

## All Roads Lead to Pensacola This Spring

Roger D. Launius | [LauniusR@si.edu](mailto:LauniusR@si.edu)

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2011 NCPH annual meeting, April 6-9. It promises something for everyone as the organization gathers in Pensacola, Florida. The conference takes as its theme “Crossing Borders/Building Communities—Real and Imagined,” and the program committee has worked hard to ensure that this theme is well reflected in the 61 sessions scheduled for the meeting.

There are several sessions oriented toward the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, a deeply contested memory in modern America. There are two plenary sessions that directly relate to this subject. We are pleased to have Tony Horwitz, author of *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* (1998), as our keynote speaker. A Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, he is currently working on a book about John Brown and his 1859 raid, and his remarks at the conference will help illuminate key themes being discussed in this sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Equally important, a public plenary session on “The Coming of the Civil War Sesquicentennial and Public History” will

focus on the contested nature of this anniversary. Other sessions all relate to the issue of the Civil War, race relations in America, the Civil Rights Crusade, and other contested issues in public history.

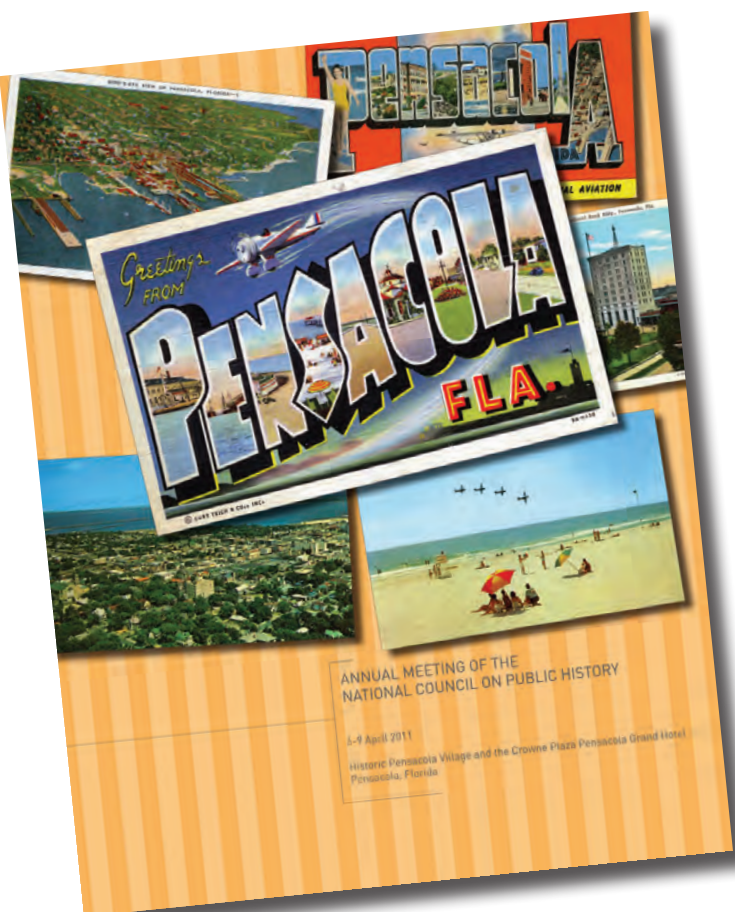
Another important anniversary takes place in 2011, and we have an outstanding session entitled “Commemorating the 9/11 Anniversary: Ten Years Later” that brings together several historians under the leadership of Robert Weible of the New York State Museum to reflect on this significant event in American history.

We are pleased this year to offer several sessions, which speak to methodologies in public history, that will interest many attendees. There is a major track on methodologies for public history, public history education, digital history, contested narratives, and the like. There are even sessions related to European approaches to public history, collecting the material culture of difficult subjects, public history projects in divided societies, the uses of theater in public history, strategies for decision-making in federal agencies, and public history and the use of GIS.

