responders. The historians devised a tentative outline for a history of USACE operations in Puerto Rico, with a focus on the power mission, which they hope to complete by 2019.

Finally, 2017 witnessed a massive non-hurricane-related emergency in northern California. From 8 October through Halloween, a series of incredibly destructive wildfires burned several regions across the state. Fueled by strong winds and drought conditions, the fires burned across rugged and hilly terrain and roared into housing subdivisions in the valleys. The damage was especially bad in Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, and Lake Counties north of San Francisco. In the North Bay area, fires completely destroyed 5,598 homes. Once the fires subsided, FEMA assigned the Corps of Engineers the task of removing the massive amounts of debris left behind. By the time the mission ended on 11 June 2018, the Corps had cleared 4,580 parcels and removed 2.2 million tons of material. For the South Pacific Division (SPD), the USACE field office that managed the job, it was a critically important, yet

unexpected, task on the scale of their largest civil works and military construction projects. Col. Eric McFadden, the deputy commander of the division, compared the wildfire debris mission to a "\$1.2 billion megaproject completed in just six months."

On 18 March 2018, historians Bianka Adams and Jonah Bea-Taylor traveled to the USACE regional field office (RFO) in Rohnert Park, Sonoma County, California, where they visited some of the affected sites. While at the RFO, Adams and Bea-Taylor collected roughly 100 images of ongoing debris-clearing operations and conducted interviews with leaders of the disaster response effort. Particularly valuable were descriptions of the legal hurdles and other challenges faced while getting rid of complex material from so many private properties, as well as how the team developed contracts that properly incentivized the removal of debris as quickly as possible, given critical environmental concerns. After returning to headquarters, the historians conducted additional interviews and mined the collection of computer files generated by one of the district office's involved in the emergency response, thereby acquiring valuable documentation of the recent events. Overall, the Office of History conducted 28 interviews about the wildfires and the response by USACE.

Deploying personnel from a small office to three historic emergencies in a short period of time was challenging but also critical to capturing the voices, documents, and images associated with the agency's response efforts. The historians' task for each deployment was similar, and the job did not end when they returned home. Transcribing, editing, and gleaning information from the oral history interviews has required hundreds of hours, but the first-hand voices will be invaluable when researchers assemble the histories of these events. These are voices that would not endure if federal historians had not personally visited disaster areas and engaged the workers who were leading the recovery efforts on the ground. By establishing relationships with those workers, historians also gained access to the valuable document collections on computer networks and hard drives where the responders kept their paperwork. Without those relationships, and thereby those documents and those voices, the historical record and the agency's institutional knowledge would have suffered. Instead, historians are ensuring these stories will not be forgotten.

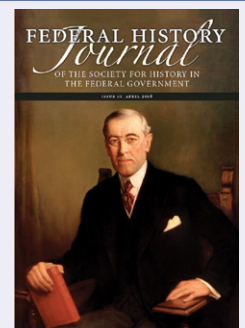
James T. Garber is a historian and Jonah Bea-Taylor is a Presidential Management Fellow in the Office of History, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Federal History journal

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

See <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/page-18315> for current and past issues. A print edition is sent to members. Send submissions to federalhistory@gmail.com.



Hurricanes Irma and Maria: Selected Damage and Ongoing Threats to Cultural Resources, A New Online Resource from NPS Cultural Resources Geographic Information Systems

The following news was posted at the NPS Heritage Documentation Programs website:

The 2017 Atlantic hurricane season saw a total of 17 named storms, 7 tropical storms, and 10 hurricanes. Three of those hurricanes, Harvey, Irma, and Maria, made landfall on the mainland United States or U.S. territories. In addition to causing tremendous destruction, the storms highlighted the likelihood that similar storms and damage will occur again. Recovery continues, and preparedness for future storms and sea level rise will take many forms. The Heritage Documentation Programs' work focuses on documenting the physical places—especially those related to architecture, engineering, and cultural landscapes—that illustrate American history. Because of their geographic location, resources in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are especially vulnerable to damage from wind and storm surge. This new online story map includes a selection of damaged or threatened cultural resources in those three places.

The resources highlighted in this story map were documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic American Engineering Record, and Historic American Landscapes Survey. Since the establishment of HABS in the 1930s, the programs have been tasked with the responsibility to produce a record of important historic places, ranging from nationally significant sites to places valued by local communities. Documentation includes historical narratives, measured drawings, and large-format photography. Surveys are archived at the Library of Congress, which makes the documentation accessible online today and preserves it for future generations.

This new story map was created by the National Park Service's Cultural Resources GIS Program. To use it, visit: <https://www.nps.gov/hdp/exhibits/hurricanes/index.htm> and click on the map image at the bottom of the page to launch the map. Within the sections and captions, you will see highlighted text. Clicking on this text will either take you to another view or link you to an external web page



Hurricanes Irma and Maria: Selected Damage and Ongoing Threats to Cultural Resources story map at NPS Cultural Resources Geographic Information Systems

that is either the source of the information or will give you more in-depth additional resources. You can zoom in or out and pan on any of the maps interactively or by clicking on a link. If you wish to get back to the original extent just click on the 'Home' button (the little house). There is a drop-down legend in the upper-right corner of the map. You can open and the legend and scroll down to see the symbology. The legend can then be closed. There are overview sections for both Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria and more specific sections for each documented and threatened resource. Under the overview sections there are link to each of the specific sections for each resource. When you are in a section for a specific resource you can return to the overview section by clicking the link at the bottom. To get more in depth information about the resource you can click on the symbol on the maps for links to HABS/HAER/HALS survey information (navigates to the external Library of Congress site).

Renew your Membership for 2019!

Thanks to all new and renewing SHFG members—Remember to renew your Society membership, because the new cycle begins on January 1!

You can renew your membership through the SHFG website at <http://www.shfg.org/join-us>.

Society members receive:

> *The Federalist*: a quarterly newsletter of information on Society activities, federal historical offices, and topics of current interest.

> An announcement and program for the annual meeting and invitations to take part in other Society activities.

> *Federal History* journal: an annual scholarly journal with articles that explore federal history and federal history work.

> Special access to SHFG tours and other events.

In Memoriam: John Douglas Helms

John Douglas Helms, PhD, expert on the history of United States agriculture and resource conservation, died on September 5, 2018. After earning a Doctorate in American history from Florida State University in 1977, he became the Historian of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (then called the Soil Conservation Service), part of the Department of Agriculture. His work for the government built upon his dissertation, which examined efforts to eradicate the boll weevil in the South. More than an historian of government policy, he wrote about how the personalities of scientists or bureaucrats shaped their missions—whether to help poor farmers in the South or to protect the environment. He introduced readers to the leaders in environmental protection: Hugh Hammond Bennett and Walter Lowdermilk. Like Helms, both came from

North Carolina. Bennett led Federal efforts to help farmers fight soil erosion; Lowdermilk inspired conservation efforts by writing about the plight of farmers around the world. Helms tackled a wide variety of other topics, including how women and African-Americans struggled to obtain services from the Federal Government. He also brought together scholars for edited volumes including *The History of Agriculture and the Environment* and *The History of Soil and Water Conservation* (both published by the Agricultural History Society). His thoroughly-researched and clearly written books and articles will help scholars and the public for years to come. Dr. Helms was a proud member of The North Carolinian Society and was a backer of the Hugh Hammond Bennett Conservation Site in Anson County, NC.

