



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

Second Series | Number 78

Fall 2023

SHFG

www.shfg.org

**SHFG'S 2024
ANNUAL MEETING
SAVE THE DATE!**

**Thursday, May 30 –
Friday, May 31, 2024**

Library of Congress
James Madison Memorial
Building
101 Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20540



Interview with John Cole, the Library of Congress' First Official Historian

John Y. Cole is the founding director of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress and in 2016 became the first official historian of the Library of Congress. Dr. Cole began his government career as chief of the library branch of the U.S. Army Intelligence School then moved to the Library of Congress in 1966. In 1971 he earned his Ph.D. in American civilization from the George Washington University. His dissertation examined the contributions of Ainsworth Rand Spofford, the Librarian of Congress who greatly strengthened the Library's national role. After working with the Reference Department and the Congressional Research Service, Librarian of Congress Daniel Boorstin named Cole as the first executive director of the Center for the Book in 1977. He also managed the popular National Book Festival. Through volumes such as *Jefferson's Legacy: A Brief History of the Library of Congress* and *Encyclopedia of the Library of Congress: For Congress, The Nation & The World*, Cole has introduced the Library, its collections, and its contributions to American intellectual life to a wide audience.

What sparked your interest in history and the Library of Congress?

After majoring in history at the University of Washington (B.A., 1962), I was "lured" into librarianship (M.Libr., 1963) by a course in the history of libraries. While in the U.S. Army, my professional library degree led directly to my



John Cole

service (1964-1966) as Chief, Library Branch, U.S. Army Intelligence School, in Baltimore, MD. During an official—and my first—trip to the Library of Congress, I was stunned and almost immediately decided to apply for a job at LC as soon as I left the Army. In the summer of 1966, LC accepted me as a participant in the 1966-1967 special intern class for young professionals. I also

See "John Cole" cont'd on page 4

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The **FEDERALIST**

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 is \$55, \$35 students, and \$100 for 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 www.shfg.org.

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

Julie I. Prieto

Welcome to the fall issue of the *Federalist*. I am excited to announce that the Society's 2024 Annual Meeting will take place at the Library of Congress from Thursday, May 30 to Friday, May 31. This is the first time that we will be meeting at the world's largest library. I remember first visiting the institution as an undergraduate and being overwhelmed by the splendor of the main reading room in the Jefferson Building. A few years later, I arrived as a graduate student and was equally awed by the collections and the modernist cool of the Madison Building. It is a real treat to be able to hold an event at the library surrounded by so many of the objects and collections that help us tell our collective story. The Program Committee will be meeting in the coming weeks and choosing a theme that reflects the connection between federal history and the ways in which we can make knowledge more available to a wide range of audiences. Please consider submitting a panel, roundtable, or an individual paper.

The Awards Committees are currently collecting submissions for all prizes. Included among these is a new award for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA). Meant to highlight ongoing and long-term projects, it recognizes initiatives designed to promote accessibility within the historical profession. First awarded in 2023 to the Smithsonian Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion Group (SI-DEAI Group), it honored this committee's efforts to write guidelines to make visual presentations more adaptive to people with disabilities. We hope to receive submissions that similarly reflect a



commitment to increasing the ability of all people to engage with history.

As a reminder, this will be the last paper edition of the *Federalist*. Moving forward, the newsletter will only be available online. While this is certainly the end of an era, distributing the *Federalist* to inboxes and on our website gives us the potential to reach a wider audience. A digital format will also allow us to make a document that has a range of features not possible in print and to be more flexible in terms of length and format. At the same time, the savings will put the Society on sounder financial footing for the coming years.

I look forward to seeing you all online, in person at our upcoming holiday party in Washington D.C. on December 7 from 5:00 to 7:00, and at events in 2024.

Julie I. Prieto
julieprieto@gmail.com

FEATURE YOUR PROJECT!

Want to spread the word about your work? *The Federalist* newsletter prints information about federal history projects and issues affecting federal history programs.

If you or your organization have news items related to federal history that you would like printed in *The Federalist*, or if

you have a press release, feature article, or profile you would like to contribute, email the editor at shfgfederalist@gmail.com.

The Federalist welcomes contributors with information highlighting news of the profession, or who are willing to describe their projects for the SHFG audience!

Editors' Note

This is the last print issue of *The Federalist*. Starting in January 2024, SHFG is moving to an online/PDF version of the newsletter. This will save money and allow us to move to a more accessible newsletter. We might experiment a bit to find the format that is easy to read and ADA compliant. We hope that the pdf version of *The Federalist* will get wide distribution and help SHFG expand its membership. We can also do better with announcements. With the paper version, we had to go through the designer, printer, and the postal service before the newsletter got into your hands. This can take a month, and meant that we had to have a much longer lead-time for any announcements. Now, we hope to get that down to two weeks or less. As usual, we welcome your contributions—both articles and announcements.

Here's our tentative deadlines for the next year:

- January 15, winter issue
- April 15, spring issue
- July 15, summer issue
- October 15, fall issue

This issue starts with an interview with Dr. John Cole, the first official historian at the Library of Congress. Dr. Cole not only wrote about the history of the largest library in the world, he also led successful public outreach projects like the Center for the Book and the National Book Festival. We also include information on Native American Heritage Month (NAHM). *The Federalist* published any information we could collect on government activities related to NAHM. Jonathan Rose, Historian at the Federal Reserve System and Senior Economist and Economic Advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, wrote a wonderful article on the Federal Reserve and Native Americans.

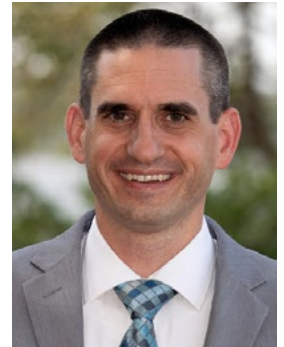
This issue also features updates on SHFG's efforts to write a history of our organization. There are many ways you can participate in this work. The Public Education Project's recent activities are also detailed here. For the first time, *The*

Federalist includes a piece on the work of Mark Howe at the United States International Boundary and Water Commission in El Paso, Texas. Of course, issue 78 of *The Federalist* includes our usual features: Making History, Recent Publications, and the calendar.

Remember, we have a holiday party in early December and the annual conference in late May! Details are in this issue.

One correction from issue 77: We listed Karina Esposito's affiliation as West Virginia University. It should have been Historical Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

With this issue, we welcome Frank A. Blazich, Jr., PhD, Curator of Military History, Division of Political and Military History, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution to *The Federalist* editorial team! A native of Raleigh, North Carolina, Frank Blazich, Jr. specializes in the American military experience in the twentieth century. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he holds a doctorate in modern American history from The Ohio State University (2013). In January 2017, he assumed his current position as curator of modern military history at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. His first edited book, *Bataan Survivor: A POW's Account of Japanese Captivity in World War II*, was published by the University of Missouri Press in February 2017. His second book, "*An Honorable Place in American Air Power*": *Civil Air Patrol Cal Patrol Operations, 1943-1943*, was published by Air University Press in December 2020.



Frank A. Blazich, Jr., PhD

Donate to SHFG

Support New SHFG Events

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

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

“John Cole” from page 1

enrolled in the George Washington University Ph.D program in American Civilization (Ph.D, 1971). In 1969, at the suggestion of David C. Mearns, a distinguished LC staff member and a historian of the Library, I chose Ainsworth Rand Spofford, an important but then little-known Librarian of Congress from 1864-1897, as the subject of my dissertation. I soon was hooked on the Library of Congress and its history.

In the preface to your book on Thomas Jefferson you mentioned that the Library of Congress was a “symbol of the vital connection between knowledge and democracy.” In an era of such deep political divisions, that connection seems tenuous at times. We’d like to know more about your vision of how the Library of Congress can contribute to American democracy.

The connection is not tenuous regarding the Library of Congress. Especially since the creation in 1914 of its Congressional Research Service that serves both parties of Congress, the Library has made every effort to be non-partisan. The heart of its continuing contribution to American democracy is and will continue to be the extension of its own democratic, non-partisan tradition of service to all of its constituents into the digital age.

A wholly unique American institution, the Library of Congress has grown with the country it serves. Created in 1800 by Congress, for most of the 19th century it was located in the national Capitol building in Washington, D.C. While established as part of the legislative branch, from its beginning the Library has been national in character. Congress decided in 1802 that the Librarian of Congress would be chosen by the president of the country, not by the Congress; moreover, both the president and vice president received borrowing privileges. Its services soon spread to government departments in the executive branch and, in 1832, to the Supreme Court. In 1870 Congress centralized all U.S. copyright activities at the Library, an executive branch responsibility in most other countries. In addition to his other duties, Librarian Spofford therefore became, in effect, our country’s first Register of Copyrights. He also was the first of several Librarians of Congress who, when he felt it was needed, dealt directly with the President of the United States.

