

BRIG. GEN. CARL W. REDDEL DELIVERS HEWLETT LECTURE AT SHFG ANNUAL DINNER



Brig. Gen. Carl W. Reddel (USAF, Ret.), Executive Director of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, delivered the Hewlett Lecture on October 11, 2007, at the Society's annual dinner. About 70 members attended the event, held at the historic Army-Navy Club in Washington, DC. The Hewlett Lecture is named in honor of

Dr. Richard Hewlett, retired historian of the Atomic Energy Commission and co-founder of the Society for History in the Federal Government. General Reddel spoke on the Eisenhower Memorial Commission's efforts to build a memorial to President Dwight D. Eisenhower near the national mall in Washington, DC.

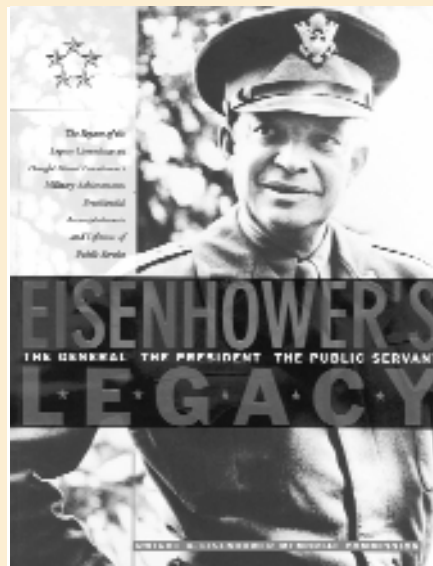
General Reddel studied at the Institute for the Study of the U.S.S.R. in Munich, and researched at the U.S. Army Russian Institute in Garmisch and at Moscow State University. He received his undergraduate education at Drake University, and completed graduate studies at the Maxwell School at Syracuse University (M.A.) and Indiana University (Ph.D.). Formerly a professor of history and senior Russian specialist at the U.S. Air Force Academy, he founded the Academy's Area Studies Council and chaired the Slavic

and East European Studies Group. He also chaired a governmental interservice/agency curriculum review of the Russian-language program at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. In 1999, he became president and CEO of the Eisenhower World Affairs Institute in Washington, DC. Currently, General Reddel serves as Executive Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, located on K Street in Washington, DC. Commission and executive committee members include chairman Rocco Siciliano, former president of the Eisenhower World Affairs Institute, Senators Daniel Inouye, Ted Stevens, Jack Reed, and Pat Roberts, as well as

Representatives Dennis Moore, Leonard Boswell, and Jerry Moran. David Eisenhower, grandson of the president, also serves on the Commission.

In his address to Society members, General Reddel discussed the "how, when, and where" of the planned Eisenhower Memorial. The United States Congress created the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission and charged it to "consider and formulate plans for such a permanent memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower, including its nature, design, construction, and location" (PL 106-79). In 2002, the Commission assembled a panel of experts, the

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by
Bill Williams

It's a busy season for the Society—and I'd like to thank all of you who have volunteered your time and talent to help SHFG function. It does make a difference!

I'm not sure, though, that everyone understands the wide variety of activities that the Society has underway. Some of them are highly visible, but others that are just as important to the success of the organization are not as well known.

Among the most visible aspects of the Society—at least for those in the Washington, DC, area—are the three times during the year when membership gets together. The Hewlett Lecture, now held annually at the Army and Navy Club, draws a large crowd each October for drinks, dinner, and a presentation by a leading scholar or government official in the field of federal history. Our December holiday reception at the National Archives on Pennsylvania Avenue also draws a large crowd—an opportunity to socialize with other members and enjoy free food and wine! Our annual meeting, which next year will be on March 13 at the National Archives at College Park, is our biggest event of the year and typically draws well over a hundred folks. Perhaps the best-known aspect of the Society's activities in the historical community at large is our prestigious awards program, which is the highlight of the annual meeting's luncheon.

Our quarterly newsletter, *The Federalist*, is the single best source for keeping up with developments across the federal history community. I've learned a lot from reading the many fine articles in each issue, and the "Making History" section has become the place to learn about

what's happening in a wide variety of federal history programs. Another Society publication—produced online—is the monthly *SHFG Bulletin*, which has long been "required reading" for me. I don't know how I could find out so much about federal history activities without *The Federalist* and the *Bulletin*.

Beyond these well-known events and publications, however, there's also a lot going on. The Society, for example, is sponsoring a panel discussion on careers in federal history at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Washington, DC, in January. A similar session a couple of years ago, at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, drew a large and highly interested crowd. SHFG is also sponsoring a listserv discussion network and web site on H-Net called H-FedHist, which will provide a dynamic forum for discussion of issues related to federal history. And the Society is also working with the National Coalition for History to publicize and promote the importance of federal history programs.

SHFG is placing special emphasis this year on improving what might be called our "infrastructure." We're reworking our web site (www.shfg.org) to make it more user-friendly and current. We're improving the way we track our membership and will be publishing a new membership directory (an incredibly useful reference for contacting others in the federal history community). We're taking steps to organize the SHFG archives and make them more useful to members seeking information about the Society and its activities in the past (and if anyone should learn from the past, it's we historians!).

We're also exploring how we might revive very useful products the Society produced in previous years, such as the popular *Guide to Federal History Programs* and the high-quality *Occasional Papers*.

All of this, along with every other SHFG activity, is accomplished through the efforts of volunteers. If any of the above activities sound like they might be of interest to you, please send me—or any of the SHFG officers listed

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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, continued from page 2

below—an e-mail message (my address is billwms50@gmail.com), or give one of us a call (my number is 301-688-2336). We're also looking for any good ideas you might have on how SHFG can be more successful. We appreciate all the help we can get to make the Society an organization that is as useful and valuable to its members as possible.

Finally, please consider the possibility of running for office in SHFG's 2008 elections. Our nominating committee is always looking for a few good men and women to lead the organization into the future. If you'd like to take on this challenging and rewarding work (which can also be a bit of fun!), please let Dave Waltrap, the nominating committee's chair, know. Dave can be reached at davidwaltrap@aol.com.

SHFG ANNUAL DINNER, continued from page 1

"Eisenhower Legacy Committee," to help in the planning of the memorial. Historian Louis Galambos leads the committee. As approved in September of 2006, the memorial will be located on a 4-acre site across from the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, on Independence Avenue, between 4th and 6th Streets SW. Currently, the commission is at work in the pre-design stage of the project, interviewing historians, Eisenhower colleagues, and family members, to inform the design of the monument and eventual interpretation of the site to the public. The physical design of the site has not yet been determined, but the memorial will focus on Eisenhower's role as public servant and will most likely take the form of a monument rather than a building or museum. When complete, the National Park Service will manage and maintain the site. For more information, see the Commission's recent report, *Eisenhower's Legacy: The General, the President, the Public Servant*, produced by the Eisenhower Legacy Committee, available online at www.eisenhowermemorial.org.

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *The Federalist* brings to a close my service as co-editor. I wish to thank my colleagues Ben Guterman, John Roberts, and John Lonnquest for their many helpful suggestions and careful proofreading over the past four years. Beginning with the winter issue, Terrance Rucker, Historical Writer and Researcher, House of Representatives Office of History and Preservation, will assume my co-editor position.

—Betty K. Koed, Senate Historical Office

SHFG OFFICERS 2007–2008**PRESIDENT: BILL WILLIAMS**

Bill Williams is the Chief of the Center for Cryptologic History at the National Security Agency. He earned his Ph.D. in history at the University of Washington in Seattle. An Air Force intelligence officer, he spent 7 years on the faculty of the History Department at the United States Air Force Academy, where he was a Senior Associate Professor and Deputy Department Head. In 2005 he retired from the Air Force, after 30 years of military service, with the rank of Colonel.

VICE PRESIDENT: LEE ANN POTTER

Lee Ann Potter is the head of education and volunteer programs at the National Archives. She leads a team that develops educational publications based on archival documents, conducts a wide range of courses on teaching with documents, and serves on several interagency education committees. Prior to her start at NARA in 1996, she worked for the Smithsonian, and before that, she taught U.S. History and World Geography for six years at a large public high school in Houston, Texas.

SECRETARY: ANNE ROTHFELD

Anne Rothfeld is archivist/historian at the History of Medicine Division (HMD) at the National Library of Medicine. She has worked at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Archives and Records Administration. She is currently a doctoral student in European history at American University. Anne serves for the second time as the Society's Secretary, and looks forward to working with the membership to expand the Society's mission.