I am especially proud of the sessions on the program that relate to history in the local region. We have a major session entitled, “Bernardo de Galvez: On the Stage of the American Revolution,” another on “Becoming Alabama: Developing a Model for Statewide Public History Collaboration,” and one called “A Place Called Home: Families and Toxic Waste in Pensacola, Florida.”

I am also delighted with the efforts of Brian Joyner of the National Park Service and a member of this year’s program committee to assemble a stellar roundtable on “Civil Rights and the Albany Movement.” Participants in this session include not only Jeanne Cyriaque, Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, and Paul Ortiz of the University of Florida, but also Rev. Charles Sherrod, a key member and organizer of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) participating in this important effort.

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Cover of the 2011 Annual Meeting program guide, available at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org). Conference registrants will receive an updated print copy at the meeting in Pensacola.

### @NCPHConsultants



The Consultants Committee recently launched a Twitter account @NCPHConsultants. If you are active on Twitter, please follow us. Those not using this form of social media can still view the page by visiting <http://twitter.com/NCPHconsultants>.

West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc.  
and the  
University of West Florida  
Public History Program

Welcomes You to *Pensacola*



Where Florida History Begins... *Enjoy the Conference!*

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National Council on Public History



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# All Roads Lead to Pensacola This Spring (cont. from page 1)

Finally, it seems appropriate that since we are meeting in Pensacola and the centennial of naval aviation is also this year that we should be holding an event at the of National Naval Aviation Museum. The NCPH banquet on Friday will take place at this museum, an institution not to be missed in a visit to Pensacola, and our featured speaker on that evening will be Richard P. Hallion, a well-known historian of military aviation whose books and articles have helped to reshape the field.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Pensacola. I am sure you will enjoy the conference. As you see me at the meeting, please take the time to let me know of suggestions for improvement that future program committees might follow. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the program committee for their diligent work in assembling this program and taking charge of specific segments. Finally, I wish to thank all of those who proposed papers, sessions, roundtables, and posters for this conference. All have worked hard to make the Pensacola experience a memorable one.

*Roger D. Launius is the chair of the 2011 NCPH Program Committee and is senior curator at the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C.*

## From the *Public History News* Archives

Past issues of NCPH's newsletter, *Public History News*, like those of its journal, *The Public Historian*, are home to a variety of resources for practitioners. See what's available at <http://ncph.org/cms/publications-resources/>. We list a sampling here, in case you missed them.

### Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

Adopted in 2007, the NCPH guidelines of professional conduct articulate expectations of conscientious practice by all members. The guidelines begin by emphasizing the responsibility to serve the public interest. (Spring 2006)

### Fostering Diversity

Read about a model for promoting diversity within the public history profession that can be replicated across the U.S. in NEH Summer Institute for teachers. (June 2008)

### Consulting Forum

Six perspectives on issues in cultural resource management consulting and how NCPH might address them. (September 2010)

### Public History Advocacy, the Basics

This article explains how faculty can teach about the importance of supporting advocacy efforts to increase federal and state funding. (December 2009)

### Best Practices for Teaching Public History

The NCPH Curriculum and Training Committee developed recommendations for several key aspects of public history curriculum and program development. (June 2010)

### Shared History, Nearby History

Read how a city museum used branches of the public library system to reach into the community to train thousands of "ordinary people" to conduct research, interpret evidence, develop a thesis, and present their ideas in public. (March 2010)



## THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

Given the essential value of historical understanding, the National Council on Public History promotes professionalism among history practitioners and their engagement with the public. *Public History News* is published in March, June, September, and December. Individual membership orders, changes of address, and business and editorial correspondence should be addressed to National Council on Public History, 327 Cavanaugh Hall – IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. E-mail: [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu). Tel: 317-274-2716. New members are welcome. Join online or renew at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org). Institutional subscription orders, changes of address, and business correspondence should be addressed to Journals and Digital Publishing Division, University of California Press, 2000 Center St., Ste. 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223. Or visit [www.ucpress.edu](http://www.ucpress.edu). We welcome submissions to *Public History News* sent to John Dichtl, Editor, at the above address. Articles are 400-800 words in length. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization. Headquartered on the campus of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, NCPH benefits greatly from the generous support of the IU School of Liberal Arts.