In 1897 the Library’s monumental new building opened for the first time to an admiring public. The Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution, transferred from the U.S. State Department, went on permanent display in the Library’s Great Hall in 1923. The documents were moved to the National Archives building in 1950. In 1944 wartime Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish—a close ally of President Franklin D. Roosevelt—opened a “Democracy Alcove” in the Library’s Main Reading Room.

In 1980 the Library announced that its three large buildings

on Capitol Hill now bore the names of the three U.S. presidents involved in the early establishment of the institution. The original 1897 structure was now the Thomas Jefferson Building. The second building, opened in 1939, had become the John Adams Building, and the newly-opened structure was the James Madison Memorial Building.

These huge spaces, along with the creation of the first overseas acquisitions and cataloging offices in the 1960s, the first off-site storage facilities at Fort Meade, MD in 2000, and the opening in 2007 of the Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation, have enabled the Library and its staff to greatly expand the specialized services the institution now offers to the Congress, government, libraries, scholarship, and the public. The Library also is now considered the world’s largest research library and institution.

In the year 2000, the Library commemorated its bicentennial. Its Bicentennial Steering Committee, which I co-chaired, spent several months discussing how to make its democratic heritage a meaningful focal point for the commemoration while simultaneously reminding the public that all libraries, not just the Library of Congress, are both models and symbols of democracy. Our solution was to adopt “Libraries-Creativity-Liberty” as the bicentennial’s major national project theme.

Your efforts to document the history of the Library of Congress were bolstered by Librarians of Congress such as Daniel Boorstin. Federal historians often need high-level support for their work. Please tell us more about your relationships with the Librarians of Congress.

As the founding director of the Library’s Center for the Book, I was fortunate to work directly for two established historians who also served as Librarian of Congress: Daniel J. Boorstin (1975-1987) and James Billington (1987-2015). In 1977 Dr. Boorstin established the Center for the Book (Public Law 95-129), a public-private partnership to use the prestige and resources of the Library to promote books, reading, literacy and libraries. Dr. Billington encouraged me to expand the center’s state affiliate program to include all 50 states, an objective attained in 2001. Both helped me immensely in raising the private funds needed to support the center. Early in their respective periods of leadership, I spoke with each of them informally about the idea of creating a permanent Library of Congress History Office. Neither was interested. In different ways, each preferred to rely on my strong interest in LC history as a resource and in the end, trusted me with the development and early administration of Library-wide Center for the Book projects such as the Center for the Book itself (1977), the Books & Beyond Author Series (1996), the National Book Festival (2001), the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature program (2008), the LC Young Readers Center (2009), and the Library of Congress Literacy Awards (2013).

What insights can you offer SHFG members about writing institutional histories?

Here I've briefly mentioned two items from my own experience as possible "insights."

My good luck began with my selection of a dissertation topic. As mentioned in my response to the first question, I accepted a suggestion from David C. Mearns, a veteran Library staff member, that I take a deep look at the remarkable career of Librarian of Congress Ainsworth Rand Spofford. Between 1861 and 1897, Spofford convinced Congress that LC was a national as well as a legislative institution. As a result, he almost single handedly brought the institution into the modern world. However I soon realized that to be able to truly assess Spofford's overall achievements, I also needed to learn much more about the Library's entire history. I decided to create, through the Library's Professional Association, a noontime, voluntary "LC history roundtable" which included specialists from throughout the Library. This "forum" only lasted for a year or two, but in the process for the first time I learned details about Spofford's work and influence in many important and specialized areas of the Library such as copyright, rare books, and the early development of the institution's foreign language collections. I also decided to immediately begin writing short articles for LC and other publications about both LC and Spofford. I was on my way.

Through your writing and events like the National Book Festival, you offer a model for how historians can reach a wide audience outside of the government. Was this part of a long-term on your part? Based on your successes, what advice would you give to SHFG members?

Both the Center for the Book itself (1977) and the annual National Book Festival, launched in 2001 in cooperation with the office of First Lady Laura Bush, were announced and initiated within relatively short time frames and, I must admit, with minimum planning time. In each case it was a matter of taking full advantage of opportunities presented by appropriate "strong personalities," particularly Dr. Boorstin in the early years of the Center for the Book and Mrs. Bush in the first years of the National Book Festival.

The Center for the Book and the National Book Festival highlighted your work to build public-private partnerships, something most government historians do not experience. Can you offer lessons on creating those relationships?

Again, I think the best I can do is to describe an overall—and memorable—personal "lesson"—this one comes directly from working closely with Dr. Boorstin.

This "lesson"—roughly, "don't be afraid to think BIG,"—led directly to the successful development of the Center for the Book's two principal public-private sector partnership networks: the national reading promotion partners (60-70 non-profit organizations, most of them national, informal agreements) and state centers for the book (all 50 states, nearly always a state library or state humanities center, formal agreements renewable after three years).

The starting point was Dr. Boorstin's 1984 *Books in Our Future* report to Congress, a 49-page report on a project and study authorized by Congress in 1983. The first part focused on what he described as a major problem for American democracy: the "twin menaces" of illiteracy (inability to read) and aliteracy (lack of motivation to read). As project (and Center for the Book) director, I was responsible for developing and writing the supplementary second part of the report, which he had titled "A Manifold Program for a Massive Problem." It was to be an outline of possible solutions to the problem arranged by possible "problem-solvers." Dr. Boorstin kept pushing me to "think big." The result briefly described several dozen potential projects listed under four all-encompassing categories: "What Our Citizens Are Doing and Can Do," "What the Congress Can Do," "What the Executive Branch Can Do," and "What the Library of Congress Can Do."

And yes, the Center for the Book's two public-private sector partnership networks were indeed mentioned under "What the Library of Congress Can Do." What's more, each developed well enough to host a major pavilion at the 2002 National Book Festival. I was very proud.

Looking back over your decades at the Library of Congress, please offer your thoughts to newly-minted federal historians about building a successful career in government.

I hope it's obvious from my answers that I had a very fulfilling career at the Library, as both a Library of Congress program officer and a historian. It is true that I found myself in a unique position in a unique institution, but of course I also needed to deal with all the bureaucratic work found in any government institution. However, taking Ainsworth Rand Spofford as both my "hero" and inspiration, I always did my best to stay patient, positive, and persistent. It was well worth the effort.

HOLIDAY PARTY!

SHFG's Annual Holiday Party will take place from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on December 7th at Astro Beer Hall Downtown in the downstairs bar. Come enjoy drinks, food, and a donut or two to ring in the season!

Astro Beer Hall Downtown is located at 1306 G St. NW.



The Federal Reserve and Native American Communities: A Brief History

Jonathan Rose, Historian at the Federal Reserve System and Senior Economist and Economic Advisor at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

A bank merger proposal near a Native American community in Montana in 1991 was a key impetus spurring greater interaction between the Fed and Indian Country.

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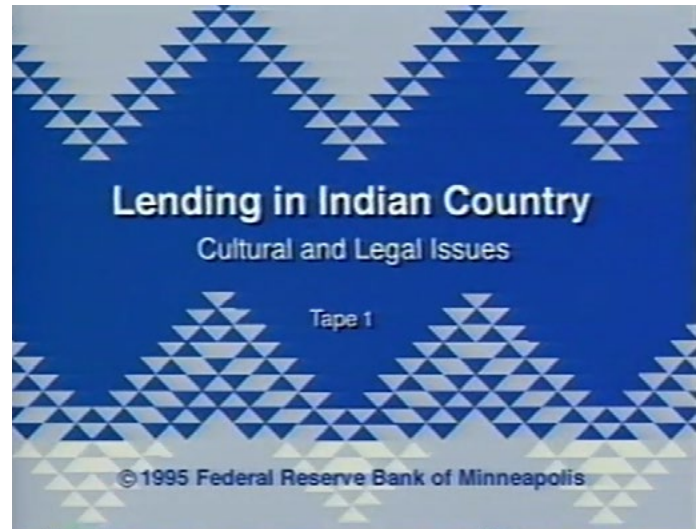
Significant interactions between the Federal Reserve and Native American communities began in the 1990s, spurred by the Federal Reserve’s responsibilities under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). Since then, several Reserve Banks have expanded their engagement with Native American communities through community development and economic education activities, including through the creation of the Center for Indian Country Development at the Minneapolis Fed in 2015. These activities have been shaped and motivated by key economic characteristics of Native American communities, including large gaps in access to credit, the unique legal status of Indian Country, and the substantial economic development opportunities.¹

Native American Communities as Historically Underserved by Financial Institutions

A bank merger proposal near a Native American community in Montana was a key impetus spurring greater interaction between the Fed and Indian Country.

