

Editor's Note

Welcome to our 2014 edition. We start with the 2013 Roger R. Trask Award Lecture delivered by Pete Daniel. Dr. Daniel has made important contributions to the federal history community and history in general through his exceptional scholarship and leadership of several national history organizations, including the Society for History in the Federal Government. In his incisive and direct style, Daniel recounts some highlights of his career and research, while focusing on the historian's responsibility to seek historical meaning. True to the purpose of the Trask Lecture, Daniel discusses the importance of recent federal history work, but also addresses the difficulty that historians often face when uncovering the errors or wrongdoings of government. In that respect, Daniel has always been guided by skepticism, and has "not treated celebratory history well." In this Trask Lecture, he urges historians to protect the integrity of their work and findings.

The great diversity of articles in this issue is not surprising, given the complex history of our federal government. In an insightful legal and legislative history, Ian J. Drake asks why Congress did not enact tort reform in the early 1980s. He finds that after much debate, Congress realized the value of preserving the existing boundaries of federalism, recognizing that the states had unique capabilities and historically established responsibilities that they could best fulfill. Altering that balance would create dangerous unknowns, and preserving federalism was preferable to congressional intervention. Theresa L. Kraus traces the changing goals and organization of the Federal Aviation Administration's education programs over several decades. These programs were vital to the training of aviators and our nation's aeronautical readiness. Her article is a revealing look at both the course of such programs and the historical changes in aviation training. Jamie C. Euken explores Senator Hugo Black's failed attempts in the 1930s to regulate and reform the work of congressional lobbyists. That campaign revealed the tension between the constitutional right to petition Congress and the exercise of undue influence. With the fevered pace of New Deal reform and its threats to entrenched business interests, Black's efforts provided "a rare historical moment from which to think about the place and function of lobbyists in the American legislative process." Natalie Schuster traces the federal government's evolving role in administering disaster relief in the 20th century. She argues that it was the New Deal's unprecedented bureaucratic apparatus combined with major natural

disasters and public demands for assistance that established the government's dominant role in disaster relief. That historical confluence resulted in a popular conception of disaster relief as an entitlement and also an expansion of presidential authority in such efforts. Christopher J. Young examines the early but formative relationship between the president and the people, explaining that the first two presidents were not aloof, but were "rhetorical presidents" who worked to cultivate public support. Young explores Washington's various efforts to address and sway the public and Adams's successful interactions with the public during the XYZ Affair to illustrate how the two men worked to popularize executive authority beyond that envisioned by the Founders.

This issue also features a revealing story by Brett Oppegaard and Gregory P. Shine on their development of an award-winning mobile application (app) for the National Park Service's Fort Vancouver National Historic Site in Washington state. Such apps will increasingly expand historians' reach in education and historical interpretation. The authors' thoughtful and detailed account offers invaluable lessons and cautions for all public programs on the design and development of such applications.

My thanks to my Assistant Editor Judson MacLaury for his insightful editorial work and to our reviewers. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Benjamin Guterman
Editor, *Federal History*