# 2011 ANNUAL MEETING EVENTS

## FIELD TRIPS AND TOURS

Transportation is included for all field trips except walking tours. Please contact NCPH if you require special assistance. Lunch is not provided on field trips unless noted. Space is limited, so sign up early. Trips may be cancelled if an insufficient number of registrations are received. Registrants will receive a full refund for any cancelled tours.



Historic Pensacola Village. Courtesy of West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc.

### Historic Pensacola Village Tours

Ongoing

Free with conference badge

The Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers of West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. are pleased to help host the 2011 NCPH annual conference. Our museum complex is a direct support organization of the University of West Florida. We manage over 28 properties spread over nine acres in the historic heart of downtown Pensacola, just a few blocks south of the conference hotel. We are delighted to make our historic houses, museums, and archaeological resources in Historic Pensacola Village available to you, as a registrant of the 2011 NCPH Annual Meeting, with no admission fee. Please be sure to have your conference credentials visible when you come to either of the three visitor services desks—one is located at the T. T. Wentworth, Jr., Florida State Museum (330 S. Jefferson St.), another is at the Tivoli High House (205 E. Zaragoza St.), and one is at the Pensacola Historical Museum (115 E. Zaragoza St.). Our facilities are open from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Tours of our historic house museums are offered daily at 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 2:30 pm and last about 90 minutes. The Barkley House tour is available separately each day at 2:00 pm. Be sure to make time to explore the long and diverse history of our city. We promise,

if you will give us a few hours during the conference, we will give you 450 years in return.

### Bienville to Battleships: Mobile Historic Tour

Wednesday, April 6; 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Ticket: \$54

Explore the beautiful streets of one of the most unique cities in the southeast. Tour sites associated with the city's earliest colonial residents, the vibrant antebellum period, and even the permanently docked World War II era battleship, the *U.S.S. Alabama*. Stops will include the 17th-century Fort Conde, the Museum of Mobile, and the Battleship Park historic park. Lunch included. Bus will leave from the Crowne Plaza Hotel. (Limit 45 participants.)

### Slavery and Civil Rights in the South: Mobile's Forgotten History

Wednesday, April 6; 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Ticket: \$54

Guide: University of South Alabama Archives

Tour the historic city of Mobile, Alabama, and visit sites associated with the history of slavery in America and the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 60s. The tour will include guided stops at local historic sites throughout picturesque downtown Mobile. Lunch included. Bus will leave from the Crowne Plaza Hotel. (Limit 45 participants.)



1963 Students Turned Away from Murphy High by State Troopers in Mobile, AL. Courtesy of the Library of Congress LC-USZ262-126841.

### Public History Community Service Project at Historic Fort Pickens

Wednesday, April 6; 12:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Free but must preregister

As an active "thank you" to the Pensacola community for hosting this year's NCPH annual meeting, graduate students and other NCPH members have the opportunity to spend part of the conference's first day helping with a service project. Working with the National Park Service (NPS) Staff at Fort Pickens, participants will learn about the Fort's fascinating history as they help clear away debris around a historic gun battery overlooking the Gulf of Mexico covered after hurricanes Ivan and Katrina. Completed in 1834, the fort was one of only four in the South that were never occupied by Confederate forces during the Civil War. NPS will provide protective gloves and tools. The service project is contingent upon the number who sign up (by March 1) and upon environmental conditions. (Limit 20 participants.)