In December 1991, the Fed’s Board of Governors denied the proposed merger of two bank holding companies on the basis that one of the banks involved was not meeting the needs of the people in the nearby Northern Cheyenne Reservation. This was a rare merger denial on CRA grounds in an era of rapid consolidation of the banking industry.² The bank at issue, the First Interstate Bank of Colstrip, was one of several banks owned by the First Interstate BancSystem. It was located in the first town north of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, about 20 miles away, but had excluded that reservation from its delineation of the area it served. Native Action, a non-profit organization based on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, protested that the bank had unreasonably excluded its community from its service area. A review by the Board of Governors found merit in this assertion and additional observations made by Native Action, including that the bank had made no effort to ascertain the Native community’s needs and had not offered them services.

The Colstrip case was emblematic of a broader pattern in which “many tribal communities are underserved by financial institutions, a situation that limits their access to the credit and



Title screen from the Lending in Indian Country video series produced by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis in 1995

capital vital to their growth and development.”³ Several factors have acted as barriers to credit access.

- One important legal issue involves land held in trust. For such land, lenders cannot execute a standard mortgage, as they cannot acquire the underlying land. Rather, they have to pursue other lending tools. Workarounds include securing a loan by a leasehold interest or by some other type of property or revenue stream, though lending institutions may have to invest in learning how they can underwrite loans differently while also maintaining profitability.
- Another legal issue pertains to the laws governing other types of collateral, such as farm equipment or autos. Commercial laws governing contracts of this kind are established by Native governments as sovereign entities. Lenders have professed that they are unfamiliar with those laws, and in many cases those laws have been relatively underdeveloped compared with commercial codes developed by state governments. Fed Governor Mark Olson spoke in 2002 of his own “personal experience, as a former banker in Minnesota, with the complexities of lending in Indian country.”⁴
- Discrimination has also been a factor behind the underserving of Native American communities. For example, in the 1990s, the Justice Department brought cases against two banks in Nebraska and South Dakota for discriminating against Native American borrowers.⁵
- Cultural differences may also act as a barrier. For example, Native American tribes, which have tended to be major employers in their communities, may seek loans for reasons less

focused on profitability compared with other borrowers to which lenders may be accustomed. A tribe may pursue a project that satisfies the tribe's economic or social goals, even if it does not have as high a profit margin as other borrowers might seek. Native stakeholders seeking loans have found that lenders can be hesitant even if repayment is appropriately ensured.⁶

These barriers to credit access formed the predicate for the Federal Reserve's expansion of its engagement with Indian Country. The timing of this engagement partly reflects a change in federal policy in the 1970s. In addition to the passage of the CRA, a combination of executive orders and the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act gave firmer footing to federal support for tribal sovereignty. In particular, tribes acquired the ability under federal law to contract for and run federally funded programs and services, rather than the federal government administering those programs for them.

The Historical Development of Federal Reserve Activities

The community development function at the Federal Reserve was created in the 1980s, and its initial focus was to facilitate compliance with the CRA. This function began promoting lending opportunities in Indian Country in a substantial way in the 1990s; particularly, the Colstrip CRA decision in 1991 increased the salience of community development issues at the Fed.

Reserve Banks fostered a flow of information about lending opportunities through workshops, newsletters, and training curricula. In July 1996, for example, the Minneapolis Fed released a video set titled *Lending in Indian Country*, which gave lenders an introduction to cultural differences with Native American communities and reviewed important legal issues shaping lending opportunities, including land, title, and collateral issues; tribal powers and tribal courts; sovereign immunity; and practicable remedies. By using its powers to convene, the Fed has brought together Native American communities, lenders, and other specialists to focus on lending opportunities in Indian Country at many conferences, trainings, and workshops. For example, in 2002, the Federal Reserve Banks of Minneapolis, Chicago, Kansas City, and San Francisco and the Federal Reserve Board sponsored a conference on sovereign lending issues, designed to promote increased access to credit by forging partnerships and identifying investment opportunities.⁷ Also, a 2012 workshop series, "Growing Economies in Indian Country: Taking Stock of Progress and Partnership," highlighted best practices on topics including the successful establishment of financial institutions on reservations and the establishment of Indian Business Alliances that provide support to entrepreneurs and small businesses.⁸

The Minneapolis Fed has also sought to address some of the underlying legal issues that can act as a barrier to lending, including underdeveloped commercial laws. In 1998, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis partnered with the National

Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and tribal government representatives to develop a model commercial code.⁹ Since then, many tribes have adopted the model code, beginning with the Crow Tribe in 2006. These adoptions have highlighted the importance of follow-up activities to help the model code become effective in supporting lending, including training to understand, enforce, and trust the law, as well as initiatives to implement the code including the creation of lien filing systems.

More Recent Activities

Over time, the Fed's community development efforts with Native American communities have continued to facilitate compliance with the CRA while also placing increased emphasis on applied research and identifying and sharing best practices. For example, through the Kansas City Fed's Investment Connections initiative, banks and organizations that work in Indian Country have made connections on CRA-eligible projects.¹⁰ In addition, Kansas City Fed community development staff have supported state-wide Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) working groups in Oklahoma and New Mexico, which both have significant Native CDFI representation.

The Minneapolis Fed established the [Center for Indian Country Development](#) in 2015, with the mission of advancing "the economic self-determination and prosperity of Native nations and Indigenous communities through actionable data and research that make substantial contributions to public policy."¹¹ The Center has launched projects in several strategic focus areas, including efforts to close the data gap to inform the implementation of effective policies in Native American communities, increase the accessibility of financing and commercial credit, and optimize tribal taxation authority to raise predictable revenue for public investment.¹²

Outside of community development, economic education has been an additional area of activity. In the 1990s, the Kansas City and Minneapolis Feds developed materials for a course on personal finance and a case study of community development issues, to be used by Native educational stakeholders.¹³ In 2020, the St. Louis Fed established [Native Economic and Financial Education Empowerment](#) (NEFEE), an economic and financial education program specifically for Native Americans, with a focus on ensuring that educational materials are appropriate and well-designed for use in Native educational settings. NEFEE partners with tribal nations and Native communities across the United States to strengthen access to economic and personal finance education, including providing resources to address the unbanked populations within Indian Country. The Atlanta Fed's economic education team also collaborates with NEFEE to support engagements with tribal nations and Native schools.

Recently, the Federal Reserve and other federal regulators have revisited the CRA. As one part of that review, they have considered how the CRA's implementation could be more effective in addressing the substantial needs for community

development and better access to credit in Indian Country. Statistically, 45 percent of the American Indian and Alaska Native population lives in census tracts that are low- or moderate-income, distressed, or underserved, and therefore the kind of areas that the CRA was intended to benefit. In addition, 25 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native people were underbanked as of 2021.¹⁴ As of 2022, the proposed rulemaking includes provisions related to activities specifically targeted to and conducted in “Native Land Areas.”¹⁵ The proposal would also give banks greater incentives for community development activities in Native Land Areas by providing enhanced clarity and specificity about what activities qualify for CRA credit.

Conclusion

Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari stated in 2023, “The Fed’s work in partnership with Native nations and Indigenous communities is foundational to our mission of pursuing an economy that works for all of us. Across the System, our initiatives are shedding light on economic development opportunities in Indian Country, engaging Native voices in policy solutions, addressing harmful data gaps, and empowering Native communities with the information they need to chart their own economic futures. I’m excited to see the impact of our deepening work in this area.” The evolution of this engagement has been a microcosm of the broader evolution in the Fed’s community development function, with an initial focus on facilitating compliance with the CRA as banks engaged with many communities in a serious manner for the first time and more recently a broadening of activities to include applied research and sharing information on what works in community development. Along with efforts in economic education and in modernizing the CRA, these activities have been designed to help ensure that Native American communities share in progress toward the Fed’s economic objectives.