TREASURER: PETER KRAEMER

Peter Kraemer joined the Office of the Historian of the U.S. Department of State in 2004 as a historian in its Europe and Global Issues Division. He is an editor/compiler of the State Department's *Foreign Relations of the United States* documentary history series, specializing in transatlantic relations, cultural diplomacy, and national security policy. He received a Ph.D. in history and American Studies from Indiana University, where he served as an editorial assistant at the *Journal of American History*.

MEMBERSHIP: JULIETTE ARAI

Juliette Arai, a graduate of the College of Library and Information Services at the University of Maryland in College Park, is currently a reference archivist specializing in old army records at the National Archives. Previously, she worked as an archivist/records manager for five years for a Capitol Hill senator's office.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**ELIZABETH BOLAND**

Beth Boland is a National Park Service (NPS) historian in its Heritage Education Services Office, managing the Teaching with Historic Places Program (TwHP) and developing policies to coordinate and promote NPS educational products. Previously, she spent over 30 years with the National Register of Historic Places, evaluating and registering historic places and developing historic preservation standards and guidance. She has served on a number of boards and committees with various professional organizations, including SHFG.

KATHLEEN FRANZ

Kathleen Franz is Assistant Professor and Director of Public History at American University, where she teaches courses in public history, material and visual culture, and popular culture. She holds an M.A. in museum studies and Ph.D. in American civilization from Brown University. She is author of *Tinkering: Consumers Reinvent the Early Automobile* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005) and curator of "Macaulay: The Art of Drawing Architecture" (National Building Museum through January 21, 2008).

BENJAMIN GUTERMAN

Benjamin Guterman received a Ph.D. in Early American History from the University of Maryland, and an M.A. in history from San Francisco State University. He has been an adjunct instructor in early American history at University of Maryland and George Mason University. An editor at the National Archives for 12 years, he works on the agency's history journal, *Prologue*, documentary microfilm publications, and numerous and diverse finding aids. He is a co-editor of *The Federalist*.

RICHARD W. PEUSER

Richard "Rick" W. Peuser has been with the National Archives since 1988. He is Assistant Chief for the Archives II Textual Reference unit. His publications include "Documenting United States Naval Activities During the Spanish-American War" (*Prologue*, Spring 1998); "The Steel Navy" (*Cobblestone*, May 1999); contributing author to *Historical Dictionary of the Spanish-American War* (Greenwood Press, 1997); contributing author to *Naval Warfare: An International Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2002); and "Cold Mountain's Inman: Fact Versus Fiction" (*Prologue*, Summer 2004).

CHANGES AT THE NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

By Timothy Naftali

Major changes are underway at the new *federal* Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, California, and College Park, Maryland. Scholars and the general public have already seen new materials opened thanks to a partnership between the federal government and the private Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation, which owns many of President Nixon's pre- and post-presidential documents, photographs, and films. The next several years will see a flood of new documents and White House tapes released, as well as other major developments that will transform the scholarly understanding of the Nixon era.

On the evening of July 10, 2007, Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein and Don Bendetti, the chairman of the board of the private Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation, signed a joint operating agreement and other documents officially transferring the facilities of the private Nixon foundation in Yorba Linda to the federal government. The next morning, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) officially opened the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, the nation's 12th federal presidential library.

The signing ceremony and the opening of the Nixon Library marked the end of lengthy negotiations between the federal government and the Nixon foundation. In 1990, the Nixon foundation opened the private Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace in Yorba Linda, California. The private Nixon library, funded by friends and supporters of Richard Nixon, was the only modern presidential library outside of the NARA system, which now includes a library for each president from Herbert Hoover through William J. Clinton.

The private Nixon library was also the only presidential library not to include the official papers of its president. Following Nixon's departure from office on August 9, 1974, the federal government took possession of his official papers and other materials. In accordance with the



Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, Yorba Linda, CA.

1974 Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act (PRMPA), the Nixon materials were held by the National Archives in the Washington metropolitan area for processing, release, and safekeeping.

Decades of complicated litigation and negotiation followed the passage of PRMPA, delaying releases of the recordings of President Nixon's conversations and other materials. The private Nixon library was established during this period after a lengthy search for a suitable location. Although the National Archives lent some artifacts to the private library's museum, the official presidential papers remained in NARA facilities around Washington (in the old Pickett Street location in Virginia and then in the Archives II facility in College Park).

Accordingly, the private library's archives, which opened in 1994, contained only President Nixon's pre- and post-presidential papers, as well as collections donated to the Nixon foundation by longtime associates. (Nixon's vice presidential papers, which he donated to the federal government during his first term as president, were maintained in the National Archives facility in Laguna Niguel, California.) Researchers probing into President Nixon's life and career, therefore, had to visit three separate sites to use the materials.

The opening of the federal Nixon Library will soon change that situation forever. The Nixon foundation has

agreed to seek funding to build an addition to the Library in Yorba Linda to hold the 42 million pages of presidential papers, hundreds of thousands of still photographs, and thousands of hours of film in the Nixon presidential materials collection. Once the addition is finished, those holdings will be moved from the Library's branch in College Park to its location in Yorba Linda, unifying the Nixon materials. (The vice-presidential materials have already been moved from Laguna Niguel to Yorba Linda.)

The control and ownership of those materials will also be unified over the next several years. The Nixon foundation has expressed its intent to donate much of its pre- and post-presidential holdings to the federal government. In the meantime, federal archivists will serve materials that have already been opened by the private foundation to researchers. Nixon Library archivists also are working with the permission of the private foundation to process closed Nixon foundation-owned materials for release to the public in advance of deeds of gift.

In that spirit, the Nixon foundation allowed Library archivists to work on three collections of previously closed materials in advance of the July 2007 transfer of control. As a result of the long litigation over the Nixon presidential materials, approximately 78,000 pages of primarily presidential documents related to Nixon's personal life and political career were physically returned to the Nixon estate in the late 1980s. Library archivists worked with the Nixon foundation to open those materials on July 11. They have since attracted attention from scholars and from major media outlets, including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *Slate* magazine. We are grateful to the Nixon foundation for their assistance in processing these documents. In addition, on July 11, the Nixon foundation deeded an extensive collection of material from the Committee to Re-Elect the President, which will be processed over the next few years.

At the same time, the Nixon foundation deeded to the government the recordings of President Nixon's political conversations in the White House, in the Executive Office Building, and at Camp David. Those conversations, which total approximately 800 hours, will be integrated into the already released tapes from February 1971 through October 1972. Future releases of the remaining recordings will include the deeded materials. The release of 117 hours of White House tapes on July 11 was the first to reflect the Nixon foundation's gift of these materials. Only purely personal parts of these conversations will remain closed under the terms of the deed of gift.

To deliver on the new Library's commitment to openness and transparency, we are developing a processing plan that will lead to regular major releases of materials even before the two collections are united in Yorba Linda.

The processing of the Nixon tapes is our top priority, with textual materials close behind.

We are also working on other significant projects. Just days after its July opening, the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda became the first fully wireless building in the National Archives system. And since last November, we have conducted nearly 40 filmed oral-history interviews with former Nixon administration officials and others who were prominent in the era, such as Lamar Alexander, Frank Carlucci, Barbara Hackman Franklin, Al Haig, John Kerry, Melvin Laird, Charles Rangel, and George Shultz. These video interviews will form the basis for our changes to the Library's museum, which will be remade into a non-partisan, multimedia, and interactive presentation of a 360-degree view of the Nixon presidency and the life and times of Richard Nixon.

Working at the Nixon Library is not an easy job, but it's a great job. At times, it is even fun. We have made great strides already, and are preparing to make even bigger ones. Every day, we work to preserve and open materials to ensure as full and transparent a record of the Nixon administration as possible. Now, almost 40 years after Richard Nixon swore to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution as president, it is time that we make a final push to make sure that the public has the tools with which to better understand this complex president and the times in which he lived.

Timothy Naftali is the Director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, CA.

SHFG CALL FOR PAPERS

The Society for History in the Federal Government is now accepting proposals for individual papers or panels on any aspect of federal government history. The Society welcomes submissions from historians, graduate students, archivists, librarians, curators, and others engaged in the study of federal government history, regardless of whether or not they are federal employees. The annual meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, MD. The deadline for proposals is December 1, 2007. Please mail proposals to: 2008 Program Committee, Society for History in the Federal Government, Box 14139, Ben Franklin Station Washington, DC, 20044, or contact the 2008 Program Committee at shfgannualconference@yahoo.com.