### Pensacola Historic Landscape Walking Tour

Thursday, April 7; 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Ticket: \$12

Guide: Randall Broxon, PSC

Pensacola's downtown landscape is defined by the changes the city has gone through over the past 250 years. Walk the streets of Pensacola's historic districts and discover how the city transformed from a quiet colonial village into a major player during the industrialization of the south. The tour will include visits to St. Michael's cemetery, Christ Episcopal Church, and the historic Saenger Theatre. Duration: 2 to 3 hours. (Limit 35 participants.)

### Naval Live Oaks and Fort Pickens

Thursday, April 7; 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Ticket: \$38

Guide: National Park Service staff

Travel to nearby Gulf Breeze to tour the Fort Pickens area of Gulf Islands National Seashore. The tour will begin at the Naval Live Oaks interpretive center, located on one of the oldest federally protected pieces

of land in the country, and continue on to Santa Rosa Island and the Civil War and Spanish American War era Fort Pickens, which operated through World War II. National Park Service Rangers will lead this tour through two of the most unique historic sites within the region and discuss the historic and natural significance of the Santa Rosa Island area as well as the struggle to garner recognition and designation for the park itself. Lunch from Peg Leg Pete's Seafood Restaurant included. (Limit 45 participants.)

### **Black Water and Yellow Pine: Northwest Florida's Antebellum Industrial Complex**

Thursday, April 7; 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Ticket: \$36

Guides: John Phillips, Brian Rucker, and Wess Miess

Visit historic Santa Rosa County and explore the pine forests that fueled the region's economy for decades. Prior to the Civil War, Santa Rosa County boasted the second largest county economy within the entire state of Florida. This tour will trace the development of the area both before and after the Civil War, which devastated the economy of the county. Participants will begin at the historic Arcadia Mill Archeological Site, the location of antebellum Florida's earliest and most successful industrial park, then move on to the historic towns of Milton and Bagdad Florida located along the beautiful Blackwater River. Barbecue lunch included. (Limit 44 participants.)

### **Colonial Archaeological Trail Walking Tour**

Friday, April 8; 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Ticket: \$12

Guide: Florida Public Archeology Network

Beneath Pensacola's modern streets and buildings is a treasure of archaeological resources dating back to the 18th century. Explore the colonial archaeological trail and learn about the cities early Spanish and British inhabitants through discussions with local archaeologists involved in ongoing excavations. View into the past through the eyes of an archaeologist and visit the 18th-century Spanish Presido de San Miguel and British Fort of Pensacola. Duration: 1.5 to 2 hours. (Limit 40 participants.)

### **From Black Slaves to Blue Angels: Exploring NAS Pensacola**

Friday, April 8; 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Ticket: \$24

Guides: Nancy Fetterman, Matt Clavin, and Elizabeth Benchley

Established in 1828, the Pensacola Naval Yard has served the U.S. military for over 175 years. This tour will include stops at early Naval Yard locations, Civil War era fortifications, and the renowned National Naval Aviation Museum. Participants will be able to see firsthand how the Naval Yard developed during the antebellum and post-civil war periods and how it made its amazing transformation following the advent of modern aviation. Special emphasis will be placed on the unique nature of the antebellum black labor force employed by the United States military and utilized to construct many of Pensacola's most recognizable landmarks. (Limit 45 participants.)

### **Historic Pensacola Waterfront Walking Tour**

Saturday, April 9; 8:30 am – 11:00 am

Ticket: \$12

Guide: Florida Public Archeology Network

Pensacola's waterfront is one of the most significant areas related to the city's development. This tour, organized by the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), will explore the changes in Pensacola's maritime landscape and the people and businesses that aided in the growth of the port and city. During a scenic walk along the bay, participants will learn about the geography and history that has shaped the development of modern Pensacola. Topics will include the physical changes in the maritime landscape, the major industries historically supported by the port, and the unique cosmopolitan culture that grew up among the busy wharves and fish houses. FPAN's mission is to engage the public by promoting and facilitating the appreciation, value and stewardship of Florida's archaeological heritage through regional centers and partnerships. The Northwest Regional Center of FPAN is located in the downtown. Duration: 2.5 hours. (Limit 40 participants.)