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Endnotes

- 1 The term Indian Country under federal law encompasses several types of communities, including land within an Indian reservation and several other types of land and communities; US Department of Justice. “[677. Indian Country Defined](#).” *Justice Manual: Criminal Resource Manual*. Last updated May 2001.
- 2 Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. [Federal Reserve Bulletin, December 1991](#): 1007-1010.
- 3 Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. [Annual Report 2002](#): 88-89.
- 4 Mark W. Olson. “[Remarks at the System’s Sovereign Lending Conference: Banking Opportunities in Indian Country](#),” November 18, 2002.
- 5 US Department of Justice. “[Nebraska Bank to Pay \\$275,000 For Allegedly Discriminating Against American Indians, Under Justice Department Settlement](#).” Press release, May 7, 1997; US Department of Justice. Housing and Civil Enforcement Cases Documents, [Civil Action Number 93-5115](#).
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- 7 Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. “[Fed Sponsors Indian Lending Conference](#).” News release, October 24, 2002.
- 8 “[Growing Economies in Indian Country: A National Summit](#).” Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, May 1, 2012.
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- 10 Lael Brainard. “[Financial Inclusion and Economic Challenges in the Shadow of the Pandemic: A Conversation with Tribal Leaders](#).” Speech at Fed Listens: Roundtable with Oklahoma Tribal Leaders, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 13, 2021.
- 11 Center for Indian Country Development. “[About Us](#).” Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, n.d.
- 12 Matthew Gregg, Casey Lozar, & Ryan Nunn. “[An Urgent Priority: Accurate and timely Indian Country Data](#).” Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, May 10, 2022; Jacqui Baldwin-LeClair, Andy Huff, Casey Lozar, and Caryn Mohr. “[Tribal-state Tax Compacts Rise as a Tool for Tax Clarity in Indian Country](#).” Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, September 26, 2022; Patrice H. Kunesh, ed. *Tribal Leaders Handbook on Homeownership*. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and Enterprise Community Partners, 2018.
- 13 Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. [Annual Report 1998](#): 216.
- 14 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. [2021 FDIC National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households](#), October 2022.
- 15 The proposal includes a definition of Native Land Areas that includes the following geographic areas: “Indian country, land held in trust by the United States for Native Americans, state American Indian reservations, Alaska Native villages, Hawaiian Home Lands, Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas, Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas, Tribal Designated Statistical Areas, American Indian Joint-Use Areas, and state-designated Tribal Statistical Areas.” Lael Brainard. “[Strengthening the CRA: A Conversation with Representatives of Native Communities](#).” Speech at National Native Coalition Virtual Series on the Community Reinvestment Act Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, July 19, 2022.

HOLIDAY PARTY!

SHFG’s Annual Holiday Party will take place from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on December 7th at Astro Beer Hall Downtown in the downstairs bar. Come enjoy drinks, food, and a donut or two to ring in the season!

Astro Beer Hall Downtown is located at 1306 G St. NW.



The Public Education Project (PEP): What's Been Happening

In late summer of 2022, after a year of fruitful incubation as a standing committee of SHFG, the Public Education Project (PEP) spread its wings as an independent 501(c)(3) educational organization dedicated to improving public knowledge of the fascinating history of the federal government. In the year or so since, PEP has been working tirelessly towards that goal, a key original aim of SHFG dating back to its 1979 genesis. PEP President Judson MacLaury, longtime SHFG member and Trautman awardee; Secretary Gwen Sinclair, Government Documents Librarian at the University of Hawaii; and Treasurer Mike Reis, retired Senior Vice President, History Associates, are proud to share this update on PEP's objectives, achievements, and hopes... with a warm invitation to aid us!

Why Does PEP Believe So Strongly in Promotion of Greater Public Awareness of Federal Government History?

Based on numerous, recent public opinion surveys, it has become abundantly clear that, sadly, many citizens rely on unexamined or naïve generalizations, or even outright disinformation and myths, in looking at their own federal government and its history, if they focus on it at all. PEP is not an advocacy group pushing a political agenda or a civics renewal organization focused solely on constitutional knowledge. Rather, PEP strives to better educate the public about the history of the grand mosaic of federal government agencies, in the hope that if citizens are more informed about their government's history, they will reject sweeping generalizations based on inaccuracy and mistrust.

What Has PEP Done in the Past Year of "Solo Flight?"

PEP's new, signature effort for 2023-2024 is an ambitious series of twenty-four short videos, each centered on dramatic episodes and personalities from the varied history of select federal agencies. The series, called the Historical Education Initiative (HEI), is available on our YouTube channel, at <https://www.youtube.com/@publiceducationproject/featured> and as of November 1st, 2023 includes nine released videos, with 15 more in production. With one video being released every two weeks, the last one will be out in May 2024. The first nine videos cover some really fascinating agencies and histories, including: the Coast Guard's 1871-1915 precursor the U.S. Lifesaving Service; the Agricultural Statistics Service and a little-known "insider trading" scandal of 1905; the Mississippi River Commission and the control of great river floods, notable; heroic federal officials with the Fish and Wildlife Service; "true" stories from Alcatraz and the Bureau of Prisons; the Postal Inspection Service's role in catching Ponzi schemers and the Unabomber; the controversial place-name mapping tasks of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names; the origins and evolving role of the Architect of the Capitol; and the wartime and humanitarian past and present of the Maritime Administration.



Our cadre of eager volunteer historians does the video and script research; some were recruited with SHFG aid, and their "first stop" is always the excellent federal history office and informational agency websites holding valuable content and imagery. Likewise, our production team – director, scriptwriter, voiceover actors, etc. – is ably led by Lila Woodbridge, also an early and enthusiastic PEP supporter. Our preliminary analytics already reveal major success, with rapid growth in subscribers and in views of one or more series videos.

PEP continues as well to improve our website at publiceducationproject.org, which features our A-Z federal agency history page listings. It also includes three previous PEP video productions on: the USDA's Beagle Brigade of trained canine food contraband inspectors; the EPA's first half decade of challenge; and the 1979 Three Mile Island crisis, via an engaging interview of former Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) historian J. Samuel Walker by Senate Historian Emeritus Don Ritchie.

What Does PEP Plan for the Future?

With the HEI videos successfully rolling out this year and next, PEP is beginning to work toward our goal, as stated at our webpage, of sharing with K-12 students and their teachers our vision of federal history. We will be developing a systematic approach through attending meetings of groups such as the National Council for the Social Studies and the National Center for History Education to seek and learn from allies and experts on this score. One exciting possibility, a spinoff from the HEI, that we can already see would be to adapt the videos, "wrapping" each with a lesson plan, teacher and student resources, and questions for discussion and debate. Social studies educators could use these unified materials to build entire classes around vivid federal history topics.

How Can Federal History Professionals Help PEP Reach its Goals?

You are heartily welcome to join and support PEP's worthy efforts! You can go onto our YouTube channel and view, like, re-post and subscribe to our HEI videos, and onto our website, to explore our resources or use our "Donate" button to offer financial encouragement. As a dedicated member of SHFG and federal history supporter, you may also want to step up to volunteer with PEP, to share your ideas and energy in our initiatives. We'd love to hear from you; please feel free to fill out the contact form at the PEP website or email us at judson1942@gmail.com.

Native American Heritage Month (NAHM)

Congressional Research Service

A useful report on the history of NAHM.

crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44258/18.

U.S. Census Bureau

According to the Census Bureau, the first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916, in New York. The event culminated an effort by Red Fox James, a member of the Blackfeet Nation, who rode across the nation on horseback seeking approval from 24 state governments to have a day to honor American Indians. In 1990, more than seven decades later, then-President George H.W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution designating the month of November “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations have been issued every year since 1994 to recognize what is now called “American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.” This *Facts for Features* presents statistics for American Indian and Alaska Native population, one of the six major race categories defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

3.7 million: The nation’s American Indian and Alaska Native population alone in 2020. This population group identifies as AIAN only and did not identify with any other race. Learn more at www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2022/ai-an-month.html.



Department of the Interior

In September 2023, the Department of the Interior announced the launch of an oral history project that will document and make accessible the experiences of the generations of Indigenous children who attended the federal boarding school system.

This effort—the first of its kind to be undertaken by the federal government—is part of the [Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative](#) launched by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and will ensure stories and experiences that survivors share can be heard by, and learned from, current and future generations. The Department and Smithsonian National Museum of American History are in ongoing discussions about how to support this work.

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS), which has a proven track record of gathering stories through a survivor-centered protocol, will receive a total of \$3.7 million in grant funding. Funding for the grant through the Bureau of Indian Affairs was made possible in part through



funding [from the National Endowment for the Humanities](#), which in April 2023 committed \$4 million to support the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. NABS has been engaged with the Department [since the launch](#) of its initiative to share records and information.

“Creating a permanent oral history collection about the federal Indian boarding school system is part of the Department’s mission to honor its political, trust and legal responsibilities, and commitments to Tribes,” said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. “The U.S. government has never before collected the experiences of boarding school survivors, which Tribes have long advocated for to memorialize the experiences of their citizens who attended federal boarding schools. This is a significant step in our efforts to help communities heal and to tell the full story of America.”

“This historic project is a lifeline to preserving the voices and memories of Indian boarding school survivors,” said NABS Chief Executive Officer Deborah Parker (Tulalip). “Many of our ancestors did not have the chance to share their experiences, so NABS is grateful to Secretary Haaland and the Department of the Interior for this support. This will allow us to continue our work in seeking truth and justice, ensuring survivor’s stories are never forgotten, and bringing healing to future generations.”

In May 2022, Secretary Haaland and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland released [Volume 1](#) of the investigative report called for as part of the initiative. The report represented a significant step by the federal government to comprehensively address the facts and consequences of historical federal Indian boarding school policies, which stemmed from the twin goals of cultural assimilation and territorial dispossession of Indigenous peoples through the forced removal and relocation of their children. Volume 2 is expected to be published by the end of 2023.