CREATING EXHIBITS THAT MATTER

By Harry R. Rubenstein

It has been a little over 10 years since museums found themselves in the center of a media firestorm that challenged the way they planned and produced exhibitions. This was particularly true of history museums that were preparing exhibitions that were critical of the nation's past or that focused on topics dealing with current social and political issues. Today, public institutions are still struggling with the consequences of the so-called "Culture Wars" of the 1990s and the continuing uncertainty about how to proceed.

History museums were surprisingly slow to recognize the huge hurdles they faced in presenting topics that can be seen as questioning the actions of the larger society. American museums, especially history museums, had been created mostly to celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of the nation, particular groups, or individuals. Once history museums moved away from "cabinets of curiosities," part of their mission, if not their entire mission, had been to uplift their visitors with a sense of civic pride. As more public money was directed to them, often such funding was tied to a growing aim to teach basic values of civics and good citizenship.

Both public and private funders were committed to the idea that visitors should leave a history museum proud of your leading citizen's accomplishments, an idea that is still largely held, if not expressed. One of the National Museum of American History's largest donors repeatedly states that he wants people to leave the museum with tears in their eyes. He wants them to be proud to be an American. So how can museums make everyone feel proud, if they are always pointing out the negative, those pesky little topics like racism, slavery, exploitation, white supremacy, imperialism, and sexism, to name just a few? One way that exhibitions have dealt with this has been to celebrate the struggle for social justice and largely ignore the groups or individuals they are fighting against, hoping that no one will notice that they are often fighting against the same people being praised in the gallery next door.

We have all been to (and many of us have worked in) museums in which one gallery features an exhibition on how enslaved blacks fought for their freedom, next to displays on the brilliant and creative Thomas Jefferson, or another on how brave workers were battling industry goons while down the hall the wonderful Henry Ford was providing everyone with a Model T. All too often there are only heroes in museums. This has proven to be very convenient but not really very good history. Also, museums often deal with issues in the past as if these subjects have been resolved. It is common

to talk about civil rights movements in the 1960s but ignore what is happening today.

These issues for museums, while not new, are actually not that old. In 1966, at the annual American Association of Museums conference, Keith Melder presented a paper titled "American Social Issues and Historical Museums." He argued that "historical museums should rise above their conservative origins and incorporate into their exhibition and research programs some of the significant and dramatic social issues that have enlivened American History." Specifically, this meant focusing on topics such as what was then called Negro history, antislavery, feminism, poverty, social work, the history of labor organizations, education, and immigration. Melder remembers the audience response as somewhat baffled, but clearly his impulse to link museum work to the activism of the times was shared by some and slowly took root in museums around the country.

By the mid-1970s and early 1980s, presenting challenging social history became the main thrust of many museums' programs. Any history museum worth its salt, or an NEH grant, combined a thriving museum exhibition program with a commitment to challenge visitors' views on American history and the world around them. Across the country, museums mounted shows that examined race relations, urban decay, and environmental problems. Historic plantations began to present the history of slavery, and industrial museums included the experiences of workers and unions. For a while, the National Museum of American History received more requests for loans of KKK robes to go into shows on racism than it did for George Washington relics.

With the Culture Wars of the 1990s, not only was the well-publicized Enola Gay exhibition at the National Air and Space Museum called into question, but countless others were quietly canceled. These attacks directly challenged the right of museums to participate in the social and political debates of the day. For museum curators and administrators, it seemed that all attempts at social history resulted in accusations of promoting a hidden political agenda. The exhibition schedules that appeared so promising to many in the museum profession suddenly were in jeopardy. It became clear that museum curators had lost the confidence of not only some members of the public, but also of museum administrators, board members, and public and private donors.

Many critics claimed that the problem was not that the topics were taboo, but rather the way museums presented them. The critics claimed there was arrogance in the tone

and approach of the shows—that, in effect, public institutions had wrongfully used their position to promote social and political positions. Instead of encouraging dialogue, museums marginalized differing perspectives and groups.

It is safe to say that the Culture Wars of the 1990s sent a chill through the museum world, especially those that rely on public funds. While some museums have retreated from what they consider to be controversial exhibitions, others have found creative ways to counter external pressures and self-censorship and continue to produce a series of very challenging exhibitions. Rather than believing that public institutions no longer have a role in discussing relevant issues, some wondered what would happen if they took the critics at their word and seriously responded to their complaints.

While there is certainly no single, correct way to develop exhibitions, let me very briefly outline an approach that we took first on an exhibition on American sweatshops that was co-curated with Peter Liebhold while we were still in the heat of the debate in 1997, and more recently an exhibition on *Brown v. Board of Education* for the 50th anniversary in 2004 that was co-curated with Alonzo Smith.

First and foremost, we realized that if we were to succeed, we needed to establish widespread support both inside and outside the Smithsonian Institution. The recent history of similar public history endeavors was clear. For large, visible projects, good work by itself was not enough to sustain a project under assault from influential interest groups who often simply did not want the topic discussed.

For the sweatshop exhibition, we established from the outset a political campaign to defend the exhibition by seeking the support of museum administrators, reporters, government officials, and community leaders. By the time the California Fashion Association, a large trade organization, declared that they intended “to turn this exhibit into another Enola Gay,” the project had developed a strong network of defenders who had already voiced their backing for the project. In response to this threat, Congressman George Miller organized a petition drive in Congress in which 43 congressmen defended the exhibition.

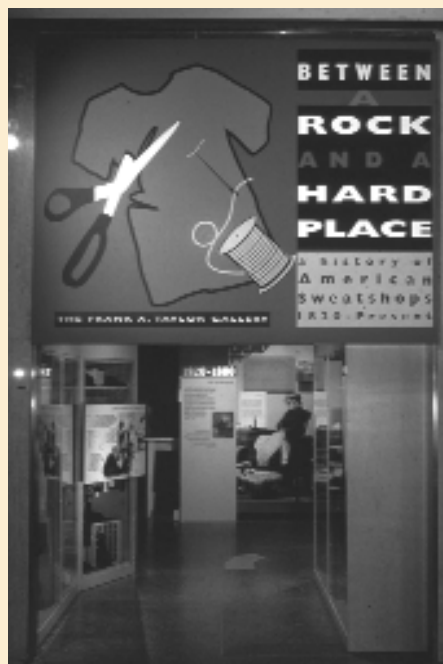
For the *Brown v. Board of Education* exhibition, we worked with community representatives from the five case communities, and those institutions that each played a key role, most notably the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Legal Defense & Education Fund (LDF), Howard University, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Justice and Education Departments.

In producing these types of projects, community outreach cannot be over emphasized. For both projects we devoted as much as 50 percent of our time to reaching out and getting advice and support from individuals, groups, and organizations associated with the history in one way or the other. While I strongly believe that no one owns history, it is important to understand that certain groups are more directly affected by historical interpretation. Their concerns cannot be dismissed.

For both exhibitions, it was very important to have large groups of outside advisors who were engaged in the subject participate in the project. The challenge was to manage these advisors. A lesson learned from the Enola Gay exhibition and other projects is that a distance must be maintained with those who have a vested interest in the interpretation of the exhibition, especially if you want to include antagonistic groups in these shows. For both exhibitions, we were very conscious of the criticism that museums were sometimes coming across as “preachy.” Wherever possible, we toned down language and let strong objects and graphics carry the story. Additionally, exhibitions too often make broad generalizations, which visitors are asked to accept on good faith. If museums are

going to challenge visitors’ preconceived notions of history, then curators need to explain how they are substantiating their statements. While traditional footnotes are too cumbersome for most exhibitions, when we presented uncomfortable or disputed information we included primary source material, such as contemporary quotes, documents, or alternate references.

As we dealt with contemporary issues, increasingly we tried to let the voice of the participants carry much of the story in the exhibitions. For example, rather than presenting



Exhibition entrance and artifacts from the El Monte sweatshop displayed in *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: A History of American Sweatshops, 1820–Present*.



Entrance to *Separate is Not Equal: Brown v. Board of Education, NMAH, May 2004 – September 2006*.

with a curatorial voice, we produced and used two short videos. In the case of the sweatshop exhibition, El Monte workers described their experiences in an LA slave shop that was raided in 1995. For the Brown exhibition, contemporary activists talked about the state of civil rights today in relation to the Brown decision.

Most agree that these are still difficult times in which to present public history. Institutions can be vulnerable if they do not lay the proper groundwork and are not well prepared to address critics. Museums rely on public trust. They risk losing this trust if they approach controversial topics without

thoughtful planning. Yet, they should never forget that they also risk this trust if they do too little and retreat from being relevant and valuable institutions for their communities—a trend that I am sorry to say is what many museums are following.