Newly Declassified Records

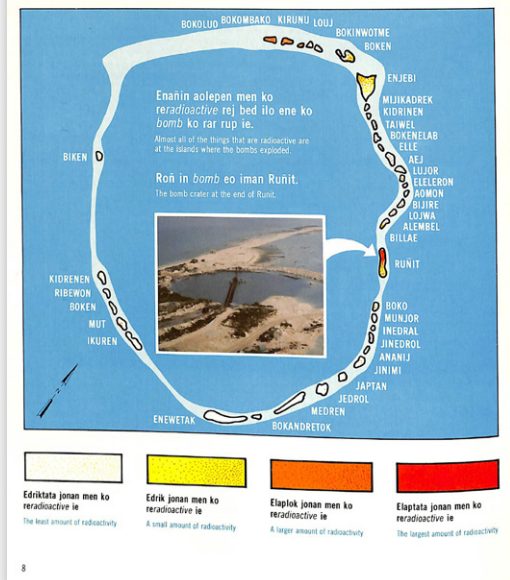
This issue’s featured declassified series is a small State Department series “Subject Files relating to Micronesia Status Negotiations.” Containing only four Federal Records Center boxes, this series spans a fairly brief period from roughly July of 1981 until the December of 1982, when there was a period of intense activity early in the Reagan Administration on developing what is known as the Compact of Free Association (CFA), an agreement made between the United States and the island governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. The Compacts developed in this record series were approved by plebiscites held during 1983. Although the series is described as “Subject Files”, the records in Box 1 are arranged chronologically, with the appropriate folder labels, while the records in the remaining three boxes are labeled “Micronesia” and in no particular order under the Department of State filing symbol POL 2. Many of the documents concern documents signed by or prepared for Undersecretary of State for Security Assistance, Science, and Technology James L. Buckley as well as other negotiators working on the CFA. Other associated topics are included in this series such as discussions of health and education among the islanders. There is even coverage of the merger of Continental Airlines with Texas International Airlines and the merger’s potential impact on Micronesia, a hot topic in the fall of 1981. The four boxes in this series constitute entry UD-14W 115 in Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State. 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

Ijoko men ko reradioactive rej bed ie ilo ailin in Enewetak

The places where the things that are radioactive are at Enewetak Atoll

Map in ej kwalok is ko men ko reradioactive rej bed ie ilo ailin in Enewetak. This map shows where the things that are radioactive are at Enewetak Atoll.



Pictorial guide to levels of radiation on the islands of Enewetak Atoll prepared by the Department of Energy and incorporated in the publication Enewetak Atoll Today, published in September 1979.

The History Professional

An Interview with Robert Ellis

Robert (Bob) Ellis retired in April 2018 after 31 years of service at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Bob was a reference archivist, responsible for Federal and DC court records housed in NARA's downtown building on Pennsylvania Avenue. Bob graduated from Trident Technical College with an Associate Degree in Commercial Graphics and the University College at the University of Maryland with a B.A. in history.



Robert Ellis

Interview by Thomas Faith

Why did you decide to become the archivist for Federal judicial records at the National Archives and Records Administration?

I started my archival profession late in life. I was a graphics artist for many years, but I always was interested in history, so I went to school at night to get a B.A. in American history. I got my degree at age 40. Then I saw a job for an intermittent in the still-pictures branch at NARA and, because of my commercial artist, photography and print making background, they put me in charge of the poster collection.

Later I applied for the CIDS program, NARA's archivist training program, which has now been discontinued. This was a wonderful program; they sent you to many of the different departments in the National Archives to get an understanding of the different collections and they taught you archival skills. Now the agency wants people with an archival/library science degree.

After this three-year training, I was assigned as an archivist in the Civil Reference Branch, and for two or three years I worked with maritime records. The reason I became a specialist in the federal court records is that my supervisor walked up to me and said: "Bob, you're the expert in federal court records." It was probably the case of someone leaving and my being in the right place at the right time.

In about three months, one of my supervisors said: "God, you're good at this." That was so gratifying to hear because by then I had already begun to love these records and the history of the courts, particularly the records of the United States District Court of the District of Columbia. Since DC is a federal enclave, the federal courts serve as a local court. You have insanity cases, divorce cases, lawsuits, and other records about the citizens of the Washington, DC, area. I was always fascinated by what you might call "the common people" of Washington, DC, and the lives they lead.

But I love all of NARA's judicial records and it's hard to say why I do. After all this time they're like friends and it was really hard, when I retired, to leave not only my colleagues but my record-friends.

What do you remember your first year being like?

The first year was sheer terror because every question was totally new. I did not have the background on the history of the courts

or the record keeping systems, so it would take me four or five times longer to answer a reference question. Not only did I have to deal with the details of the Supreme Court records and the federal court records, I had to learn something about the other records in my branch in case somebody asked a question. And sometimes someone would come in and say: "I saw this record at the National Archives." I would take them at their word and look and look. It wasn't until much later in my career that I could confidently say, for example: "No, you saw that at the Library of Congress."

I learned by researchers coming in and answering their reference questions and so each reference request, each letter, was like a teaching tool and I would learn little things about the records. I think it really does take five years for an archivist to really know the records in his or her custody; how those records intersect and connect. Happily, a decade in I could answer many questions off the top of my head.

What are the main challenges of working with judicial records at the National Archives?

It's fairly easy to use the records of the 19th and part of the 20th Centuries. The docket books have a name index in front of each volume. So, if you can get within a certain time frame, you can find what you're looking for: the name and the case file number, and then go to the records. You need to know a time frame in order to look for the case file number because there's not an index to the U.S. Court of Claims until about 1960. And certain Supreme Court files also don't have a name index in the front. So sometimes, finding a case fill number can be very difficult. The best way to do this is to Google the name of the case file to get the case file number or a researcher can come in and look through the docket books to find it.

Another issue is that not all case file numbers are in the same format. From 1792 to 1933, the Supreme Court used a straight numbering system. In those the docket books the real case file number is on the right. After 1933, the case file number changed to, for example, 5-28 October term 1962. Then around 1970, that numbering system changed again; they used something like 75-384. But in that transition period both the old system and the new system are used at the same time. So that can be kind of tricky. All courts starting changing their case file numbers sometime in the 1970's. So often using Google to find a case file number can make

things easier. Google the case file title and the case file number will sometimes also pop up.

Finally, a lot of legal records people assume can be found in the Supreme Court's files actually are not where the researcher assumes they are. If a case only got as far as the US Court of Appeals that case is housed in a regional archive. So, for example, a case heard in an appellate court in Pennsylvania would be found at the National Archives in Philadelphia. There are also thousands of informal populous cases not heard by the high court that were docketed but not heard by the court.

Finding something can get complicated. Here's another example: when the suffragettes marched and were arrested for protesting in front of the White House, many people, including myself, assumed the file was in the criminal court of the District of Columbia. I couldn't find it. But eventually I looked at the docket books and there I found some of the names of the people who were arrested who were appealing their cases. That information eventually led me to the police court for the District of Columbia and the National Archives does not have those records which cleared up why the case couldn't be found in the criminal court of the District of Columbia.

What are the biggest lessons you learned in providing useful assistance to Researchers?

I help people. And they thank me. They write and say "Oh thank you so much. Thank you." And I just blew it off. I thought ... oh that's my job; I can go up to the stacks, get records, and fax them to you. I didn't really understand what locating some documents for some researcher meant to them until my mother got sick and we had to get her into an assisted living home. We needed documents from the Kershaw County South Carolina clerk's office in order finish filling out the forms. After speaking to someone in the office, she faxed me the documents within two hours. And then it dawned on me: because I was so emotional – this lady did this for me. I didn't have to drive 500 miles. Instead of the intellectual aspect of locating the document, I felt the gratefulness of the researcher.