As part of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative and in response to recommendations from the report, Secretary Haaland launched “The Road to Healing.” This year-long commitment to travel across the country is giving Indigenous survivors the opportunity to share their stories and be connected with trauma-informed support. The oral history project announced today will build on this effort to create space for survivors.

This project will focus on gathering first-person survivor narratives and establishing an oral history collection. Survivors will have the opportunity to make their interviews available to federal partners, Tribal governments, policymakers and researchers, and the public.

The Department will continue its engagement with the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Indian Health Service and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to coordinate trauma-informed survivor-centered support during these engagements.

NABS is dedicated to advocating for Native peoples impacted by U.S. Indian boarding schools. To learn more about the oral history project, please visit the [NABS oral history project webpage](#).

National Museum of the United States Army

The National Museum of the United States Army has two events commemorating Native American Heritage Month.



“The Long Painful Journey”: The U.S. Army and the Trail of Tears

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 | 12 p.m. ET | Virtual

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 | 12 p.m. ET | Virtual and In-Person

Duty is defined as a moral or legal obligation. Soldiers have a duty to carry out the Army’s mission. Throughout the nation’s history, Soldiers have adhered to the concept of duty to protect, defend, and carry out policy on behalf of federal government. Like Soldiers, the Cherokee have their own duty to uphold their heritage tied to their ancestral homeland. In response to the threat of removal, the Cherokee used a series of legal maneuvers to preserve their homeland. When those attempts failed, the Cherokee signed the Treaty of New Echota.

The Treaty of New Echota exchanged the Cherokee Nation’s ancestral homelands east of the Mississippi River for unfamiliar land located in present-day Oklahoma. In May 1838, the U.S. Army deployed to enforce the terms of the treaty. General Winfield Scott, along with fellow U.S. Army Soldiers, were dispatched to Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Their mission was to relocate the Cherokee to embarkation centers and oversee the journey to Oklahoma. The forced removal of the Cherokee was one of many conducted by the U.S. Army and was a consequence of the Indian Removal Act. These removals in the southeastern U.S. became known as the Trail of Tears.

During this History Talk, we will examine how Soldiers fulfilled their obligation to carry out the terms of the Treaty of New Echota. We will also identify how the implementation of the Indian Removal Act impacted both Soldiers and Native tribes. Finally, you will better understand how the effects of this policy can still be felt today.

Defining “American”: Native American Soldiers and World War I and the Path to Citizenship

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 | 12 p.m. ET | Virtual

Wednesday, November 22, 2023 | 12 p.m. ET | Virtual and In-Person

From the Revolutionary War and through present day, American Indians have proudly served the U.S. Army often without recognition or the benefits of citizenship.

During World War I, nearly 12,000 indigenous Soldiers served in the armed forces with distinction. Their actions to protect the nation focused attention on disparities among indigenous Americans and paved the way for all indigenous people to enjoy the promise of American citizenship.

In this History Talk, explore the commitment, challenges, and bravery of Native American Soldiers during World War I. Learn how their actions led to citizenship for all native people and helped lay the groundwork for voting rights.

[Register for the Virtual History Talk on November 8 at 12 p.m. ET.](#)

This program is offered virtually and in-person on Wednesday, November 22. In-person seats are limited and available on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, see www.thenmusa.org/public-programs/history-talks/.

Smithsonian calendar: www.si.edu/events/native-american-heritage-month

National Museum of the American Indian project, “Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Services.” <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/diversity/hispanic-americans-in-the-navy.html/>

National Park Service: www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/native-american-heritage-month.htm

Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs: [https://www.bia.gov/](http://www.bia.gov/)

National Institutes of Health: www.edi.nih.gov/people/sep/na/campaigns/native-american-heritage-month-2022

Department of Defense Education Activity: www.dodea.edu/news/observance-calendar/national-native-american-heritage-month

Department of Defense: www.defense.gov/Spotlights/National-Native-American-Heritage-Month/

National Archives: www.archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month

United States Courts: www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/annual-observances/native-american-heritage-month



The SHFG History Project is Well-and-Truly Launched and Invites Your Participation

By Mike Reis, Chair, SHFG History Project Committee

The SHFG History Project Committee is pleased to report that the SHFG History Project has been launched and is well on its way! By the 45th anniversary of SHFG, in 2024-2025, the project committee aims to issue several historical products of immediate and lasting benefit to members and others interested in federal history. These include a detailed chronology of forty-plus years of SHFG history, a roughly 75-page chronicle of SHFG's pioneering and varied past, a digital collection of key documents, and a similarly accessible set of questionnaire responses and oral history interviews with SHFG members, leaders and veterans. This past summer, the committee, with enthusiastic Executive Council support, began seriously working towards these goals, beginning textual and image research, identifying potential candidates for questions and oral histories, and laying necessary logistics for the chronology and book.

On the research front, a review of SHFG's "archives"—some forty boxes of documents and other materials, accessioned by American University's (AU's) Library, dating back to SHFG's founding—has secured digital scans of the so-called "first series" of *The Federalist* newsletter, published from 1980 to 2001. These recent digital scans will eventually join the "second series" scans (2004-date) currently posted on SHFG's website.

In addition to a slated completion this fall of SHFG archives research at AU, the committee plans to delve into other significant, document resources, including but not limited to the papers of SHFG pioneer Anna Nelson, also housed at AU; Congressional and federal agency reports and records reflecting SHFG's pivotal role in protecting and expanding federal history; and national news and feature articles covering the organization's triumphs and challenges. A critical resource will also be the many fascinating "From the Archives" articles, authored for *The Federalist* by former SHFG archivist Charles Downs. Likewise, prior efforts to capture SHFG's history have been flagged for research, including the unpublished, preliminary 10-year history by Dennis Roth; oral history interviews from *The Federalist*; and SHFG-related articles commissioned for *The Public Historian* in a special 1999 issue.

For the questionnaire and oral histories, the committee currently is preparing guidelines and potential questions and is reaching out to the Society's robust Oral History Working Group for assistance and insights. In the fall, through the questionnaire, the committee hopes to directly contact members as well as prior and current SHFG officers. Oral history interviews will also take place with those who express interest in being interviewed and will likely point to others who may be contacted. The committee also encourages any and all SHFG members and veterans to reach out, at the email address listed below, if they would like to respond with input, be interviewed, or serve as volunteer interviewers.



Mike Reis

Drawing on documents and oral histories, the chronology ("chron") will feature concise entries concerning all aspects of SHFG's history since 1979, focusing on important actions and initiatives — but not ignoring challenges, problems overcome or not, and "lessons learned." The "chron" will be written by a cadre of "chron writers" on a user-friendly platform, such as an Excel spreadsheet on GoogleDocs, which will allow for simple sorting by date of entry as well as by theme. Thematic sorting of the "chron" will materially aid writing of the book, which will also be organized into thematic chapters. Equally important, the chronology will continue as a "living," dynamic resource for consultation by SHFG leaders and members, since it can be periodically updated and revised as the SHFG history continues or when new sources are unearthed.

Along with the "chron," the book will become a lasting, educational, guidance, and recruitment resource for SHFG and its members and leaders. The book's focus will be on significant themes that provide a general "view" of SHFG's decades-old history; the chronology and book, however, will necessarily offer varying degrees of granular detail on key actions and initiatives.

Authorship of the book is not yet set but is likely to be collective, and tentative themes and chapter foci discussed for it include:

SHFG Origins: The story of how the Society's pioneers emerged and organized SHFG to be an advocate and community leader confronting urgent issues such as the National Archives independence and the 1970's-1980's job crisis.

Standards and Principles: The story of how SHFG, from the start, worked to define, ensure, and promote valued federal

history scholarship and recordkeeping amid an ever-changing landscape of challenges—including the digital revolution.

Ongoing Advocacy: The story of SHFG appearances at congressional hearings, presentations at public forums, support for letter-writing campaigns, and continual coalition building in the federal history community.

Community Building and Expansion: The story of the early defined but persistent “Three Pillars” of the Society: a regularly published newsletter; a directory of federal history programs; and an annual meeting with awards. SHFG’s History Project will also shine a light on the origins and evolution of other outreach and community connections, including the Society’s website, e-bulletins, and professional development workshops.

The Challenges of Oral History: This chapter is envisioned as a vivid “case study” chronicling the longtime and still-vibrant

story of how SHFG’s oral history guidance evolved and has helped the federal history community face ongoing issues. This section will also examine federal oral history hurdles that the community confronts today and will likely encounter in the future.