(Note: This article was adapted from a paper presented at the 2007 Annual Conference of the Society for History in the Federal Government.)

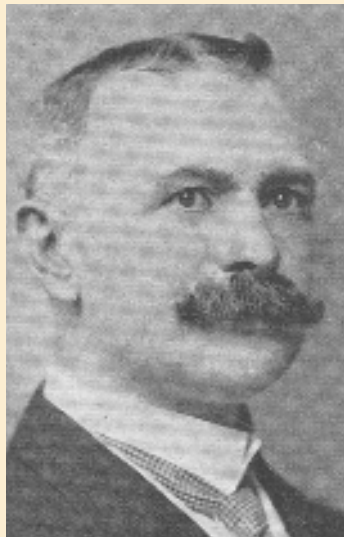
Harry R. Rubenstein is Chair of the Division of Politics and Reform, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History.

AN EARLY VICTIM OF ANTHRAX

By Joe Wallace

On October 8, 1921, former Congressman Michael Francis Farley (D-NY) stumbled in pain into the emergency room at Bellevue Hospital in New York City. Six hours later, he was dead at age 56. The one-term congressman from the 14th Congressional District of New York had contracted a virulent form of anthrax not two days earlier. What first appeared to be a pimple on his chin that Thursday afternoon quickly spread to his neck and face, followed by swelling coupled with tremendous pain. Dr. Douglas Symers, Chief Pathologist at Bellevue and an expert on anthrax, administered a series of injections of an anti-anthrax serum. Unfortunately, Farley's condition had progressed to the point where he did not respond to the antidote. Michael F. Farley was not the victim of an act of terrorism. Rather, he was the victim of a contaminated shaving brush—a victim of anthrax!

Anthrax, or *bacillus anthracis*, is a deadly bacteria that is most commonly found in wild or domestic animals. Humans may also contract the bacteria through contact with infected animals or through the spores created by the microorganisms. These spores are capable of resisting outside conditions such as strong heat or cold. They can stay dormant, living in the hair or hides of the dead animals for extended periods of time. One of the earliest names for anthrax was “wool pickers” disease or “wool sorters” disease, because it was thought to only affect people working in these trades. The bacteria were isolated as early as 1850, and by 1881 an inoculation was being tested on farm animals. By the early 1900s, a serum had been developed that



Representative Michael F. Farley (D-NY)

was safe for humans, but was reported to have many serious side effects. It wasn't until 1970 that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a pure anthrax vaccine for use in humans.

Throughout the early 20th century, America received regular shipments of horsehair from Japan, China, and Russia, principally from Siberia, to be used for shaving brushes—the cheap kind, that is. When it became apparent that there was a chance of anthrax contamination in the hair, the United States Public Health Service, manufacturers and importers, and the United States Department of Health began to crack down on these shipments, eventually driving out of business manufacturers of lower-quality shaving brushes. Dr. S. Dana Hubbard, Chief of the Division of

Industrial Hygiene for the Department of Health, at one time barred 10,000 shaving brushes from entering the U.S. from Japan on the grounds that they were infected with anthrax. Hundreds of tons of horsehair sent from Siberia were also turned away by the Department of Health. In the 19 months preceding Michael Farley's death, 34 people contracted anthrax in New York City, 20 of the cases being shaving-brush related. Eleven of the victims died.

Farley's death prompted a warning from Dr. Copeland of Bellevue Hospital, asking “all shavers in this city” to use only brushes marked “sterilized,” or to use brushes made with badger hair, which had always been known to be free of the deadly germ. The New York Board of Health also ordered an investigation following Farley's death, attempting to track down the origin and manufacturer of

the infected brush. It was determined that the brush came from “outside the city.”

Congressman Farley’s sudden, bizarre death illustrates an interesting contrast between two time periods with, of all things, anthrax as the common denominator. A mere 85 years ago, a member of Congress could innocently enough sign his own death sentence by fatefully choosing the wrong shaving brush. Today, with security as tight as it is,

you’d be hard pressed to enter the United States Capitol with a tube of Chap Stick. Both the shaving brush from 1921 and the Chap Stick from 2007 could have the potential for something deadly. The main difference being, these days, if something contains a virulent form of anthrax, it was more than likely placed there intentionally.

Joe Wallace is research assistant in the House of Representatives Office of History and Preservation.

THE BEGINNING OF THE SMITHSONIAN’S NEWEST MUSEUM

By Amy Ballard

On December 16, 2003, Congress enacted Public Law 108-184 to establish the National Museum of African American History and Culture within the Smithsonian Institution. The law stated that the museum “would be dedicated to the collection, preservation, research, and exhibition of African American historical and cultural materials reflecting the breadth and depth of the experience of individuals of African descent living in the United States.” It also allowed for the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian to select the location of the museum from four sites: the Arts and Industries Building; the area bounded by Constitution Avenue, Madison Drive and 14th and 15th Streets NW; the “Liberty Loan” site, located on 14th Street SW at the foot of the 14th Street bridge; and the “Banneker Overlook” site, at 10th Street SW, at the foot of the L’Enfant Plaza Promenade.

As required by law, the Board of Regents consulted with members of Congress, the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Museum of African American History and Culture Plan for Action Presidential Commission, as well as the District of Columbia mayor, on the site selection. It also solicited comments from the public. After reviewing an in-depth analysis of each site, the Board of Regents selected the “Monument Site, bounded by 14th and 15th Streets, Madison Drive and Constitution Avenue,” on January 30, 2006.

Shortly after the site selection, the Smithsonian began to undertake two regulatory processes: (1) an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and (2) Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to assess what effects and impacts the construction of the new facility would have on the National Mall and other areas of potential effects. The Smithsonian is conducting both processes in parallel so that the information from

each can inform the other. Since there was no detailed architectural program for the fledgling new museum, the Smithsonian determined that a range of 350,000 gross square feet (gsf) to 450,000 gsf would handle the needs of the museum (similar in size to the National Museum of the American Indian at 443,000 gsf).

The Smithsonian is not a federal agency and is considered a trust instrumentality of the United States government (the Secretary of the Smithsonian is not a presidential appointee and is selected by the Board of Regents of the Institution). In his will, the Smithsonian’s founder, James Smithson, stated: “I bequeath the whole of my property . . . to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.” Because of its unique status, the Institution is not required to conduct Section 106 reviews of its design and construction projects unless a project requires review and approval by the National Capital Planning Commission as required by Public Law 108-72, the Smithsonian Facilities Authorization Act.

Under the guidance of the Smithsonian, with the National Capital Planning Commission as a joint-lead agency and the National Park Service as a cooperating agency, the Louis Berger Group was contracted to develop the EIS and analyze the historic resources that might be impacted by the erection of the museum on the monument site in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Smithsonian and the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office discussed possible consulting parties for Section 106 review and included them in a series of meetings to seek their input on the site analysis and the effects to the Smithsonian’s newly acquired property (transferred by the National Park Service in May 2006) that a new structure might have. Some of these consulting parties are: the

National Coalition to Save Our Mall, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, the Committee of 100, and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

An important component of Section 106 for the identification of historic resources was a complete archaeological survey of the site. This survey was conducted by archaeologist Charlie LeeDecker of the Louis Berger Group.

Mr. LeeDecker began his survey by examining early maps, studies, and other data located in archives throughout Washington, including the Library of Congress and the Gelman Library at George Washington University. After this extensive research, shovel tests were conducted of the site as part of the Phase I field survey. The analysis of the soil revealed that part of the site contained a preserved natural landscape and an early 19th-century landscape surface created by the extension of the canal within Tiber Creek. The few artifacts that were found included brick rubble from the temporary buildings erected in the mid-19th century, and some pottery shards.

The Smithsonian decided to conduct a Phase II survey of the site, which involved more in-depth excavation, to learn more about the existing natural landscape and the buildings once on the site. This field work was conducted between late July and mid-August 2007. The increase and diffusion of knowledge is the Smithsonian's mission, and to that end, public tours were held on the site, conducted



Museum Director Lonnie Bunch stands with Kinshasha Holman Conwill, Deputy Director. Standing on the terrace of the National Museum of American History, the site of the new museum is in the background.

by Mr. LeeDecker, and a sign was erected with an explanation of the dig and information about the new museum.

We have yet to see the results of the Phase II work by Mr. LeeDecker. An archaeological finding of significance does not prevent construction but it does involve further consultation on how to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effect. It may also determine that the site itself is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Usually

mitigation is done by complete documentation of the site with retrieval and retention of artifacts, according to professional standards, and making this information available to the public in various ways that might include web sites, publications, and exhibits. There may be no significant findings on the site—in which case, the Smithsonian will still retain what is found on the site for future use in telling the story of the site's history.