Are there different considerations you make when assisting lawyers with records, as opposed to those engaged in other research?

I never had different considerations for assisting lawyers than I did for other researchers. However, if lawyers or researchers wanted documents from a large file, they would have to hire a professional researcher or visit the National Archives.

However, I did have a soft spot for researchers doing historical research, local District of Columbia history, and people looking for something relating to their lives, such as seeking the name of a parent or sibling, and adoption records.

How, in your experience, did members of the public become aware of the judicial records/resources at NARA?

Researchers learn about Judicial records by going to the National Archives website, googling, referrals from the Courts, from other

researchers or just by accident. And over the years researchers who met me at conferences, people I had helped before, and people who had my contact information would contact me directly via email.

What do you think about current trends toward digitization and how they are applicable to Federal Judicial Records?

Digitization promotes online access to Government information by the public. It also not only connects the many libraries that provide information on court systems, it gives researchers, judicial historians, and legal professionals easy access to find what they need in an efficient, economical manner. By connecting these dots more efficiently, all of us can gain a broader perspective of not only our legal system, but many other legal systems as well.

The ramifications of judicial rulings, such as *Brown vs Board of Education*, become more poignant when – with the click of a mouse – one can see the image of a brave African-American little girl attending a newly desegregated school for the first time, when we can read the details of a high court ruling almost immediately in the privacy of our homes, or when we want to read for ourselves the founding tenants of our Democratic process.

That thrill of holding an original document, of seeing an old faded signature is disappearing. But with the digitization of that torn and fading paper, we make it possible for those who follow us to connect to the past long after that original document crumbles to dust.

What do you believe you will miss most about your job now that you are retired?

My brain lights up when I am on the hunt for archival records and trying to piece together the many clues found in a paper trail. I love learning something new. I am also a people person and working in NARA's reference room several hours a day, I loved the detailed conversations I had with researchers who, like me, love history and piecing together the information they so wanted to find. From finding out why someone thought there might be a ghost in a house where they once worked, to finding Lincoln's first paycheck (which was never cashed), to rushing a death penalty file to the Supreme Court, to locating someone's long lost sister... that connection between a person and information that could change a life or shed light on the past invigorated me endlessly.

What are your plans for the future?

Since leaving NARA in April 2018, I have taken up hobbies I have always wanted to try: honing my skills with a bow and arrows at a local archery club, exploring my love of photography through a local camera club and auditing college classes in painting and digital photography at a local university. I've expanded my interest in bird watching, seen my granddaughter more, and my wife and I are planning a trip to Lincoln country in Illinois. I'm also researching an idea for a book on local DC history; whether it will be self-published or will have a publisher – the future will tell.

As I cast a wide net, I look forward to new explorations and suggestions.

A Brief History of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission – Part I

By Christopher R. Eck

As the National Historical Publications and Records Commission prepares for its 85th anniversary in 2019, it is worthwhile to consider its history. Originally called the National Historical Publications Commission (NHPC), it was created by Congress as part of the National Archives Act signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 19, 1934. As stated in the authorizing legislation, Congress directed the Commission to “make plans, estimates, and recommendations for such historical works and collections of sources as seem appropriate for publication and/or otherwise recording at the public expense.”

Concerns regarding the necessity to preserve the nation’s documentary history date back to Revolutionary Era patriot Ebenezer Hazard, the third Postmaster General under the Continental Congress and a printer by trade, who was appalled at the condition of public records and feared for the loss of the young nation’s written heritage. Stalled by the war, Hazard’s two-volume work, *Historical Collections: Consisting of State Papers and Other Authentic Documents*, published in Philadelphia in 1792 and 1794, was the result of a two decades quest to ensure the publication of accurately edited transcriptions of the country’s seminal early records. Considered the founder of American historical documentary editing, Hazard’s work was a standard reference for a century. Because of his efforts, John Adams considered Hazard “a genius.”

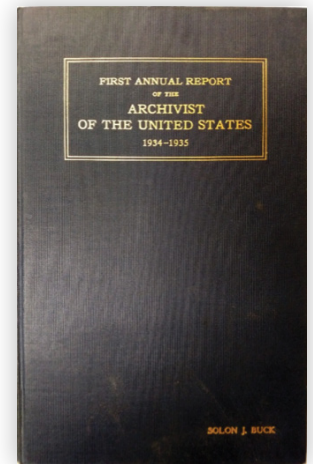
Though discussions of creating an official historical publications program was discussed at various times during the 19th century, the idea of the NHPC came about in 1908 during President Theodore Roosevelt’s administration with his appointment of “nine eminent American historians as a Committee on the Documentary Historical Publications of the United States Government.” The following year, that committee produced a report with two principal recommendations to Congress: the construction of a building to house the nation’s archives and the creation of “a permanent Commission on National Historical Publications.” Neither of these were realized until the successive Roosevelt administration twenty-five years later.

Since the Commission’s inception, the Archivist of the United States serves as the Commission’s chair. The first person to hold the seat was the first Archivist of the United States, Robert D.W. Connor. Connor, a professor of history and government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill at the time of his appointment, was one of the founding members of the North Carolina Historical Commission and acted as that body’s first Secretary.

In addition to the Archivist, the other original members of the NHPC in 1935 were the historical advisor of the Department of State (Dr. David Hunter Miller), the chief of the Historical Section



Solon J. Buck's copy of the National Archives' First Annual Report (1935).



at the Army War College for the War Department (COL Oliver L. Spaulding, Jr.), the superintendent of Naval Records in the Navy Department (Capt. Dudley W. Knox), the chief of the Division of Manuscripts in the Library of Congress (Dr. John F. Jameson, who led the campaign for the creation of the 1908 committee), and two present or former members of the executive council of American Historical Association (Dr. Dumas Malone and Dr. St. George L. Sioussat) appointed by the President of the United States. The National Archives Director of Publications, Dr. Solon J. Buck, was the first secretary of the Commission, a role that would evolve into that of the Commission’s executive director in 1950.

According to the Archivist’s First Annual Report for 1934-1935, the Commission’s initial meeting occurred on 29 January 1935 and was held in Connor’s temporary office in the nearby Department of Justice building, since the Archivist’s office remained under construction. Among the first matters discussed by the Commission was a recommendation to prepare a documentary edition covering the drafting and ratification of the Constitution in 1789 for the 150th anniversary in 1939.

In subsequent meetings held in November 1935 and February 1936, the Commission prepared a plan for a 6-volume publication of the Constitution with an estimated budget of \$85,000. Though the report was transmitted by the Archivist to 2nd Session of the 74th Congress in March 1936, the session adjourned in June that year without taking any action on the proposal. Bills on this matter were introduced in both the House and Senate in 1939 and were considered in committees, but no action was taken.

Another early proposal by the Commission was the preparation a survey of all prior federal publications concerning historical records. In 1939, Secretary Buck, having noted the lack of progress on undertaking the survey due to a lack of resources, introduced a budget proposal to accomplish this work by hiring a “research expert” to assist him for the 1939-1940 fiscal year. However, as the

outbreak of the Second World War threatened to involve the United States, members of Congress were concerned more with funding national infrastructure and military projects and this and the Commission’s other proposals withered.