In sum, the SHFG History Project Committee eagerly looks ahead to a productive autumn and winter and invites your participation! Current committee members are Fred Augustyn, Rosie Click, Katie David, Chas Downs, Tom Faith, Peter Jones, Lily Liu, Anna Neubauer, Mike Reis, Willa Reising, Mary Ellen Troutman, Bill Williams, and Tristan Williams. Volunteers interested in supporting this project are encouraged to consider conducting textual and image research, oral history interviews, chronology writing and editing, serving as oral history interviewees, or becoming book chapter writers, editors, and fact-checkers. For more information, or to volunteer, please feel free to contact the committee at shfghistory123@gmail.com. Many thanks!

Overview of the Field

Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 2023 Update



Historians



Summary

Quick Facts: Historians	
2022 Median Pay ?	\$64,540 per year \$31.03 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education ?	Master's degree
Work Experience in a Related Occupation ?	None
On-the-job Training ?	None
Number of Jobs, 2022 ?	3,500
Job Outlook, 2022-32 ?	3% (As fast as average)
Employment Change, 2022-32 ?	100

More information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/historians.htm>.

Center for Military History

Sage advice for aspiring historians: “Considering a Career as a Historian in the Federal Government,” available at [https://history.army.mil/brochures/Career_as_Historian_Brochure\(2016\).pdf](https://history.army.mil/brochures/Career_as_Historian_Brochure(2016).pdf).

U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC)

New Deal Archaeology in the West, edited by Kelly J. Pool (Editor), Mark L. Howe, was published recently by The University of Utah Press. As detailed on the press website (uofupress.lib.utah.edu/new-deal-archaeology-in-the-west/):

“From 1933 to 1944, a wide range of archaeological and cultural heritage projects were funded across this country as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal. The results of work east of the Mississippi River are amply documented in various publications. However, little has been reported or synthesized regarding western archaeological work, its role in economic recovery, or its impact on the direction and knowledge of the discipline. This volume shares previously untold stories of New Deal archaeology from across the American West and explores insights into the past revealed by these projects.”

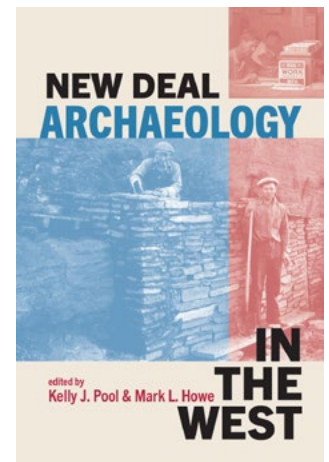
Also, as part of Mark Howe’s work as the USIBWC Cultural Resources Specialist he has been speaking at several conferences on archeology, history, and geography. On October 20, 2023, at the 23rd Biennial Jornada Mogollon Conference in El Paso, TX, at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology he delivered a speech, “The September 1st, 1925, Flood in the Rio Grande Project – Forgotten History in Photos, Land and Levees.” On October 28 in Los Angeles, CA, at the Western History Association Annual Conference, he spoke on “The 1925 Flood of El Paso: Ramifications to the Borderlands.” Later, on November 3 at the Southwestern Division of the American Association of Geographers conference in Laredo, TX, he spoke about “Falcon Reservoir and the Geography of Archeology.”

USIBWC is working on an important historical project in cooperation with the Heritage Partnerships Program, National Park Service (NPS) on the upcoming NPS Landmarks Committee meeting on November 15-16. Howe has been updating the current historical overview of Fort Brown (1846 - 1944), specifically the old Fort Brown earthworks (1846) and lands of the USIBWC that this is located on. This is to extend the current National Historical Landmark (NHL) to cover the entire peninsula and encompass an additional 166 acres of land of the former Fort Brown Golf Course. In the future it is planned to transfer this land and the remnants of old Fort Brown to the NPS Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park (PAAL). Recently in early 2023, a migrant surge in the area diverted people and vehicles into the NHL earthworks at old Fort Brown. USIBWC, being proactive to stop any further damage, installed a barrier of orange safety fencing and t-posts around the earthworks (Figure 1). Working with PAAL under our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) we successfully closed this off with USIBWC staff from the Mercedes Field Office. The MOU with PAAL allows for monitoring of the NHL of which PAAL consistently does and updates USIBWC of any changes.

USIBWC recently sent to the Advisory Council on Historic



Figure 1 (above): Orange Safety fencing to prohibit foot and vehicle traffic over NHL Fort Brown breastworks. These were constructed in 1846 at the start of the Mexican-American War.



Preservation our Section 3 report for the “Preserve America” progress report. This is a 3-year report on Identification, Protection, and use of Federal Properties for all federal land management agencies and how the USIBWC is committed to Cultural Resources on the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.

In the El Paso locales, USIBWC became a signatory to the *Chamizal Two Sister Parks Agreement*, in February 2023. This was cosigned by our Commissioner Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E. and Mexican Commissioner Adriana Resendez, P.E and other dignitaries of the borderlands. This will allow USIBWC to work more with the two parks on historical information dealing with the parks before the Chamizal Convention in 1963 and after. USIBWC is working with local non-profit Abara, Inc., as they now own the old La Hacienda Restaurant that was the original Hart’s Mill along the border and next to the Rio Grande. Mark Howe has helped monitor adobe restoration testing in March 2023 and written a monitoring report as Abara is planning to restore adobe that has been damaged over time.

For more information, contact Mark L. Howe, MA, Cultural Resources Specialist at the International Boundary and Water Commission – U.S. Section, 4191 N. Mesa, El Paso, Texas 79902-1423.

Making History

National Park Service and Institute of Museum and Library Services

WASHINGTON, DC— The National Park Service, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, announced \$25.7 million in Save America's Treasures grants to fund 58 preservation and conservation projects in 26 states.

These grants and the matching funds support the preservation of nationally significant historic properties and collections across America. IMLS will administer 25 of the awards, totaling \$6,721,847. These projects involve collections (including artifacts, museum collections, documents, sculptures, and other works of art).

Examples of awarded grant projects include:

The University of California's Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive will undertake a conservation project for approximately 1,800 quilts, pieced fragments, and textile object in its African American quilts collection. The collection contains works by more than 500 individual quilters and nine intergenerational families. Conservation work for the project will include treatments to remove microbial, mold and insect infestations, careful cleaning and drying, and rehousing of objects. As a result of the project, the quilts and related material from the collection will be preserved for future research, educational, and exhibition purposes.

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research will digitize materials from two collections that are part of its Jewish Labor and Political Archives: The Workmen's Circle Collection and the Photograph Collection. The Workmen's Circle Collection is comprised of 38.5 linear feet of materials from a Jewish labor fraternal order of immigrants to the United States from Eastern Europe. The Photograph Collection includes 15,000 photographs that visually represent the activities of major United States political and labor organizations and their Jewish immigrant members. These collections, which include scrapbooks, correspondence, meeting minutes, photographs, and other archival materials, document the history of Jewish communities and associated labor movements in America and will be rehoused to create better intellectual control through metadata and digitization.

The Wisconsin Historical Society will preserve and provide access to at-risk materials in 26 collections documenting the modern American Civil Rights movement. For the project, staff selected materials for conservation and digitization that are most frequently requested for research purposes, including approximately 490 cubic feet of archives which



include 2,412 audio recordings, 445 moving images, 101 microfilm reels, and more than 22 cubic ft of graphic materials, such as photographs, posters, and ephemera. The historical society will stabilize, rehouse, and perform conservation treatments on at-risk physical items. Staff will digitize collection items and make them accessible online for public use.

The Federal Save America's Treasures program was established in 1998, and is carried out in partnership with IMLS, NEA, and NEH. Since 1999, Save America's Treasures has provided over \$300 million to more than 1,300 projects to provide preservation and conservation work on nationally significant collections, artifacts, structures and sites. Requiring a dollar-for-dollar private match, these grants have leveraged more than \$500 million in private investment and contributed more than 16,000 jobs to local and state economies. These awards totaling \$25,750,000 will leverage almost \$60 million in private and public investment.

For more information on IMLS's Save America's Treasures projects, visit the IMLS website and search awarded grants at www.imls.gov/.

NASA

NASA's autumn 2023 newsletter is available at <http://history.nasa.gov/nltr40-3.pdf>.

Call for Papers

[Call for Papers: OpenPhilately \(an Open Access journal\)](#)

OpenPhilately is an open-access journal—free for authors and readers that aims to make quality philatelic and postal history research available to all **seeks submissions for its second and subsequent issues**. All submissions are editorial board reviewed.

The journal takes a broad view of philately and postal history and welcomes submissions about, but not limited to postal and stamp history and iconography, commerce and commercial aspects, political aspects, postal administration, postcard history and iconography, printing techniques and materials, material preservation, and conservation.

[We publish original materials in a variety of formats](#), such as full research articles, shorter length feature articles, reviews (book, website, and social media), and philatelic and postal exhibits. Except for exhibits, all materials must not have been previously published.