### **Living-Learning Workshop in Action: Behind the Scenes at Historic Pensacola Village**

Saturday, April 9; 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Ticket: \$6

Guides: WFPHI Staff and UWF Graduate Students



Old Christ Church. Courtesy of West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc.

This tour will take visitors on a behind-the-scenes look at the University of West Florida's historical learning laboratory, the fully operational Historic Pensacola Village. The tour will include presentations by West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. Staff and UWF graduate students on educational programs, archives, emergency responses, living history, graduate residential facilities and more. Participants will be granted access to the WFHPI archives and curation facilities as well as non-public areas of the museums and offices. Duration: 1.5 -2 hours. (Limit 25 participants.)

### **Get in the Spirit at St. Michael's Cemetery**

Saturday, April 9, 10 am – 2:00 pm

Free and open to the public

St. Michael's Cemetery is the oldest and most significant historic site that survives above ground in the City of Pensacola and is located just south of the conference hotel on S. Alcaniz Street. Join in this annual public event, featuring students from the University of West Florida sharing their research on individuals and their associated funerary architecture. See demonstrations from masonry conservators and historic metals specialists; create GIS searches for individuals in the cemetery; and learn about cleaning techniques, vegetation control methods, simple resets for stone markers, and remote sensing techniques. You may also participate in "From Compass to Total Station: Surveying the Colonial Landscape of Historic St. Michael's Cemetery," a hands-on experience in surveying circa-1810 Pensacola coupled with the cutting edge technology in use today. A number of groups will provide period music at various sites in the cemetery throughout the day.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Tickets purchased during early registration will be included in your conference materials at the annual meeting. Events may be cancelled due to lack of participation. In the event of cancellation, those registered will receive a full refund. A limited number of tickets may be available for purchase at the conference registration desk.

### Opening Reception

Wednesday, April 6, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm  
Tickets - \$5

Park your suitcase and enjoy light hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and congenial conversation in the historic Barkley House, located in Historic Pensacola Village, overlooking Pensacola Bay. Join the festivities and help thank West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. for allowing NCPH to use the village for the conference. *Sponsored by The History Channel.*



### Dine Arounds

Wednesday, April 6, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm  
Sign up at conference. The cost of dinner is the responsibility of the attendee.

NCPH Dine Arounds are an informal opportunity to talk about intriguing issues, make new contacts, and get a taste of the conference city. A couple of months before the annual meeting, individuals who volunteer to be facilitators suggest topics for discussion. Facilitators also find suitable restaurants, make reservations for the groups, and provide final titles/topics for the dine arounds. To participate, find the sign-up sheet in the conference registration area and be prepared to talk. Your facilitator will lead the group to the restaurant and start the evening's conversation.

### First-Time Attendee & New Member Breakfast

Thursday, April 7, 7:30am – 8:30 am  
Tickets - \$22

Join the Membership Committee and other first-time conference attendees and new members for conversation, coffee, and a delicious southern-style breakfast buffet. This is a great way to meet new and old members of the organization and to learn more about NCPH, the conference, and the field of public history. *Cosponsored by the Membership Committee.*

### Speed Networking

Thursday, April 7, 8:30 am – 10:30 am  
Tickets – FREE but advance registration is required

For the third year in a row, NCPH will offer a professional twist on “speed dating,” creating stress-free networking opportunities at the



annual meeting. Graduate students, recent graduates, and new professionals will have the opportunity to meet with five established public history practitioners over the course of five fifteen-minute rotations. Before the buzzer sounds, participants may discuss career options, professional development, and any other aspects of the field. Prepare some questions in advance, bring your business cards, and expect to talk and listen a lot! Advance registration is required and space is limited. *Organized by Denise Meringolo and Melissa Bingmann. Cosponsored by the Curriculum and Training Committee and the Graduate Student Committee.*