In September 1941, Connor resigned as Archivist of the United States and as chair of the Commission to return to academia. In his place, the National Archives’ Director of Publications and the Commission’s Secretary, Solon J. Buck, was appointed Archivist. Though no Commission meetings were held that year due to emergency preparations for the coming war, acting secretaries for the Commission were appointed: first, Herbert E. Angel—who would later become Deputy Archivist of the United States—and, second, Oliver W. Holmes, who later become the Commission’s second executive director from 1961-1972.

Largely dormant during World War 2, the Commission held its first post-war meeting on 2 April 1946, in which it selected Philip M. Hamer, the records control officer for the National Archives, as its new secretary. In addition to wartime requirements, part of the dormancy can be explained by the creation by Congress of competing initiatives, such as the Thomas Jefferson Bicentennial Commission. Passed into law in 1943, the Jefferson Commission had as a primary objective the creation of “a new edition of the writings of Thomas Jefferson, including additional material and unpublished manuscripts in the Library of Congress and elsewhere” and was authorized a budget of \$15,000 and the employment of an historian, Princeton University Librarian Julian P. Boyd.

Boyd’s report of September 1943 outlined the needs of a

publication project and Princeton accepted the task, with the support of a \$200,000 subvention from *The New York Times*, and he “poached” the assistance of NHPC Commissioner Sioussat and Chairman Buck, whose contributions he recognized with the release of Volume 1 of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson* in 1950. Impressed by the new publication, President Harry S. Truman proposed that the Commission undertake a comprehensive historical publishing program concerning individuals “whose contributions to our history are now inadequately represented by published works.”

Inspired by this call, Hamer became the Commission’s first executive director in May 1950 and his appointment to the post led to a flurry of activity. That year, the NHPC took over the publication of *Writings on American History*—an annual bibliographic reference on American and Canadian books and articles—run previously by the Library of Congress. The Commission’s other activities included preparing a survey of American scholars to prepare a list of American historical figures whose papers should be considered for publication, gathering information for a guide to the nation’s archives and manuscript collections, compiling of materials for a documentary history of the First Federal Congress, and amassing material to publish a documentary history of the Constitution and Bill of Rights first proposed in the 1930s.

Christopher R. Eck is the Executive Director of the NHPRC. Part II of his “Brief History of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission” will be printed in the Spring 2019 issue of The Federalist.

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From the Archives

The SHFG's Presidents' Reception, aka Holiday Reception

By Chas Downs

The Society has had a long tradition of holding a special event for its members in early winter, although both its name and purpose have evolved over the years. The first of these was held on December 7, 1988, in the Archivist's Reception Room of the National Archives Building. It was inspired by departure from the Washington, DC, metro area of the Society's first President, Jack Holl, and was designated the Presidents' Reception. The five past SHFG Presidents attending the reception: Holl, Dick Baker, David Trask, Wayne Rasmussen and David Allison, were honored at the Reception. A photograph of them appeared on page 1 of *The Federalist* (Volume 10, Number 1, Spring 1989), accompanied only by a brief caption.

A more extensive description of the 1989 "Fall get-together" appeared on page 1 of *The Federalist* (Volume 10, Number 4, Winter 1989), described as the "second annual reception honoring past presidents," also held on December 7, again in the Archivist's Reception Room. Then current SHFG President, Bill Dudley, addressed the approximately 60 members attending, discussing plans of the Society in the coming year. He thanked the past presidents for their service, and displayed a plaque honoring immediate past president Marty Reuss, who was unable to attend. The reception was planned by Rebecca Raines and featured "an assortment of wines, cheese, and other goodies donated by executive council members." The third annual President's Reception, as it was termed, was held on December 4, 1990, and was attended by seven past presidents, as well as Archivist of the United States Don Wilson. The Presidents' Reception continued to be a yearly SHFG event, usually held in December at the National Archives. *The Federalist* continued to publish write-ups and photographs of the event, until it went into hiatus in 2001.

In its October 2001 meeting, the Executive Council discussed "about how new members could be recruited through this annual event [the Past Presidents' Reception]." It was suggested that members could bring a guest who might be interested in joining. All attendees would be encouraged to introduce themselves and meet others that they didn't know. Thus "the annual reception could be used as a vehicle to concentrate on the society's current



Above: Past Presidents' Reception, 1988.

Below: Past Presidents' Reception, 1999.



and future activities rather than having the reception's focus be . . . principally on honoring past presidents."

This approach appears to have been successful, since the minutes of the January 9, 2002, Executive Council meeting, under the heading "Presidents' Reception", noted:

The Council agreed that the December reception was excellent, and its aim in reaching out to new contacts was successful, and that further such efforts would benefit the society. Ideas to keep this Members Reception a central benefit of the SHFG membership include encouraging large attendance with a fully catered buffet and each member encouraged to bring a guest.

So when *The Federalist* resumed publication with the Spring 2004 issue (2nd Series, Number 1, p. 8), it was able to report that "on December 18, 2003, the Society held its annual Holiday Reception at the National Archives Building." The 70 attendees witnessed SHFG President

Roger Launius present past President Richard McCulley with “a commemorative pin as token of the Society’s gratitude” for his efforts. The award of a special pin to past presidents by their successors became a tradition which continues on, and links the event to its original purpose, even though it became referred to as “the Holiday Reception.”

What caused the name change? Perhaps the designation of Presidents’ Reception made the event sound formal and unappealing, too much of an “insiders reunion.” The Society had long been attempting to attract new members, and appeal to a larger, more diverse group who shared a connection with Federal history. Other developments, such as the implementation of Washington’s Metro system, and the promise of instant electronic connections through the rapidly expanding internet provided the Society new opportunities and connections both

area-wide and nationally. Holding a get together during the traditionally festive holiday season was a way to familiarize new members with the SHFG and encourage their participation in the activities and operations of the Society. In recent years, it has been held in venues other than the Archivist’s Reception Room, including the Archives Rotunda, and various local restaurants. For example, Busboys & Poets on K Street, is the location for the 2018 Holiday Party.

From its origin as the Past Presidents’ Reception to its current title of Holiday Party, the SHFG’s December event continues to be a tradition of the Society that is warmly embraced by its members.

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.

Free to Use and Reuse: Making Public Domain and Rights-Clear Content Easier to Find

By Michelle Rago

One of our biggest challenges is letting you know about all of the content available at *loc.gov*. Another challenge we have is letting you know what you can do with it (in a nice way). We are working on several fronts to improve the visibility of public domain and rights-clear content. We moved one step in that direction with the launch of our Free to Use and Reuse page.

This page features themed sets of content (such as travel posters, presidential portraits, Civil War drawings) that are all free to use and reuse, meaning there are no known copyright restrictions associated with this content. In other words, you can do whatever you want with it. When we redesigned the Library’s home page in late 2016 we began featuring free-to-use sets at the bottom of the page. Each set displayed on the home page is now available from our new Free to Use and Reuse page, and we’ll continue to add to this archive.

Please note that these sets are just a small sample of the Library’s digital collections available for your free use. Our digital collections comprise millions of items, including books, newspapers, manuscripts, prints and photos, maps, musical scores, films, sound recordings and more. Whenever possible, each collection has its own rights statement, which you should consult for guidance on use. I hope that the new Free to Use archive will be a springboard for discovering Library collections that you can use in your blog posts, Pinterest boards,

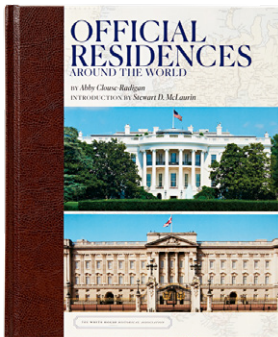


Famed jazz singer Billie Holiday with her pet boxer, Mister, in 1946. Photo by William P. Gottlieb. This digital image is just one example of the varied content on our website that is available for your free use.

documentary films, your next podcast, a slide show, or to decorate your laundry room.