Questions about the journal or submission requirements, may be directed to the editor, Susan Martin (susan.martin@mtsu.edu)

Contact Information:

Susan Martin, Special Collections Librarian. James E. Walker Library. Middle Tennessee State University

Contact Email: susan.martin@mtsu.edu

URL: libjournals.mtsu.edu/index.php/openphilately/about

National Archives

November Programs:

(In person) Bret Baier Book Release: *Duel Across Time*
Wednesday, November 15, at 10:30 a.m. CT

[George Bush H.W. Presidential Library and Museum](#),

College Station, TX

[Register](#) to attend in person

Teachers and students, join us as we welcome Bret Baier, New York Times bestselling author, Fox News Chief Political Anchor, and host of *Special Report with Bret Baier*, as he discusses his new book, *Duel Across Time*. This is the first book in a thrilling new time-bending graphic novel series about kids who use their love of history to thwart an evil time traveler's scheme to change the past—perfect for students in grades 3–8.

(In person) *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America*

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 3 p.m. ET

[John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum](#), Boston,

MA

[Register](#) to attend in person

Heather Cox Richardson, Boston College professor of history, discusses her new book *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America*, with Tom Nichols, staff writer at The Atlantic.

(Online) *National Archives Comes Alive! Young Learners Program: Meet Tuskegee Airmen*

Thursday, November 16, at 11 a.m. ET

[Register online](#)

Come learn about the first African American flying unit in the U.S. military, responsible for protecting U.S. bomber planes from German fighter planes during World War II. Speaker John McCaskill, historian, educator, and reenactor will bring the experiences and legacy of the Tuskegee Airman to life as he portrays a composite flier of the famous Red Tails Squadron.

(In person) *Undeclared: From Basketball to Battle: West Point's Perfect Season 1944* with Jim Noles

Thursday, November 16, at 2 p.m. ET

[Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum](#),

Hyde Park, NY

[Register](#) to attend in person

The FDR Presidential Library presents a conversation and book signing with Jim Noles, author of *Undeclared: From Basketball to Battle: West Point's Perfect Season 1944*. The event will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center.

(Online) *President Kennedy's Civil Rights Legacy: African American Perceptions*

Tuesday, November 21, at 6 p.m. ET

[John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum](#), Boston,

MA

[Register online](#)

Sharron Wilkins Conrad, professor of history at Tarrant County College and Senior Fellow at Southern Methodist University's Center for Presidential History, explores African American perceptions of President John F. Kennedy's legacy on civil rights in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the final year of the administration in this virtual program. Kellie Carter Jackson, professor of African Studies at Wellesley College, moderates.

(In person and online) *Spheres of Influence: Two Hundred Years of the Monroe Doctrine*

Tuesday, November 28, at 6 p.m. ET

[Register online](#)

To mark the 200th anniversary of the Monroe Doctrine, a panel of scholars will discuss the history, as well as the current use, of the best-known U.S. policy toward the Western Hemisphere. Sara Bon-Harper, Executive Director, James Monroe's Highland, and Scott H. Harris, Executive Director, University of Mary Washington Museums, will lead the discussion of the three main elements of the Monroe Doctrine: non-colonization, non-intervention, and separate spheres of influence for the Americas and Europe. The Archivist of the United States, Dr. Colleen Shogan, will introduce the program. This program is presented in partnership with James Monroe Museum and James Monroe's Highland.

(Online) *Camera Girl: The Coming of Age of Jackie Bouvier Kennedy*

Tuesday, November 28, at 6 p.m. ET

[John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum](#), Boston,

MA

[Register online](#)

Carl Sferrazza Anthony, historian and author, discusses his new book, *Camera Girl: The Coming of Age of Jackie Bouvier Kennedy*, a new biography exploring Mrs. Kennedy's early adulthood. Eileen McNamara, Pulitzer Prize-winning former Boston Globe columnist and Brandeis professor emerita of the practice of journalism, moderates.

(In person) *A Conversation with Charlie Baker*

Thursday, November 30, at 6 p.m. ET

[John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum](#), Boston,

MA

[Register](#) to attend in person

Charlie Baker, NCAA president, former governor of Massachusetts, and co-author of *Results: Getting Beyond Politics to Get Important Work Done*, discusses key leadership issues. Barbara Kellerman, fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership, moderates.

Department of State, Office of the Historian



The *Foreign Relations of the United States* series presents the official documentary historical record of major U.S. foreign policy decisions and significant diplomatic activity. The series, which is produced by the Department of State's Office of the Historian, [began in 1861](#) and now comprises more than 450 individual volumes. The volumes published over the last two decades increasingly contain declassified records from all the foreign affairs agencies. The series has published volumes on the Arab-Israeli dispute and Iran through the Carter era (1977-1981) and volumes for the Reagan era are under declassification review. You can access the volumes online: history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/carter.

Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training

The Association has an amazing collection of oral histories from United States diplomats and policy makers. If you are interested in a particular country or subject, you can review ADST's Country and Subject Readers. From the website, adst.org/oral-history/country-reader-series/:

"These Readers consist of relevant excerpts from individual oral history interviews arranged in approximate chronological order. They are designed to give users an overview of U.S. relations with a country or policy on a specific subject, as seen by those who dealt with it from Washington or in the field. The Readers offer unique insights over decades, though they may not provide full chronological continuity."

Department of the Interior Museum

On August 25, 2023, the U.S. Department of the Interior Museum in Washington, DC, joined a growing number of cultural institutions and parks offering EnChroma-adapted eye-wear for visitors with Color Vision Deficiency (CVD), also known as color blindness. CVD affects an estimated 13 million Americans and 350 million people worldwide. Those with CVD only see approximately 10% of all hues and find it particularly challenging to differentiate between shades of red and green. By having eight pairs of the glasses available for the public to borrow at no charge while visiting the museum's exhibitions or participating in its building tours, the Interior Museum has committed to even greater accessibility and inclusivity in its visitor experience.



Above: A comparison of how Daniel Galvez's painting, Guardians of the Past, appears to people with and without CVD.

Top: A visitor tries out a pair of EnChroma-enhanced glasses during an Interior Museum tour to aid in seeing an expanded range of colors more clearly and vibrantly in Daniel Galvez's painting, Guardians of the Past.

SHFG 2024 AWARDS

The 2024 SHFG Awards are now open for submissions! Nominations are accepted until December 15, 2023. Self-nominations and nominations on another's behalf are welcomed.

Awards open this year are:

[SHFG Member Award \(Individual and Organization\)](#)

[Excellence in New Media Award](#)

[Book Prize](#)

[Prize for Article or Essay](#)

[Prize for Historic Preservation and Exhibitions](#)

[Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility \(DEAI\) Award](#)

Awardees will be announced Spring 2024, and recognized at the SHFG Annual Meeting in May 2024.

For more information, email shfg.award@gmail.com or visit the [SHFG website](#).

Recent Publications

NASA

NACA to NASA to Now: The Frontiers of Air and Space in the American Century tells the story of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) and its successor, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The NACA and NASA facilitated the advance of technology for flight in air and space throughout the 20th and into the 21st century. This book explores how and why aerospace technology took the course it did, discusses some of the key people who drove aerospace science and technology development, and examines the political, economic, managerial, international, and cultural contexts in which the events of flight have unfolded.

The U.S. government explicitly challenged the NACA in 1915 to accelerate aeronautical research and to further the capability of the United States to push back the frontiers of flight. After more than 40 years of groundbreaking research into the problems of flight, the NACA was transformed in 1958 into NASA and given the added task of pursuing spaceflight with both humans and robots.

This fascinating work, written by Roger D. Launius, former NASA Chief Historian and Associate Director for Collections and Curatorial Affairs at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, illuminates the storied, multifaceted history of this agency in a single concise volume. It will serve as an excellent introduction and resource for NASA employees, journalists, scholars, and the general public to understand NASA's rich heritage.

The volume is available at www.nasa.gov/history/history-publications-and-resources/nasa-history-series/naca-to-nasa-to-now/.



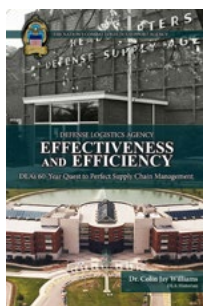
Defense Logistics Agency

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), part of the Department of Defense, has two interesting publications available to the public. Both were written by Dr. Colin Jay Williams, DLA Historian, and are available at www.dla.mil/About-DLA/History/.



1. "Combating the Coronavirus: DLA Efforts to Defeat COVID-19, February 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020"

2. *Effectiveness and Efficiency: DLA's 60-Year Quest to Perfect Supply Chain Management*



Air University Press

Frank A. Blazick, Jr, PhD, curator of modern military history at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History and Air Force veteran, wrote "*An Honorable Place in American Air Power*": *Civil Air Patrol Coastal Patrol Operations, 1942–1943*. It was published by the Air University Press in 2020.