This fall the Smithsonian will select an architectural programming team, and later, the architects of the new building. These consultations and research of the site will assist the programming team and the architects in their design of a building that respects the National Mall and its environs and brings a greater understanding of African American culture to its visitors.

Amy Ballard is a historic preservation specialist, Architectural History and Historic Preservation Division, Smithsonian Institution.

LET YOUR MOTTO BE RESISTANCE!

“Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits” is the inaugural exhibition for the Museum of African American History. The images were selected by guest curator Deborah Willis from the collection of the National Portrait Gallery. The theme, African American resistance across 150 years of U.S. history, was inspired by the words of Henry Highland Garnet, an abolitionist and clergyman: “Strike for your lives and liberties...Let your motto be Resistance! Resistance! RESISTANCE!” The photographs in this exhibit reveal and illuminate the variety of creative and courageous ways that African Americans resisted, redefined, and accommodated in an America that needed but rarely accepted its black citizens. For information, see: <http://nmaahc.si.edu/>.

SECRETS OF A PUBLIC BUILDING: 1951 CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW, WASHINGTON, DC

By Hunter Hollins

The stately and elegant building at 1951 Constitution Avenue NW, known as “Interior South” and home to the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Surface Mining and other offices, was designed by architect Jules Henri de Sibour (1872–1938) as an administrative building to house the United States Public Health Service and the Surgeon General. Construction began 1931, and the building was completed in 1933. Sibour was a very well-known and connected architect. He created some of the most glamorous residences and embassies in Washington, DC, in addition to the Chevy Chase and University Clubs, and the McCormick Apartment House, which now houses the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He was known for his mastery of the Beaux-Arts style of design during Washington’s period of affluence from 1900 through the 1920s.

While 1951 Constitution Avenue NW was created for the United States Public Health Service, the bulk of its interesting history is set by the events of World War II. In 1939, soon after the start of the war in Europe, the United States government began its study of the possibility of creating an atomic weapon. As early as the summer of 1941, the National Academy of Science was working on two reports promoting the possibility of an atomic bomb to the new Office of Scientific Research and Development. This Office was funded by the Executive Branch and contained the Section on Uranium or “S-1,” the secret group responsible for presenting the president with the facts regarding the creation of the atomic bomb. In the fall of 1941, work was conducted at various sites including Syracuse, New York, and Columbia University. These two groups were consolidated into what was called the Manhattan Engineer District in New York City. Col. Leslie R. Groves took charge of the entire atomic project in May of 1942, once the Army Corps of Engineers became involved with the construction engineering of the new facilities for enriched uranium production. Groves was made brigadier general six days after taking on his new responsibilities, and in September of 1942 he moved the Manhattan Engineer District to the government’s secret and secure building at 1951 Constitution Ave NW.

The building was secret and secure because it already housed the newly formed Combined Chiefs of Staff (the highest level military leaders from Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the USA). When President Franklin



Roosevelt met with Prime Minister Winston Churchill following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, the two realized the need to coordinate military forces, and Roosevelt agreed to have 1951 Constitution Avenue NW serve as a nerve center for the war. Declassified military documents from February of 1942 describe meetings that took place in the “United States Public Health Building.” The Combined Chiefs of Staff met 20 times from January 23 through May 19, 1942, in what was termed the Post-Acadia Conference. The building was outfitted with the most cutting-edge technology for communications and presentations. The conference room had a curved steel map of the world approximately 20 feet long with overhead projectors that could project the current states of weather, shipping, and the flow of raw materials and manpower. Officers from the Allied Armies continued to hold offices in the building through 1947, and the D-Day invasion of Europe was planned there. Gen. George C. Marshall, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, for the Combined Chiefs of Staff, was also a member of S-1, and one of possibly only three people (the others being President Roosevelt and Secretary of War Henry Stimson) who knew of both the work on the atomic bomb and the impending invasion of Europe.

To accommodate the Manhattan Engineer District scientists, an additional wooden structure was constructed on the building’s roof. This structure was protected by armed guards 24 hours a day. In December of 1942, President Roosevelt approved the initial \$500 million budget for the

creation of the atomic bomb, and the race truly began. To create the atomic bomb in time to assist in the war effort, three different scientific approaches were undertaken at full speed. These efforts took place at three secret facilities, including Oakridge, Tennessee, Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Hanford, Washington, with the headquarters on the roof of 1951 Constitution Avenue NW. During the height of activity in 1943, this top-secret government project had the equivalent physical plant, payroll, and labor force of the entire American automobile industry of the day, with almost 130,000 employees, many not even knowing the goal of the project they were working on. In the summer of 1943, the main headquarters of the Manhattan Project was moved to Tennessee, but a small office remained at 1951 Constitution Avenue NW to communicate with the Executive Office.

On April 12, 1945, President Roosevelt died and Vice President Harry Truman became President of the United States. The vice president had never been told of the work being done to create an atomic bomb. The S-1 was called in to brief him on the history, science, and military use of the project. Three months later, the first atomic bomb was exploded above the New Mexico desert, and the atomic age began. Later that summer, on August 6, the first atomic bomb used in war was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. With no surrender from the Japanese, Nagasaki was hit three days later. On August 14, Japan surrendered. The Combined Chiefs of Staff and the Manhattan Project continued to operate at 1951 Constitution Avenue NW, although without as much secrecy, until 1947. That year, the Combined Chiefs of Staff was disbanded and the Manhattan Project was placed in civilian hands under the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). The AEC continued to operate from the building until 1958, followed by the National Academy of Science, which remained in the building until 1965.

In 1965, the Department of the Interior took over the building to house the Bureau of Indian Affairs. On November 3, 1972, Native American activists barricaded themselves in the building to protest the treatment of Indians. The protest continued for seven days, during which the interior of the building was severely damaged. The building underwent extensive renovation in 1977, including the demolition of the Manhattan Project roof structure, to prepare for its current tenant, the Office of Surface Mining. As demolition continued from day to day, employees and visitors collected scraps of building material—mementos of the building's colorful history.

Hunter Hollins is Coordinator of Museum Services, Department of the Interior.

MAKING HISTORY

AIR NATIONAL GUARD HISTORY OFFICE

Charles J. Gross, Ph.D., Chief, Air National Guard History, completed and published (electronically) in June 2007 "A Chronological History of the Air National Guard and Its Antecedents, 1908–2007," 206 pages. He also participated in the annual meeting of the Air Force History and Museum Program's Career Development Team during March 27–28, 2007, at the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas, where the senior leaders of the program reviewed the career development plans of over 200 Air Force civilian historians, archivists, and curators and provided written individual assessments and career advice to each of them.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The American Historical Association is gearing up for its 122nd Annual Meeting, to take place in Washington, DC, January 3–6, 2008. AHA and affiliated society sessions will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park, Omni Shoreham Hotel, and the Hilton Washington. Housing (www.historians.org/annual/2008/index.cfm#accommodations) for the meeting is open from September 4 through December 10, 2007. Attendees are also now able to preregister (www.historians.org/annual/2008/index.cfm#registration) for the meeting. Preregistration is available until December 21, 2007, after which time slightly higher on-site rates will be charged.

The AHA's Council has proposed changes to the Association's constitution. AHA Executive Director explains the reasoning behind the changes in her article, "Time for a Change," in the September 2007 *Perspectives*. The proposed changes were also printed in that issue (www.historians.org/Perspectives/issues/2007/0709/0709_aha2.cfm).

The AHA has partnered with The University of Chicago Press to publish the *American Historical Review*. See *Perspectives* for more information.

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

Applications are invited for the 22nd year of the United States Capitol Historical Society Fellowship. This fellowship is designed to support research and publication on the history of the art and architecture of the United States Capitol and related buildings. Graduate students and scholars may apply for periods ranging from one month to one year; the stipend is \$2,000 per month. Applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2008. For further infor-

mation, contact Dr. Barbara Wolanin, Curator, Architect of the Capitol, Washington, DC, 20515, tel. 202-228-1222, or the United States Capitol Historical Society at www.uschs.org.