This article was posted at the Library of Congress blog on February 7, 2018, at <https://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2018/02/free-to-use-and-reuse-making-public-domain-and-rights-clear-content-easier-to-find/>, and is reprinted here with permission.

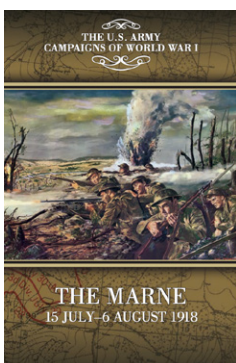
Recent Publications



Completed in 1800 in the new City of Washington, the White House, like its European predecessors, would be a home and office for the president of the United States, and the setting for state functions and ceremonies. With this book, *Official Residences Around the World*, the White House can be seen in a global context. This survey of official residences and offices of some fifty nations

is a unique look at their histories, architecture, and uses.

Many of the residences featured in the book are designated for heads of state—elected presidents and royal families with ceremonial roles. Other residences are designated for heads of government—prime ministers and chancellors with executive power. These national landmarks represent nearly one thousand years of building and renovations beginning with Prague Castle in the twelfth century. Over the centuries, many of these edifices have endured the ravages of fire, war, and mother nature; many like the White House have been rebuilt, expanded, and renovated. From the Arg in Afghanistan to the Presidential Palace in Vietnam, each chapter reveals the rich history and the ongoing aspirations of a nation. Order at <https://shop.whitehousehistory.org/bookstore/books-and-journals/official-residences-around-the-world>.



The Marne, 15 July–6 August 1918 by Stephen C. McGeorge and Mason W. Watson is the fifth installment of the U.S. Army Campaigns of World War I series, covering the American Expeditionary Forces' (AEF) participation in the Second Battle of the Marne in July and August 1918. Between March and July 1918, a series of four major German offensives had sought to break through the Allied lines. By mid-July, German troops had advanced to the edge of the Marne River,

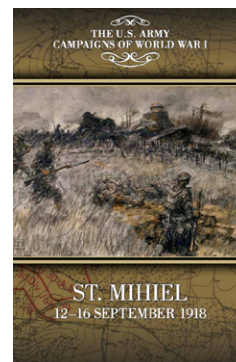
as close as they had been to Paris since September 1914, but fierce resistance from the Allies halted their forward momentum. Between 15 and 17 July, American divisions along the Marne and in Champagne played a decisive role in stopping the German advance, most notably alongside the French forces defending the strategically vital city of Reims. From 18 July to 6 August, American units took part in the Allied counteroffensives that pushed the Germans back from the Marne to the Vesle River. The narrative of this volume focuses on the American efforts on the critical Marne salient, where AEF divisions fought side by side for the first time, and where Americans accounted for more than forty

percent of the casualties sustained in the Second Battle of the Marne. Even after only a few months of experience in combat, the American contribution would play a pivotal role in the battle that decided the course of the First World War on the Western Front.

Stephen C. McGeorge has served as deputy chief historian, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), since April 2007. As a serving Army officer, he completed an M.A. in history under Dr. Ted Wilson and served on the Leavenworth faculty at the Combat Studies Institute as a military history instructor. Following his retirement, he was director of the Oregon Military Museum; TRADOC historian for the Stryker Brigade Combat Teams at Fort Lewis, Washington; and chief collections curator for the National Museum of the United States Army.

Mason W. Watson is a history Ph.D. student at Ohio State University, where he has taught courses in military and European history. He received his B.A. from the College of William and Mary in 2012 and his M.A. from Ohio State in 2016. His dissertation deals with the interwar British Army and the memory of the First World War. He is currently serving as a graduate research assistant at the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

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St. Mihiel, 12–16 September 1918 by Donald A. Carter is the seventh installment of the U.S. Army Campaigns of World War I series, covering the American Expeditionary Forces' (AEF) participation in the St. Mihiel Offensive in September 1918. The St. Mihiel salient, created during the initial German invasion in 1914, had withstood multiple French efforts to regain the territory. Yet even though the Germans had established strong defensive positions around St.

Mihiel and its neighboring villages and towns, the salient was highly vulnerable to attack and was an optimal target for a potential American operation. Until this point in the war, members of the AEF had not fought in a formation larger than a corps, and then only under French or British leadership. Now, as part of the American First Army under General John J. Pershing, they prepared to launch an offensive that would demonstrate to the Allies and the Germans alike that the Americans were capable of operating as an independent command. The AEF's successful efforts in the St. Mihiel Offensive, and the hard-won operational and tactical lessons that it learned during the battle, helped set the stage for the grand Allied offensive that would seize the initiative on the

Western Front and blaze a path toward ultimate victory in the war.

Donald A. Carter graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1977 and served as a field artillery officer until 1992. He received a Ph.D. in history from the Ohio State University in 1985 and served as a military history instructor, both at West Point and at the U.S. Army Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. After leaving the Army he joined the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) as an archivist. In 1995 he left CMH to serve with the Gulf War Declassification Project and the U.S. Army Declassification Activity. He returned to CMH in 2003 as a historian. He is the author of numerous publications including *Forging the Shield: The U.S. Army in Europe, 1951–1962* (2015) and co-author of *The City Becomes a Symbol: The U.S. Army in the Occupation of Berlin, 1945–1949* (2017).

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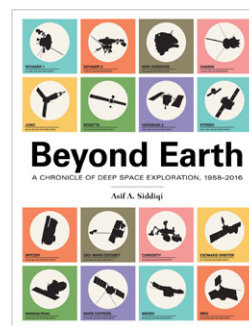
Meuse-Argonne: 26 September–11 November 1918 by Richard S. Faulkner is the eighth installment of the U.S. Army Campaigns of World War I series, covering the American Expeditionary Forces' (AEF) participation in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive—the most vital American military contribution to the Allied effort during the war. On 26 September 1918, the American First Army launched a massive attack between the Argonne Forest and the Meuse River

northwest of the French town of Verdun. The narrative of this volume spans the forty-seven days of the AEF's key role in the Grand Allied Offensive on the Western Front, designed to stretch the German Army past its breaking point. From the outset, the inexperienced Americans faced a determined enemy on daunting terrain, with both natural and manmade fortifications that would challenge the First Army's ambitious operational plan. Although heavy casualties, troop exhaustion, and tangled logistics slowed the AEF's initial momentum, the doughboys capitalized on the strength of their manpower and firepower, as well as their newfound combat experience, to press forward and turn the Germans out of their defenses. By the time that the Armistice was signed on 11 November, the U.S. Army had been tested in the fire and proved itself capable of waging a modern industrialized war. Moreover, through its tenacity and sacrifices, it had secured a major role for the United States in crafting the peace that followed.