### In addition to our special event sponsors, NCPH would also like to thank:

University of West Florida –  
Conference Host

West Florida Historic  
Preservation, Inc. –  
Conference Host

University of Louisiana Lafayette  
– Conference Program  
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Supporter

Revs Institute for Automotive  
Research – Conference Friend

### Public Plenary Panel

“The Coming of the Civil War  
Sesquicentennial and Public History”

Thursday, April 7, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm  
Crowne Plaza Pensacola Grand Hotel,  
Grand Ballroom

FREE and Open to the Public

*Sponsored by the Tennessee Civil War National  
Heritage Area. Cosponsored by the Florida  
Humanities Council.*



Grand Army of the Republic veterans 50-year reunion at Gettysburg, 1914. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

This roundtable discussion will address the coming of the Civil War and how it is remembered and interpreted in modern America, especially in the South, and how those charged with commemorating the war era at the time of the Sesquicentennial are dealing with this important and contested history and the diverse themes it involves. Registration not required.

#### Moderator:

Carroll Van West is the director of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and the cochair of the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

#### Panelists:

Michael A. Allen is the Community Partnership Specialist for The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor/Fort Sumter National Monument and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site.

Connie Lester is an associate professor of history at the University of Central Florida. She has been editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* since 2005. She is editing the Civil War diaries of the southern writer Lucy Virginia French.

Dwight Pitcaithley is professor of history at New Mexico State University. He retired from the National Park Service in June 2005 after serving as chief historian for ten years.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

Timothy B. Smith is a veteran of the National Park Service who now teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is the author or editor of seven books on the Civil War, with an emphasis on the early efforts of battlefield preservation.



Funding for this program was provided through a grant from the Florida Humanities Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the Florida Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Consultants Reception

Thursday, April 7, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm  
Tickets - FREE; registration not required

Interested in consulting and contract work? Join new and experienced consultants at an informal reception for lively conversation, hors d'oeuvres, and drinks. We hope to continue and further conversations generated in sessions and workshops, as well as to discuss how best to promote and support the work of public history consultants. *Sponsored by Historical Research Associates, Inc. and the NCPH Consultants Committee. Cosponsored by Maricopa County (AZ) Public Works, Bill Willingham, and Littlefield Historical Research.*

## Public History Educators Breakfast

Friday, April 8, 8:00 am – 10:00 am  
Tickets - \$24

This annual event is an opportunity for faculty to share ideas about running graduate and undergraduate public history programs and to talk about university, departmental, and a wide variety of other issues. The discussion is always lively. A southern-style buffet will be served. The breakfast precedes a roundtable session at 10:00 am, "Teaching the Practicum Course: Building Communities of Learners." *Sponsored by the John Nicholas Brown Center, Brown University. Cosponsored by the Curriculum and Training Committee.*

## Poster Session and Reception

Friday, April 8, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm  
FREE; registration not required to attend

Poster sessions will be on display and their creators will be available to discuss the projects. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

The Poster Session is a format for public history presentations about projects that use visual evidence. It offers an alternative for presenters eager to share their work through one-on-one discussion, can be especially useful for work-in-progress, and may be a particularly appropriate format for presentations where visual or material evidence represents a central component of the project. Soak in the exhibitry and chat with history practitioners who have put their work on display.

## National Naval Aviation Museum Banquet

Friday, April 8, 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
Tickets - \$55

It is the 100th anniversary of the first landing of an airplane onboard a ship, thus, our 2011 meeting marks the centennial of naval aviation. Pensacola is home to the National Naval Aviation Museum, a world-renowned, sprawling complex featuring more than 150 restored aircraft. Join us for an IMAX film, "The Magic of Flight," dinner, and a presentation by historian of science and technology, Richard P. Hallion. Ticket price includes transportation to the museum, admission to the IMAX film, and dinner.