COUNCIL ON AMERICA'S MILITARY PAST (CAMP)

CAMP will host its 42nd Annual Military History Conference, May 14–18, 2008, at the Red Lion Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT. CAMP is soliciting papers on all American military history subjects but especially on the history of American military installations, ships and planes, and military in the West. Please send proposed topics and a short abstract for a 20-minute talk by January 1, 2008, to CAMP, PO Box 4209, Charlottesville, VA 22905-9900 or contact Dale Floyd at 434-295-2672 or caaponier@aol.com.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC. (HRA)

HRA, a consulting firm that provides expert witness services in environmental, land use, and Native American rights litigation; research services for cultural resource inventory and permitting; compliance with archaeological and historic resources regulations; historic preservation planning; and research and writing of corporate and government history publications, recently underwent an ownership transition. Alan Newell, who founded the corporation in 1974, stated that the current owners have sold their interest to a group of seven senior HRA employees. "Over the past five years, we have been working on a transition plan to keep management and ownership within the company," said Newell. "I'm very pleased that we have been successful in providing this ownership opportunity. We all feel strongly that it will assure that HRA will continue to provide quality services to our clients and continuing employment for our staff."

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

The agency's journal *Quest: The History of Spaceflight Quarterly* seeks articles for its upcoming issues. Contact the editor, Dr. David Arnold, at historyofspace@aol.com.



NASA held its conference titled "Remembering the Space Age" on October 22–23 in Washington, DC. The sessions focused on two general questions: the national and global dimensions of the Space Age, and how its history has been preserved and represented around the world. Presentations investigated archival, film, propaganda, studies, as well as questions of space programs' effects on

national identities, global markets, and satellite communications.

Upcoming publications include *The Wind and Beyond: A Documentary Journey into the History of Aerodynamics in America, Volume II: Reinventing the Airplane*, edited by James R. Hanson, and *Mars Wars: A Policy History of the Space Exploration Initiative*, by Thor N. Hogan.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA)

The latest issue of the agency's quarterly journal, *Prologue*, includes articles on the new Richard Nixon Library, now incorporated into the Presidential library system. See www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/ for selected articles and subscription information.

The exhibit "School House to White House" continues in the Rotunda of the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. It features images, documents, and artifacts of the early years of recent American presidents.

Recent documentary microfilm publications include M1994, *Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served with the United States Colored Troops: Infantry Organizations, 41st Through 46th* [RG 94, 113 rolls], and M1995, *Naturalization Petition and Record Books for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, Cleveland, 1907–1946* [RG 21, 260 rolls].

The new finding aid *The Trans Mississippi West, 1804–1912, Part IV: A Guide to Records of the Department of the Interior for the Territorial Period; Section 3, Records of the General Land Office*, by Robert Kvasnicka, is now available. The General Land Office was the federal agency responsible from 1812 to 1946 for supervising the surveying, management, and disposition of the public domain, and the execution of all laws relating to public lands. The guide surveys textual, cartographic, and photographic documents, providing a detailed picture of how the office accomplished its mission and of the impact of federal government policies on the people and lands of the trans-Mississippi West. The records are an invaluable source of information for environmental and family historians as well as the historians of our nation's westward expansion. Visit www.archives.gov for ordering information.

The revised edition of Reference Information Paper (RIP) 114, *Research in the Land Entry Files of the General Land Office* (formerly GIL 67) is now available. The records described document the transfer of public lands from the United States government to private ownership. Also available is the pamphlet *Finding Information on Personal Participation in World War II*. It describes research paths for locating records of servicemen and

women, but also those who worked in a civilian capacity for the U.S. Government.

Processing of the records of the 9-11 Commission continues. The Center for Legislative Archives has the responsibility of processing the paper material, and the Electronic and Special Media Records Services Division transfers the electronic material from Commission-supplied media to archival tape. Preservation copying is completed, so that the agency can both stabilize the records and provide backup copies. A great deal of work remains to be accomplished, however, including joining all materials in a searchable format, before the target opening of the records in 2009.

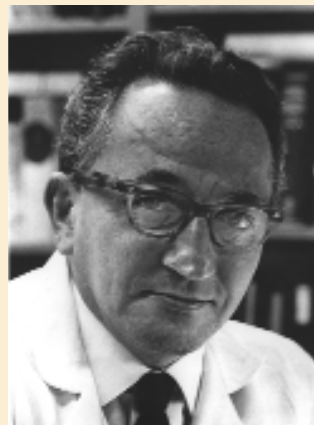
The Federal Register has published the 2007/2008 edition of *The United States Government Manual*, the official handbook of the federal government. The new 692-page *Manual* provides up-to-date information about the missions, programs, and activities of federal agencies as well as the names of top officials of each agency in the Bush administration and listings of U.S. senators and representatives. It also contains other useful information on the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of the government and has comprehensive name and agency/subject indexes. Available through the Government Printing Office at GPO online at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

The History of Medicine Division released a Rosalind Franklin web site to “Profiles in Science” in 2007. Franklin (1920–1958), a British chemist and crystallographer, is best known for her role in the discovery of DNA structure. Her x-ray diffraction photos of DNA and data analysis provided Francis Crick and James Watson with clues crucial for building their model of the molecule in 1953. While best known for this work, Franklin also did important research into the micro-structure and properties of coals and other carbons, and spent the last five years of her career elucidating the structure of plant viruses, notably tobacco mosaic virus. The Churchill Archives Centre in Cambridge, England, is the repository for the Rosalind Franklin Papers, which range from 1920 to 1975. The collection contains photographs, correspondence, diaries, published articles, lectures, laboratory notebooks, and research notes. The site is at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov>.

The Division released in June an extensive selection from the papers of Mary Lasker (1899–1994). A patron of scientific, medical, and public health initiatives, “Lasker acted as a catalyst for the growth of the world’s largest and most successful biomedical research enterprise, with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as its centerpiece,”

said Donald A.B. Lindberg, NLM Director. Developing a compelling political rationale for federal sponsorship of medical research, Lasker built a powerful lobby that won large research appropriations, and pushed the NIH into new scientific directions, at times in opposition to scientists. Her political influence diminished after the 1970s War on Cancer, a controversial measure that raised unrealistic public expectations. Nevertheless, Lasker continued to serve as the “Fairy Godmother of Medical Research,” in the words of *Business Week*, raising money for research on hypertension, arthritis, osteoporosis, diabetes, and AIDS. The new online exhibition features correspondence, newspaper accounts, and photographs from the Mary Lasker papers at Columbia University Libraries. With the Lasker addition, the number of researchers, public health officials, and promoters of medical research memorialized on “Profiles in Science” has reached 22. The site is at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov>.



Sol Spiegelman made discoveries that laid the foundations of recombinant DNA technology. He received the 1974 Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research (NLM photo).

The History of Medicine Division released recently a web version of the Sol Spiegelman (1914–1983) papers. An American molecular biologist whose pioneering discoveries accelerated the study of gene mechanisms and laid the foundations of recombinant DNA technology, his early work on enzymatic induction in yeasts demonstrated a new way to investigate how genes work. He later developed RNA-DNA hybridization, and synthesized biologically competent and infective virus RNA in test tubes.

Receiving a Lasker Award in 1974, he continued innovative work on viral causes of cancers. This new online exhibit introduces Spiegelman’s scientific career and professional life. See <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/PX/>.

The exhibit “Do Mandrakes Really Scream? Magic and Medicine in Harry Potter,” is featured in the History of Medicine Division Reading Room until November 30, 2007. Online version: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/mandrakes/introduction.html>. A decade ago, British writer J.K. Rowling published *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*, the first in a series of seven books about a boy wizard who is the only known survivor of a “Killing Curse.” A year later, the book was released in the United States with the title *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s*

Stone. Ms. Rowling's books were soon breaking publishing records, and "the boy who lived" became entrenched in the popular imagination. In the books, Harry Potter attends Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. There he makes friends, learns magic, and begins a seven-year battle with the evil Lord Voldemort — the wizard whose curse failed to kill Harry as a baby. There is more to the Harry Potter series than a child hero or a fantasy adventure—many of the characters, plants, and creatures in Rowling's stories are based in history, medicine, or magical lore. Death, evil, illness, and injury affect the characters of Harry Potter's imaginary world. In describing their experiences, Ms. Rowling has drawn on important works of alchemy and herbology. These works and other links to Harry Potter books are examined in this exhibition.

"Opening Doors: Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons," a new mini-exhibit prepared by HMD and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, opened simultaneously in Baltimore and Bethesda on February 1, 2008. "A celebration of the achievements of African American pioneers in academic surgery," it remains in the HMD foyer and Reading Room through the summer.