Richard S. Faulkner is a professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He served twenty-three years in the Army as an armor officer and commanded a tank company during Operation Desert Storm. He has over nineteen years of experience

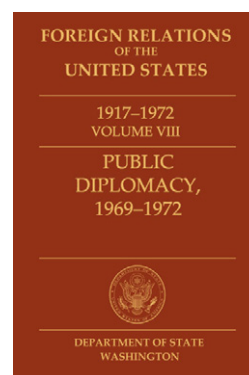
teaching history at the college level. He received his Ph.D. in history from Kansas State University in 2008. His first book, *The School of Hard Knocks: Combat Leadership in the American Expeditionary Forces*, received the Society for Military History Distinguished Book Award for American Military History in 2013. His second book, *Pershing's Crusaders: The American Soldier in World War I*, was awarded the 2017 Norman B. Tomlinson Jr. Book Prize by the World War One Historical Association for the best work in English on the history of World War I, and the 2018 Richard W. Leopold Prize by the Organization of American Historians.

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We are very pleased to announce the availability of Asif Siddiqi's *Beyond Earth: A Chronicle of Deep Space Exploration* (NASA SP-2018-4041). Humans likely have used tools for more than a million years but for only sixty years, have we been able to send specialized tools, robotic spacecraft, into the heavens and leave our mark on the cosmos. This book is a chronicle of our attempts to send these robotic travelers

beyond Earth orbit, to the Moon, to other planets and their moons, to the Sun, to comets, to minor planets, to dwarf planets, and ultimately beyond the solar system. This is a significantly revised and updated version of the author's *Deep Space Chronicle* (NASA SP-2002-4524). E-book versions are available free online (https://www.nasa.gov/connect/ebooks/beyond_earth_detail.html) and hard copies are also available free by contacting the NASA HQ Information Center (202-358-0000, info-center@hq.nasa.gov).

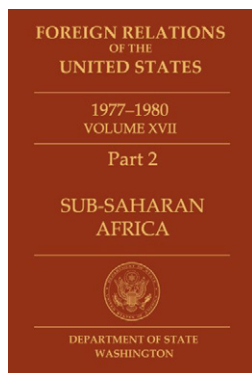


The Department of State released *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1917–1972, Volume VIII, Public Diplomacy, 1969–1972*. This volume documents the public diplomacy efforts of the Richard M. Nixon administration during Nixon's first term in office. A major emphasis of the volume is the role the United States Information Agency (USIA) played in presenting U.S. foreign policy objectives to the world during a time of social change within the

United States and how USIA attempted to reach new audiences, specifically young adults. The volume chronicles the development of new structures within USIA, including the Young Officers'

Policy Panel. It also illustrates how USIA and the Department of State pursued public diplomacy against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, the President's 1972 trip to China, and the 1972 Moscow summit meeting. Additional documentation chronicles the Department of State's cultural exchange activities, including the administration of the Art in Embassies program and the Cultural Presentations program.

This volume was compiled and edited by Kristin L. Ahlberg. The volume and this press release are available exclusively on the Office of the Historian website at <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1917-72PubDipv08>. For further information, contact history@state.gov.



The Department of State released *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977-1980, Volume XVII, Part 2, Sub-Saharan Africa*. This volume is part of a Foreign Relations subseries that documents the most important foreign policy issues of the Jimmy Carter administration. Parts 1 and 3 of Volume XVII address the Horn of Africa and North Africa, respectively. The focus of this volume is on the Carter administration's

approach to events in Africa. The first chapter addresses the administration's attitude toward the continent as a whole, including an attempt to reconstruct U.S. foreign policy toward Africa while continuing its predecessors' policy of countering Cuban and Soviet influence on the continent.

The volume is also divided into regional subsections: First, the chapter on East Africa covers the U.S. response to the provocations of Idi Amin in Uganda, the Tanzanian invasion to overthrow the Ugandan dictator, and a strengthening of ties with Tanzania and Kenya to further U.S. interests in southern Africa. Next, the chapter on Central Africa outlines U.S.-Zairean relations, focusing on the Shaba II crisis as well as aid to and investment in Sudan and parts of the Sahel. Finally, the chapter on West Africa addresses the role of Nigeria in African economics and politics, the U.S. response to a Liberian coup, and U.S. relations with the other smaller countries in West Africa.

This compilation was compiled and edited by Louise P. Woodroffe. The volume and this press release are available on the Office of the Historian website at <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1977-80v17p2>. Copies of the volume will be available for purchase from the U.S. Government Publishing Office online at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov> (GPO S/N 044-000-02696-1; ISBN 978-0-16-094796-4), or by calling toll-free 1-866-512-1800 (D.C. area 202-512-1800). For further information, contact history@state.gov.

Making History

Albert Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest

The Lepage Center is proud to introduce this year's History Communication Fellows: Andrea Spencer, MA'19, and Jubilee Marshall, BA '19. As the Lepage Center executes its mission to bring historical scholarship and perspective to bear on contemporary issues, communication with external audiences is a key component of the work. Our two student fellows assist the Center in all its communications, including events, briefings, podcasts, social media, and the Web. Meet our Fellows on our Medium page, where they introduce themselves to the Lepage Center community. Jubilee talks about the joys of hailing from Washington, D.C. (read: free world-class museums); Andrea tells us about her passion for women's history. Read the interview here at <https://medium.com/@LepageCtr/meet-our-fellows-604762f46c92>.

American Battle Monuments Commission

American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) cemeteries around the world hosted ceremonies on November 10, 11 and 12, 2018. While some ceremonies specifically marked Veterans Day others marked the 100th anniversary of the World War I Armistice. See the full list of events at <https://www.abmc.gov/news-events/news/veterans-day-2018-abmc-sites>.

Retired Lt. Gen. Robert L. Ord, III, who served 34 years in the

Army, was sworn in as a commissioner for the ABMC on October 16, 2018. Appointed by President Donald Trump in August 2018, Ord, in his role as ABMC Commissioner, will work to provide strategy guidance to fulfill the agency mission.

Atomic Heritage Foundation

AHF has launched a new "Ranger in Your Pocket" online educational program on the history of the Trinity Site, where the test took place (<https://www.atomicheritage.org/tours>). The program features over thirty video vignettes with firsthand accounts from Fitch, Manhattan Project leaders General Leslie Groves, J. Robert Oppenheimer, George Kistiakowsky, and others. Veterans describe the fateful day of July 16, 1945, when the Manhattan Project ushered the world into the Atomic Age. AHF has partnered with the White Sands Missile Range Historical Foundation on the project. In addition to being available online, the vignettes may also be shown in the White Sands Missile Range Museum, which is currently being expanded. The Trinity Site is open to tourists two days a year including on Saturday, October 6, 2018. This program will be a valuable resource for visitors to learn more about the Trinity Site and what they can see during their trip.

Congressional Research Service

For the first time, the Library of Congress is providing Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports to the public. The reports are available online at crsreports.congress.gov. Created by experts in CRS, the reports present a legislative perspective on topics

such as agriculture policy, counterterrorism operations, banking regulation, veteran's issues and much more. Founded over a century ago, CRS provides authoritative and confidential research and analysis for Congress' deliberative use.