On the eve of American entry into World War II, the Office of Civilian Defense (OCD) established the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), an organization of the nation's private pilots and aviation personnel for national defense purposes. Beginning in February 1942 with tentative Navy Department approval, the Army Air Forces agreed to an experimental use of CAP aircraft and personnel for antisubmarine patrols along the Atlantic Coast. This use of civilian pilots and aircraft developed out of an urgent necessity to stem the tide of German submarine operations inflicting heavy losses on coastal shipping. For the Army, the CAP coastal patrol was essentially a subexperiment for a larger experiment to see if civilian aviation could be semimilitarized for national defense purposes.

The operational success of CAP's coastal patrol effort convinced Army leadership that the CAP could serve in a wider capacity. The coastal patrol effort received ordnance and military uniforms and expanded to 21 bases flying continuous daytime patrols from Maine to the Texas–Mexico border. The coastal patrol effort spawned a similar Southern Liaison Patrol patrolling the American border with Mexico. Collectively, CAP's operations with the Army resulted in the transfer of CAP from OCD to the War Department in late April 1943.

Drawing extensively on unpublished, previously unavailable archival material, this policy-based study of CAP's coastal patrol examines the origins, evolution, and concluding operations of this civilian effort. Through the historical record, conclusions are drawn from CAP's coastal patrol operation to provide a doctrinal basis for the discussion of future uses of auxiliary airmen for domestic military purposes in time of war.

U.S. Army War College

Current Issue: Volume 53, Number 4 (2023) Volume 53, Number 4 (2023-24) Winter Demi-Issue

Welcome to the Winter 2023–24 demi-issue of *Parameters*. Released approximately one month before the full issue of the journal, the demi-issue addresses developing current events and topics critical to our readership, previews content for the forthcoming full issue, and tackles the big questions being asked today in the fields of military strategy and defense policy. This



demi-issue includes two special commentaries focused on the Russia-Ukraine War.

[*Parameters 2023-24 Winter Demi-Issue*](#)

USAWC Press

[*From the Editor in Chief*](#)

Antulio J. Echevarria II

[*Was the Russian Invasion of Ukraine a Failure of Western Deterrence?*](#)

Bettina Renz

[*Ukraine's Lessons for Future Combat: Unmanned Aerial Systems and Deep Strike*](#)

Harry Halem

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act

In the early 20th century, Americans were inundated with ineffective and dangerous drugs, and adulterated and deceptively packaged foods. Compounding the problem, consumers had no way of knowing what was actually in the products they bought. The passage of the 1906 Pure Food and Drugs Act marked a monumental shift in the use of government powers to enhance consumer protection by requiring that foods and drugs bear truthful labeling statements and meet certain standards for purity and strength. While the 1906 law laid the cornerstone for the modern FDA, as time went on it became clear that it had major shortcomings, which limited the agency's ability to protect consumers. The law offered no way to remove inherently dangerous drugs from the market and set such a high burden of proof for misbranding, i.e., intent to defraud, that the agency was rarely able to take action against a company for fraudulent products. In addition, the law provided no authority over cosmetics, medical devices, or advertising, and imposed no standards for foods.

To help make the public aware of the 1906 law's limitations, the FDA's Chief Education Officer, Ruth deForest Lamb, and Chief Inspector, George Larrick, created an influential traveling exhibit in 1933 to highlight about 100 dangerous, deceptive, or

worthless products that the FDA lacked authority to remove from the market. The exhibition was so shocking it was dubbed the "American Chamber of Horrors" by a reporter who accompanied First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to view the exhibit. The name stuck. Lamb also adapted the exhibit into a 1936 book in which she explained that "All of these tragedies ... have happened, not because Government officials are incompetent or callous, but because they have no real power to prevent them."

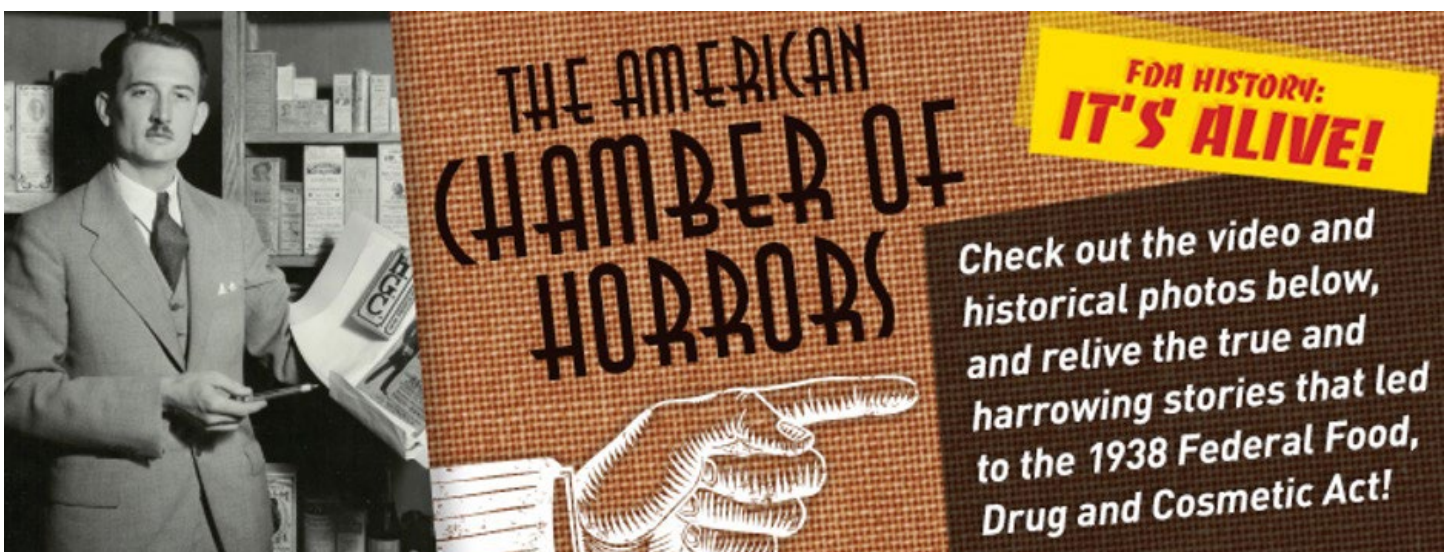
You can learn much more about the early history of the FDA and see examples of the American Chamber of Horrors at:

www.flickr.com/photos/fdaphotos/albums/72157696265674121/

www.fda.gov/about-fda/histories-product-regulation/american-chamber-horrors

and

www.fda.gov/about-fda/fda-history-exhibits/80-years-federal-food-drug-and-cosmetic-act





The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Federalist Calendar

Nov 9-12, 2023. History of Science Society. Annual Meeting. Portland, OR. hsonline.org/page/futurepastmeetings

Jan 4-7, 2024. American Historical Association. Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA. www.historians.org/annual-meeting

Mar 8-9, 2024. African American Intellectual History Society. Charlottesville, VA. <https://www.aaihs.org/conference-2024-general-information>

Apr 3-7, 2024. American Society for Environmental History. Denver, CO. <https://aseh.org>

Apr 10-13, 2024. National Council on Public History. Annual Conference. Salt Lake City, UT. ncph.org/future-meetings

Apr 11-14, 2024. Organization of American Historians. Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA. www.oah.org/meetings-events/future-annual-meetings

Apr 18-21, 2024. Society for Military History. Annual Conference. Arlington, VA. smh-hq.org/conf/futuremeetings.html

May 9-12, 2024. American Association for the History of Medicine. Kansas City, KS. <https://www.histmed.org/meetings>

May 30-31, 2024. Society for History in the Federal Government. Washington, DC. <https://shfg.wildapricot.org/Annual-Meeting>

Jun 6-8, 2024. Agricultural History Society. “Borderlands, Marginal Spaces, and Agriculture in Between.” Las Cruces, NM. <https://www.aghistorysociety.org/2024-meeting>

Jun 13-15, 2024. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. Toronto, Canada. <https://members.shaftr.org/annual-meetings>

Jun 19-22, 2024. Society for Civil War Historians. Raleigh, NC. <https://scwh.memberclicks.net>

Jun 27-30, 2024. World History Association. San Francisco, CA. <https://www.thewha.org>

Jun 27-Jul 2, 2024. American Library Association. San Diego, CA. <https://www.ala.org/conferenceseventsw/node/7>

Jul 9-14, 2024. Society for the History of Technology. Vina de Mar, Chile. <https://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual-meeting/>

Jul 18-21, 2024. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. Philadelphia, PA. www.shear.org/future-conferences

Aug 1-4, 2024. Society of American Archivists. Chicago, IL. <https://www2.archivists.org/am2024>

Sep 11-14, 2024. American Association for State and Local History. Mobile, AL. <https://www.aaslh.org/annualconference/2024-annual-conference>