A traveling exhibition, "The Horse, a Mirror of Man," is visiting sites around the country at the present time. It is available for loan to other libraries. For reservations and information, contact Michael North northm@mail.nih.gov.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY, SMITHSONIAN

The Smithsonian National Museum of American History recently elected three historians, Ellsworth H. Brown, James O. Horton, and Vicki Ruiz to its advisory board. The Smithsonian's Board of Regents approved the candidates for three-year terms with the option of serving a second term.

Dr. Brown is the director of the Wisconsin Historical Society, and is the former president and CEO of the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. Previously, he served as president and director of the Chicago Historical Society from 1981 to 1993. Dr. Horton is the Benjamin Banneker Professor of American Studies and History at George Washington University. He held a joint appointment at museum from 1981 to 2004, during which time he was the director of the Afro-American Communities Project. Dr. Ruiz is a professor of history and Chicano/Latino studies, and director of the University of California, Irvine's Humanities Out There (HOT) outreach program.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)

The National Park Service has issued a revised inventory of the records of the National Park Service (Record Group 79) at the National Archives at College Park, MD. The product of more than four years of records research and verification, this free finding aid, produced by the Organization of American Historians in cooperation with the National Park Service, updates Edward E. Hill's 1966 Inventory of the Records of the National Park Service. It contains descriptions of all records in the record group (including textual, cartographic, and electronic records, and still and motion pictures), which collectively represent more than 200 years of history.

The newsletter *Network to Freedom* contains news on NPS's network of registered Underground Railroad sites. It contains articles on educational and preservation activities at those sites. In spring 2007, 15 sites were approved for inclusion in the Network from the District of Columbia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, bringing the total number of sites to 300. New applications from 12 states are now being considered. Information on the Network to Freedom is posted at www.nps.gov/ugrr/.

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) of the National Park Service invites federal agencies, tribal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, and nonprofit historical preservation and other private sector organizations to submit applications for grants. The purpose of this grant program is to provide seed money for projects that lead directly to the identification, preservation, and interpretation of battlefield land and/or historic sites associated with battlefields. In recent years, grants have averaged about \$32,300 per award. Applications must be received in the ABPP office by January 18, 2008. Visit the ABPP web site at www.cr.nps.gov/abpp for details, or contact Kristen McMasters, grants manager, at 202-354-2037, or by e-mail at Kristen_McMasters@nps.gov.

NATIONAL PRESERVATION INSTITUTE

The Institute has released its schedule of professional seminars for the period September 2007–June 2008. The state-of-the-art classes aim to serve "those involved in the management, preservation, and stewardship of our cultural heritage." Classes include "Identification and Management of Traditional Cultural Places," "Identification and Evaluation of Mid-20th-Century Buildings," and others critical for professionals in the preservation environment. The schedule is available at www.npi.org.

NAVAL ACADEMY

The 2007 Naval History Symposium marked the full resumption of this scholarly enterprise at the History Department of the U.S. Naval Academy. In keeping with past practice, the symposium represented an alternate year event, with the next symposium scheduled for 2009. At this year's symposium, there were 36 panels composed of scholars from all over the world focusing on a wide range of naval and maritime history, plus two keynote speeches by renowned naval historians. For more information on the program, see www.usna.edu/history/symposium, e-mail yu@usna.edu, or call 410-293-6250.

NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER

The Director of Naval History selected Comdr. James C. Rentfrow, USN, to receive the \$5,000 Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison Naval History Scholarship, which is open to serving officers of the Navy and Marine Corps who are pursuing a graduate degree in history or a related field. Commander Rentfrow is completing a Ph.D. degree in History through the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. His studies focus on the Navy's technological development in the early 20th century. Comdr. Rentfrow is a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Naval Flight Officer, and veteran of operations Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom. He is currently serving as the Combat Direction Center Officer on board USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74).

The Naval Historical Center is developing a 20,000-square-foot exhibition for the National Museum of the United States Navy highlighting the Navy's contribution to victory in the Cold War of 1946–1991. Individual galleries will focus on Defining the Cold War, The Navy in the Nuclear Age, The Global Mission, The Hot Wars of the Cold War (Korea and Vietnam), and Service and Sacrifice in the Cold War. Particular attention will be paid to the men and women of the Navy who served their country with dedication and valor, and many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice. In support of this worthy project, the Naval Historical Foundation has mounted a \$10 million Capital Campaign. Additional information on the forthcoming Cold War Gallery can be found at <http://www.navyhistory.org/coldwar/>.

An article titled "Naval Quarantine: Impervious to Epidemics of Virulent Disease" was published in the July 2006 issue of the U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*. The authors, Thomas Luke, Timothy Halenkamp, and Edward Kilbane, Navy Medical Corps officers, used historical cases to show that those Navy commanding officers who enacted rigorous quarantine procedures on board their ships or shore bases during the Spanish flu outbreak of 1918 had great success in limiting the effects of that pandemic that killed millions of Americans.



The U.S. Naval Institute recently published *The U.S. Navy in the Korean War*, edited by Edward J. Marolda, Senior Historian of the Naval Historical Center. The work incorporates a number of individual essays, previously issued in commemorative booklet form, on various aspects of the conflict.

Individual chapters are authored by distinguished historians, including the late Tom Buell, Joseph H. Alexander, Bernard C. Nalty, Tom Cutler, Richard C. Knott, Malcolm Muir, and Curtis A. Utz.

Upcoming programs in the Naval History Seminar Program include a lecture titled "Pentagon 9/11" by Dr. Sarandis Papadopoulos, co-author of the history, *Pentagon 9/11*, on November 20, 2007, 12–1 pm; and a lecture titled "Counterinsurgency in the Vietnam War" by Dr. Mark Moyar, Kim T. Adamson Chair of Insurgency and Terrorism at the U.S. Marine Corps University and author of *Triumph Forsaken and Phoenix and the Birds of Prey*, on December 18, 2007, 12–1 pm. Location: National Museum of the United States Navy, Bldg. 76, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC. For information, contact Senior Historian Dr. Edward J. Marolda, at (202) 433-3940 or Edward.Marolda@navy.mil.

NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

The Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Dr. Leo B. Slater as the Laboratory's new historian. Dr. Slater will provide historical support to the NRL command, maintain the Laboratory's corporate memory, administer the oral history program, and carry out other preservation duties. He comes to NRL from the Office of NIH History and Museum at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD. A former research chemist, Dr. Slater began his career as an historian in 1997 with the Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia, PA, first as an associate historian, rising to senior research historian. In 2002, he joined the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, as a malaria research historian under a joint appointment with the Department of History and the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology. Following this appointment in 2004, Dr. Slater spent time as a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, Germany. Later that year, he joined NIH as a DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Fellow in the History of Biomedical Sciences and Technology. His most recent position at NIH was as acting deputy director of the history office. Dr. Slater can be reached via e-mail at leo.slater@nrl.navy.mil. To learn more about NRL and its history, visit www.nrl.navy.mil.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HISTORICAL OFFICE

The Government Printing Office recently published *Pentagon 9/11*, compiled by the Historical Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The work was coauthored by the OSD Historian, Alfred Goldberg, Sarandis Papadopoulos (a professional staff member of the Naval Historical Center), and Dr. Goldberg's staff historians Diane Putney, Nancy Berlage, and Rebecca Welch. The comprehensive history documents the serious damage inflicted on the Pentagon building and the pain and suffering on its occupants, and the struggle of medical, fire, police, and other emergency personnel to succor survivors and restore the Defense Department to full function in the days and months after the devastating assault.

SENATE HISTORICAL OFFICE



Robert Vastine, long-time Senate staffer, sat for oral history interviews with Donald Ritchie in 1993.

The Senate Historical Office has recently added to its online collection of oral history transcripts the 1993 interview with Robert Vastine, staff director of the Senate Republican Conference from 1985 to 1991. During Vastine's service, the conference underwent significant technological change, shifting its focus from newspapers to broadcast media to improve Republican senators' ability

to communicate with their home states. Under his direction, the first microwave satellite antenna was installed on the roof of a Senate Office Building, linking a studio in the building to television stations across the country. "It didn't interest me at all for a second how a machine worked," he explained in his oral history. "It was really just that machine lets you talk to a satellite, and thus to millions of constituents." Vastine worked on the staffs of Missouri Representative Thomas B. Curtis, Illinois Senator Charles Percy, and in 1982 became legislative director for Rhode Island Senator John Chafee. These interviews recount the resistance encountered in transforming the services that the conference offered, and their eventual adoption by both parties. Complete transcript available at <http://www.senate.gov/history/oralhistory>.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION ARCHIVES

The Joseph Henry Papers Project of the Institutional History Division, Smithsonian Institution Archives, has published Volume 11 of *The Papers of Joseph Henry*:

January 1866–May 1878, The Smithsonian Years, Marc Rothenberg, Kathleen W. Dorman, Frank R. Millikan, Deborah Y. Jeffries, and Sarah Shoenfeld, eds. (Smithsonian Institution with Science History Publications/USA, 2007). This final volume in the series covers Henry's final years as the first Secretary of the Smithsonian, the growth of the U.S. National Museum at the Smithsonian, Henry's role as president of the fledgling National Academy of Sciences, and his work on the U.S.