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

In Fiscal Year 2018, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of 203 Americans unaccounted-for from past conflicts and made three (3) individual identifications of remains included in previous group burials. DPAA's highly skilled team of over 600 military members and civilian employees conducted missions and activities across the globe. Working in 24 countries, they performed 33 investigation missions, 46 recovery missions and 238 disinterments. Historians and analysts provide planners and in-country detachment personnel the information they need to manage recovery teams during excavation operations. Recovery teams in-turn bring back found materials to the DPAA laboratory for analysis and identification. DPAA also reaches out to families of the missing through family member updates and annual meetings/briefings to review their losses and collect family reference samples. DPAA assists in repatriations and disinterments of those who were once unaccounted-for in the effort to lay our fallen to rest and provide the fullest possible accounting of our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

Department of the Interior

On October 26, 2018, President Donald J. Trump designated Kentucky's Camp Nelson as a National Monument. Initially established as a Union Army supply depot and hospital, Camp Nelson became a key emancipation site and refuge camp for African American soldiers and their families during the Civil War. Located in Jessamine County, Kentucky, it was one of the largest Union Army recruitment and training centers in the nation for African American soldiers, then known as U.S. Colored Troops. Thousands of enslaved African Americans risked their lives escaping to Camp Nelson with the hope of securing their freedom and controlling their own futures during and after the war. Camp Nelson is the first national monument designation under President Trump. The site remains one of the best-preserved landscapes and archaeological sites associated with Civil War era U.S. Colored Troops recruitment camps and the African American refugee experience. Camp Nelson will now be the 418th site that the National Park Service oversees.



On October 29, 2018, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the designation of the A.P. Tureaud, Sr. Home as the fifth historic site within the African American Civil Rights Network. Secretary Zinke was joined by the family of Alexander Pierre (A.P.) Tureaud, Sr.. A.P. Tureaud made major contributions to advancing the goals of the African-American Civil Rights Movement as a pre-eminent civil rights attorney in Louisiana. "A.P. Tureaud, Sr. was

one of the most prominent legal minds in the history of the civil rights movement," Secretary Zinke said. "This home represents the sacrifice of a man who dedicated his life work to the betterment and unity of a nation, and may it serve as a place of reflection on the past and education to the future. I'm honored to add A.P. Tureaud's home to the African American Civil Rights Network alongside his family."

On November 2, 2018, Secretary Zinke announced the appointment of a 15-member commission to coordinate the commemoration of the 400-year anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to the English colonies in 1619. The 400 Years of African-American History Commission, established by Congress on January 8, 2018, will plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States to recognize and highlight 400 years of African-American contributions. The bill had bipartisan support, and included sponsors from 23 States and the District of Columbia.

"I am honored to appoint this group to oversee such an important milestone in African-American history," said Secretary Zinke. "As with President Trump's recent designation creating Camp Nelson National Monument, as well as with the five historic sites designated into the African American Civil Rights Network this past year, this commission will help expand the understanding and appreciation of all facets of African-American history and culture." Read the names of the commission members and the full press release at <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-commemorate-four-hundred-years-african-american-history>.

Department of the Interior Museum

The online exhibition, *Stories in Miniature* is the Interior Museum's newest offering presented on Google Arts and Culture. Launched as part of the Interior Museum's year-long 80th anniversary celebration, this online exhibition provides a fascinating exploration of 13 iconic dioramas: highly detailed three-dimensional scenes produced in small scale. These displays were created between 1935 and 1945 to showcase aspects of the Department of the Interior's mission and history. Valued for their historical details and fine craftsmanship, they represent a disappearing art form from the 1920-1950s heyday of dioramas in American museums. Explore it on Google Arts and Culture at https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/dQLi00Xq8_VJjg.

Holocaust Memorial Museum

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum strongly condemns the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh and sends its deepest sympathies to the victims and families of those who were callously murdered. Before opening fire, the alleged perpetrator reportedly yelled, "All Jews must die!" The Museum reminds all Americans of the dangers of unchecked hatred and antisemitism which must be confronted wherever they appear and calls on all Americans to actively work to promote social solidarity and respect the dignity of all individuals.

While social media platforms can be used to incite violence and prejudice, the Museum uses its voice to educate people about the dangers of unchecked hatred. Explore a selection of our social media

stories that teach about antisemitism and respond to hate-fueled acts today at <https://engage.ushmm.org/2018-social.html>.

Explore the Redesigned Holocaust Encyclopedia at <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/>—Individuals around the world rely on the Holocaust Encyclopedia, available in 16 languages, as an authoritative source on Holocaust history. Just in time for the back-to-school season, the Museum has revitalized this educational resource by incorporating stronger visuals and multimedia elements, making it more mobile friendly, and prompting reflection through critical-thinking questions.

Library of Congress

On October 24, 2018, the Library of Congress launched *crowd.loc.gov*, a crowdsourcing program that will connect the Library with virtual volunteers to transcribe text in digitized images from the Library's historic collections. This project enables anyone with access to a computer to experience first-hand accounts in history while contributing to the Library's ability to make these treasures more searchable and readable. Volunteers can work on selections from the papers of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Church Terrell, Clara Barton's diaries, Branch Rickey's baseball scouting reports or memoirs of Civil War veterans with disabilities from the William Oland Bourne Papers.

"Crowdsourcing demonstrates the passion of volunteers for history, learning and the power of technology to make those things more accessible," said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. "The pages awaiting transcription at *crowd.loc.gov* represent some of the diversity of the Library's treasure, and the metadata that will result from these transcriptions mean these digitized documents will have even greater use to classrooms, researchers or anyone who is curious about these historical figures." The transcripts developed and reviewed by volunteers will be made available on the Library's website, *loc.gov*, making them keyword searchable for the first time. This will enhance access to handwritten and typed documents that computers cannot accurately extract text from.

The software powering the crowdsourcing program has been released by the Library as open source for the benefit and use of other cultural heritage organizations considering similar efforts. View or contribute to the code repository at github.com/LibraryOfCongress/concordia. This program reflects advancement toward a goal in the Library's new user-centered strategic plan: to expand access by making unique collections, experts and services available when, where and how users need them. Learn more about the Library's five-year plan at loc.gov/strategic-plan/ and the digital strategy at loc.gov/digital-strategy/.

Living New Deal

Videos and photographs from the "Women and the Spirit of the New Deal" conference are now posted on our YouTube channel and website (<https://livingnewdeal.org/women-and-the-spirit-of-the-new-deal-conference/>). The event featured leading writers, scholars, public figures, and activists, highlighted by a talk by Professor Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor and author of *Saving Capitalism*. Reich was honored with the Intelligence and Courage Award presented by the Frances Perkins Center. The conference filled a significant gap in

understanding the crucial role of women in building New Deal institutions and programs. The National New Deal Preservation Association gave awards to several Bay Area organizations embodying the spirit of the New Deal.

National Archives and Records Administration

Besides his role as President during two of the greatest crises in American history, Franklin D. Roosevelt is also famous for having been a collector. Well-known as a collector of stamps, Roosevelt also carefully accumulated a vast amount of paraphernalia relating to the "Old Navy" in his lifetime, a term used to refer to the United States Navy before its modernization in late 19th century. The National Archives History Office has produced a new online exhibit on Google Cultural Institute that adapts a 1962 exhibit about the Old Navy. When President John F. Kennedy, who held a lifelong interest in American history, learned of Roosevelt's collection, he suggested the National Archives host an exhibit dedicated to some of the prints and watercolors in the collection. It fell to naval historian Samuel E. Morison to sift through the thousands of prints and watercolors in Roosevelt's possession and select the ones that were both rare and representative. The exhibit reflected the personal interests of not only Roosevelt but also Kennedy. Explore it at <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/1QIi1Etwr1fUIQ>.