Richard P. Hallion is the author or editor of numerous books and articles relating to aerospace technology and military operations and served as Senior Adviser for Air and Space Issues, Directorate for Security, Counterintelligence and Special Programs Oversight, at the Pentagon. Since his retirement from government service he has remained active as an historian and public speaker.

## Awards Breakfast and Business Meeting

Saturday, April 9, 8:00 am – 10:00 am  
Tickets - \$24

Help celebrate the best in public history! The annual awards ceremony provides a look at some of the most innovative work and admirable accomplishments in the profession today. The NCPH Business Meeting, the awards event, and remarks by guest speaker Stephanie Toothman are open to all conference registrants, though a ticket is required for the breakfast meal. Attendees without tickets will be admitted after the

meal has begun and are welcome to seats in the back or sides of the room.

Stephanie Toothman became Associate Director for Cultural Resources, National Park Service, in 2009. Toothman's 32-year career in the NPS has ranged from serving as a preservation planner in Washington, DC, a regional historian, acting superintendent at Crater Lake National Park and the National Mall and Memorial Parks during the 2009 presidential inauguration, to being the chief of cultural resource park and partnership programs in the NPS Pacific West Region.

## Public Plenary — Tony Horwitz



Tony Horwitz.



Saturday, April 9, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Pensacola Little Theatre  
FREE and open to the public

Pulitzer-prize winning writer Tony Horwitz will speak about history and remembrance, and how journalism informs his approach to the past. His current book project, on John Brown and his 1859 raid, appropriately for 2011, falls at the intersection of efforts to mark the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War and the tenth anniversary of 9/11. Horwitz is the author of several bestselling books including *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* (1998) and *A Voyage Long and Strange: On the Trail of Vikings, Conquistadors, Lost Colonists, and Other Adventurers in Early America* (2008).



Funding for this program was provided through a grant from the Florida Humanities Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the Florida Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## SPECIAL EVENTS *continued*

### **Documentary Screening—*Soul of a People***

Saturday, April 9, 1:30 pm – 3:15 pm  
FREE

*Soul of a People: Writing America's Story* is a film about a chaotic and influential publishing venture. In the Great Depression, while hundreds of thousands survived by wielding picks and shovels on WPA jobs, a smaller cadre used pen, paper, and the spirit of invention. Their task: create America's first-ever self-portrait in the WPA guides. This documentary offers a compelling window into that experience. Registration not required.

### **Documentary Screening—*On These Shoulders We Stand***

Saturday, April 9, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm  
FREE

Not everything began with Stonewall. *On These Shoulders We Stand* provides an illuminating historical account of early gay life and activism in Los Angeles told by the people who lived it. Elder members of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender community in Los Angeles chronicle gay life from the 1950s into the early 1980s. The documentary brings to light Los Angeles' significant, yet hidden, role in U.S. gay history by interweaving first-person accounts with narration and seldom-seen archival materials. Filmmaker Glenne McElhinney will engage in a Q&A session with the audience following the screening of the film. Registration not required.

### **Shrimp Boil Fundraiser**

Saturday, April 9, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Tickets - \$42 Non-Students/\$32 Students  
You are cordially invited to help close the 2011 Annual Meeting with a delicious, fresh-caught, fresh-cooked outdoor meal.

While eating and drinking with new and old friends, you will be contributing to the NCPH Endowment Fund, which makes possible the awards and other vital programs of the organization.



By Flickr user WordRidden.

## WORKSHOPS

*NCPH workshops offer opportunities for intensive professional development. Space is limited, so please sign up early. Note that workshops might be cancelled if an insufficient number of registrants is received.*

### **THATCamp NCPH**

"Public History in a Digital, Collaborative Realm"  
Wednesday, April 6, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Tickets - \$21 (registration closes March 1; limit 65 participants; minimum 30)

**March 15**

Coordinators: Maren Bzdek, Colorado State University; and, Santi Thompson, University of South Carolina; and Kelsey Blair, University of West Florida

THATCamp NCPH is an "unconference" that brings together history practitioners working in the digital humanities. Participants work on projects, solve problems, and share ideas in a day-long learning laboratory. Open to graduate students, scholars, librarians, archivists, museum professionals, interested amateurs, developers and programmers, administrators, and funders from the nonprofit and for-profit sectors, the workshop emphasizes collegial work aimed at strengthening skills and projects directly applicable in participants' own institutions and programs. Staff from the Center for History and New Media (CHNM) will facilitate.