Joseph Henry, ca. 1860, photograph by Mathew Brady. Smithsonian Archives.

Light-House Board until his death in May of 1878. A cumulative index to all 11 volumes will appear later this year.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

The Social Security Administration's public historian, Larry DeWitt, is the principal editor of a new volume in the Congressional Quarterly Press' "Documentary History" series. His 560-page book, *Social Security: A Documentary History*, contains excerpts from over 170 documents tracing the policy history of Social Security from its creation in 1935 to the debates of the present day. Filled with primary source documents, this unique reference weaves together the history in an easy-to-follow chronological fashion that highlights the major moments and events in the program's development. Headnotes introduce and provide comments for the documents, which include congressional testimonies, government reports, presidential speeches, and rare archival evidence. The document collection is introduced by a comprehensive summary essay providing an overview of the 70-plus year history of the U.S. Social Security program. For more information, visit <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/history>.

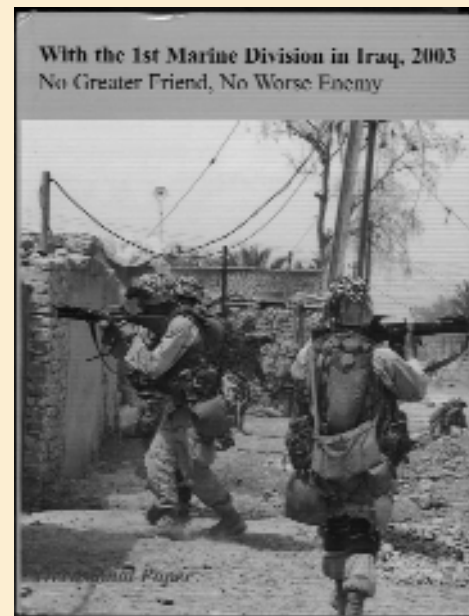
SOCIETY OF FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE FBI ORAL HISTORY HERITAGE PROGRAM

The Society signed an agreement with the National Law Enforcement Museum on August 7, 2007, for the museum to be the program's official repository. Started in 2002, the collection currently consists of more than 130 interviews with former FBI agents concerning events dating back as far as the 1930s and including Watergate, World War II, and Cold War counterespionage, organized crime, and Ku Klux Klan terrorism. SHFG member Susan Rosenfeld, Ph.D., the FBI's first official historian, serves as principal consultant for the project.

U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY

Dr. Joel Meyerson is the new Chief of the Center's Histories Division. Meyerson, who received his doctorate from Harvard and served in Vietnam, has been the acting chief for the past two years. The Histories Division also welcomed Dr. John Maass to its Contemporary Studies Branch. Dr. Maass received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University. He is the author of *"That Unhappy Affair": Horatio Gates and the Battle of Camden* (Camden, SC: Kershaw County Historical Society, 2001) as well as a number of articles on early American military history. The State Department has recently published on its web site Mr. David Goldman's volume, *Foreign Relations, 1969–1976: Documents on Arms Control and Nonproliferation, 1969–1972*. Mr. Goldman is a member of the General Studies Branch and has recently completed a rotational assignment to the Center's Pentagon office.

The Center of Military History has recently issued several publications with considerable relevance to current operations. *Battleground Iraq: Journal of a Company Commander* chronicles Maj. Todd Brown's service from 2003 to early 2004 with an infantry company of the 4th Infantry Division. His observations and insights are instructive not only for soldiers preparing to deploy, but for anyone who is seeking a firsthand view of the challenges of combat in the War on Terrorism. William A. Donnelly's *Transforming an Army at War: Designing the Modular Force, 1991–2005*, examines the origins of the modular organizational concept, the reasons for undertaking it, and the process for developing modular unit designs. The use of modular "plug in" units allows the Army to tailor organizations for specific missions. The 3rd Infantry Division became the first to reorganize under this configuration and to put it to the test in Iraq. The new campaign brochure by R. Cody Phillips, *Operation JOINT GUARDIAN: The U.S. Army in Kosovo*, describes the Army's peacekeeping mission in that troubled region. Mr. Phillips retired this summer after more than 20 years of service with the Center.



U.S. MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

The History Division has released *With the 1st Marine Division in Iraq, 2003: No Greater Friend, No Worse Enemy*, the latest volume in its Occasional Papers series. The text derives from the 1st Marine Division's command chronology for 2003 and is reprinted without revision. As a "unit history written by the participants," it documents the unit's 28-day march from Kuwait as it fought alongside the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division to capture Baghdad. The volume is fully illustrated with maps and images, explaining in detail such aspects as planning, preparation, and training; adjustments to the plan; combat operations over the Tigris, and in eastern Baghdad and Tikrit; and security and stabilization operations. For information, contact Chief Historian Charles D. Melson at charles.d.melson@usmc.mil.

PO Box Problem Fixed: Last summer the SHFG post office box (Box 14139, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044) was unexpectedly shut down for a short period of time. As a result, some mailings to the Society were returned as "undeliverable." If that happened to you, please resend your correspondence to the same address—the SHFG PO Box is back in service. We're sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

FEDERALIST CALENDAR

- Nov. 16–18, 2007. Association for Documentary Editing (ADE) Annual Meeting**, Richmond, VA. Visit <http://etext.virginia.edu/ade/upcomingconf/index.html>.
- Jan. 3–6, 2008. American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting**, Washington, DC. Visit www.historians.org/annual/2008/index.cfm.
- Mar. 11, 2008. Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG) Annual Meeting**, College Park, MD. Visit www.shfg.org.
- Mar. 28–31, 2008. Organization of American Historians (OAH) 101st Annual Meeting**, New York. Visit <http://www.oah.org/meetings/2008/index.html>.
- Apr. 3–5, 2008. National Council for History Education (NCHE) Annual Conference**, Louisville, KY. Visit <http://www.nche.net/conference/>.
- Apr. 10–13, 2008. National Council on Public History (NCPH) Annual Meeting**, Louisville, KY. Visit <http://www.ncph.org/2008annualmtg.html>.
- Apr. 17–20, 2008. Society for Military History 75th Annual Meeting**, “The Military and Frontiers,” Ogden, UT. Visit <http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=152246>.
- May 1–3, 2008. Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) Annual Meeting**, “Education Outside the Box.” Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY. Visit <http://www.lib.umd.edu/MARAC/conferences/2008/spring08/spring08.html>.
- May 14–18, 2008. Council on America’s Military Past (CAMP) 42nd Annual Conference**, Salt Lake City, UT. Write to caponier@aol.com for information.
- July 23–26, 2008. National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA) Annual Meeting**, Atlanta, GA. Visit <http://www.nagara.org/displayconvention.cfm>.
- June 26–28, 2008. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) Annual Conference**, Columbus, OH. Visit <http://www.shafr.org/meeting08/index.htm>.
- Aug. 27–31, 2008. The Society of American Archivists (SAA) Annual Conference**, “Archival R/Evolution & Identities,” San Francisco, CA. Visit <http://www.archivists.org/conference/sanfrancisco2008/index.asp>.
- Sept. 9–12, 2008. American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Annual Conference**, “Discovering the Power of Transformation,” Rochester, NY. Visit <http://www.aaslh.org/anmeeting.htm>.
- Oct. 22–25, 2008. Western History Association 48th Annual Conference**, Salt Lake City, UT. Visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~wha/index.html>.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: SHFG BOOK AND ARTICLE AWARDS

The SHFG book and articles awards committees seek submissions for these awards offered annually by the Society for History in the Federal Government.

For information, contact Henry Gwiazda at hjgwiadza@yahoo.com.

HOLIDAY RECEPTION

THE SHFG HOLIDAY RECEPTION WILL BE HELD IN ROOM 105 OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING IN WASHINGTON DC ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH. SINCE THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES CAN NO LONGER STAY OPEN AFTER 6:00 P.M., THE RECEPTION WILL TAKE PLACE IN LATE AFTERNOON, FROM 3:30 TO 5:30 P.M. MARK YOUR CALENDARS! ALL CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

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