On October 31, the National Archives posted online the Watergate Road Map and other documents relating to the Special Prosecutor's investigation of President Richard M. Nixon's involvement in Watergate. (<https://www.archives.gov/research/investigations/watergate/roadmap>) The Road Map consists of a two-page summary, a set of 53 numbered statements of fact, and 97 supporting documents corresponding to each statement of fact. Many of the numbered statements and 90 of the supporting documents were published in the multi-volume 1974 "Statement of Information," hearings before the House Judiciary Committee or have been located elsewhere in the public domain. Redactions in this October 31, 2018, release indicate the statements or supporting documents that could not be confirmed as existing in the public domain and which therefore remain grand jury information protected by Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e).

The National Archives also addressed the recent controversy over the Department of the Interior's records disposition schedule. According to their statement, the Department of the Interior has not made any requests to immediately destroy large numbers of records. Rather, they have put in a normal request to consolidate and revise their previous records schedules into "big buckets." Read the full statement here: <https://records-express.blogs.archives.gov/2018/10/26/department-of-interior-updating-their-records-schedule/>.

National Museum of American History

The Ruby Slippers are back! After months being expertly

conserved, the sparkling shoes are back on display. Opened on October 19, our displays on American culture feature a special Ruby Slippers gallery, a spotlight on the history of recorded sound in the Ray Dolby Gateway to Culture, breathtaking musical instruments in the Nicholas F. and Eugenia Taubman Hall of Music, and more!

National Security Archive

On September 19, 2018, the National Security Archive's Cyber Vault presented a new resource for the cybersecurity community, journalists, students, and the general public – a detailed glossary of terms. The cybersecurity field features a profusion of issues and concepts that complicates the work of advanced practitioners and discourages those without technical training. The Cyber Vault has collected and organized hundreds of terms from a variety of government sources in one place to facilitate the public's navigation of the terrain. Each entry is identified with a source – often more than one. The Cyber Glossary will have regular updates from agencies such as DHS, DOD, and the NSA. We look forward to your feedback and further suggestions.

National Women's History Museum

The National Women's History Museum announced on October 10, 2018, that it will have a physical presence in Washington, DC, in August 2020 to celebrate the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment—the most significant milestone toward women's equality in American history. Currently a “museum without walls,” the Museum is one of the country's largest cyber-destinations with more than 1 million visitors to its website annually, and more than 600,000 followers on its social media platforms.

The Museum is investigating potential sites for a physical location on or near the National Mall where it can launch exhibits celebrating and honoring women, and preview what a “museum with walls” will look like and offer visitors. Supporting a strong public-private partnership that ensures it takes its place among the other great museums in the nation's capital, the Museum hopes to announce a site and additional centennial celebration plans in early 2019.

“This is the next step on our long journey to have a physical museum that shows women's impact on American history,” said the National Women's History Museum Board Chair Susan D. Whiting. “We plan to invite others to join us on this journey and celebrate the day women won the right to vote.”

Public Interest Declassification Board

Earlier this summer, the Intelligence Community (IC) published newly declassified records about the 1968 Tet offensive on www.intelligence.gov. Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Communist-backed military attacks against American forces and American allies in the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam), the declassified records posted are the first in three planned public releases scheduled for this year and 2019. Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Daniel R. Coats asked IC agencies to conduct this project, based on the recommendation of the IC Senior Historians Panel. Director Coats asked this Panel to identify topics of historical interest as part of an IC-wide effort to enhance public understanding of IC activities. This project supports the IC's

Principles of Intelligence Transparency Implementation Plan (February 2015) and Principles of Intelligence Transparency (October 27, 2015) initiatives. The declassification of these historical records align closely with the long-standing PIDB recommendations to conduct topic-based declassification review and to prioritize historically important records for declassification. The PIDB also recommended that the IC should clearly define “sources and methods” to facilitate declassification and public release of no-longer sensitive information.

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

The September 2018 issue of *Passport* (vol. 49: no. 2) addresses the recent controversy that arose in connection to the invitation made to General David Petraeus to be a keynote speaker at the 2018 SHAFR conference in Philadelphia. “Perspectives on General David Petraeus's SHAFR Keynote Address” on pages 26 through 32 presents perspectives from Peter L. Hahn, Brian C. Etheridge, Brian D'Haeseleer, and Aaron O'Connell which provide context for the situation. Read it online at <https://shafir.org/sites/default/files/passport-09-2018-petraeus-roundtable.pdf>.

Trust for the National Mall

The Trust for the National Mall and the National Park Service marked the official opening of the restored Lockkeeper's House with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The



oldest structure on the National Mall has been the subject of a major restoration project for the past year and a half that has transformed the house into an educational and visitor contact location on the National Mall, showcasing the history of civics, commerce, development, and ecology on the storied site. Untouched for more than 40 years, the house is now open to visitors as a gateway to the National Mall, with planned hours of operations to include Monday through Thursday from 1–4 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Veterans History Project

Though the term “veteran” is often uttered in the same breath as “war,” many U.S. veterans served during times of peace. This includes more than 10,000 men and women in the Veterans History Project archive who served during the period known as the Cold War era. Entirely comprised of military volunteers, the new online exhibit “Cold War Dispatches” speaks to the motivations of veterans who served during an era of escalating international tensions. Trained to fight a Soviet threat, their narratives invariably give voice to conflicts derived from their ancestry, gender, and opposition to traditional warfighting techniques. Share this link and if you know any Cold War veterans, collect their stories for the Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/ex-war-coldwar.html>.



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Federalist Calendar

Jan. 3–6, 2019. American Historical Association. 133rd Annual Meeting. “Loyalties.” Chicago, IL. Visit <https://www.historians.org/annual-meeting>

Mar. 27–30, 2019. National Council on Public History. Annual Meeting. Hartford, CT. Visit <http://ncph.org/conference/2019-annual-meeting/>

Apr. 4–6, 2019. Organization of American Historians. Annual Meeting. “The Work of Freedom.” Philadelphia, PA. Visit <http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/oah19/>

Apr. 10–14, 2019. American Society for Environmental History. Annual Conference. Columbus, OH. Visit <https://m.aseh.net/conference-workshops/columbus-ohio>

Apr. 25–26, 2019. Society for History in the Federal Government. Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. Visit <http://www.shfg.org/Annual-Meeting>

May 9–12, 2019. Society for Military History. 86th Annual Meeting. “Soldiers and Civilians in the Cauldron of War.” Columbus, OH. Visit <http://www.smh-hq.org/smh2019/index.html>

June 20–22, 2019. The Association for Documentary Editing. Annual Meeting. Princeton, NJ. Visit https://www.documentaryediting.org/wordpress/?page_id=3277

June 20–22, 2019. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). Annual Meeting. Arlington, VA. Visit <https://shafr.org/conferences/annual/2019-annual-meeting>

July 18–21, 2019. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR). 41th Annual Meeting. Cambridge, MA. Visit <http://www.shear.org/annual-meeting/>

July 29–Aug. 3, 2019. Society of American Archivists (SAA). Joint Annual Meeting. Austin, TX. Visit <https://www2.archivists.org/conference>

Sep. 19–20, 2019. McMullen Naval History Symposium. U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD. Visit <https://www.usna.edu/History/Symposium/>

Sep. 19–22, 2019. Society for the History of Technology. Annual Meeting. Milan, Italy. Visit <https://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual-meeting/>

Oct. 16–19, 2019. Oral History Association. Annual Meeting. “Pathways in the Field: Considerations for those Working In, On, and Around Oral History.” Salt Lake City, UT. Visit <http://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/>

Oct. 17–18, 2019. Symposium on Cryptologic History. “From Discovery to Discourse.” Laurel, MD. Visit <https://www.nsa.gov/about/cryptologic-heritage/center-cryptologic-history/#symposium>