Started in 2008, the CHNM's THAT Camps have been enthusiastically received by participants at twenty camps to date, and appear to be morphing into an international movement! The format dispenses with formal presentations and allows campers to design hands-on sessions around topics, tasks, or technologies of particular interest to them. The nonhierarchical, non-disciplinary, and project-oriented approach is ideally suited to the field of public history.

Learn more at <http://ncph2011.thatcamp.org/>

### **Reading Artifacts: A Workshop in Material Culture**

Wednesday, April 6, 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
Tickets - \$27

Facilitators: Sharon Babaian, Canada Science and Technology Museum; Krista Cooke, Canadian Museum of Civilization; Emily Gann, Carleton University; and Elizabeth Monroe, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

Knowing how to examine, read, and interpret material objects is especially important for public historians not just because they may have to work with collections but also because artifacts are a powerful means of engaging the public in a discussions about the past. Based on the award-winning Summer Institute in Reading Material Culture offered by the Canada Science and Technology Museum, this workshop will offer a unique learning experience in applying material culture methodologies and techniques. Using artifacts as the center of discussion and hands-on activities, facilitators will show participants how to use objects as resources for research, teaching, and the public presentation of history. Participants will examine artifacts and trade literature and learn how to read and understand them; work side-by-side with experienced scholars from museums and universities to explore different material culture methodologies and approaches; and learn some basics of conservation, cataloguing, and developing collections. (Limit 25 participants.)

## WORKSHOPS

### The Role of Interpretation in Institutional Sustainability

Wednesday, April 6, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Tickets - \$10

Facilitator: Patricia Mooney-Melvin, Loyola University Chicago and Richard Brosnahan, West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc.

Virtually all small museums, historical societies, and historic house museums grapple with issues of institutional sustainability. Certainly, sound institutional health is the result of a multifaceted approach to a site's organization and operation. Interpretation represents a very public institutional face. This session explores the role of interpretation in strengthening a site's public appeal, credibility, and sustainability. Participants will focus on the role of interpretation in site sustainability and discuss best practices in this area. (Limit 50 participants.) Workshop participants may also be interested in attending the "America Doesn't Need Another House Museum" session, at 3:45 pm – 5:15 pm, Saturday.

### Entrepreneurship and the Practice of History

Wednesday, April 6, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Tickets - \$40

Facilitators: Brian Martin, History Associates, Inc.; Michelle McClellan, University of Michigan; Darlene Roth, Public History Entrepreneur; and workshop facilitator, Phil Borden, Essergy Consulting.

As an experiment in continuing education for practicing or teaching historians who seek to expand professional horizons and explore new ways to do history, NCPH is offering an entrepreneurship workshop. Entrepreneurs are often held

up as the iconic embodiment of the innovation, creativity, drive, and passion undergirding the American economy. Many businesses and professions view entrepreneurs as paving the pathways to the future. But what really defines entrepreneurship or intrapreneurship (its related practice in established organizations)? What skills are involved? How might the practice of entrepreneurship expand the range of opportunities available to professional historians and redefine the future of our profession? This workshop is an outgrowth of the 2010 working group on connecting academic training with the changing marketplace.

## Favor Your Connected Mind

Science writer Steven Johnson argues that innovative ideas are the product of rich, chaotic environments in which smaller ideas and questions are stitched together into breakthrough ideas. "If we want to be more innovative" as an organization or company or society, "we have to build spaces where ideas are likely to come together"... where people are likely to have new, interesting, unpredictable collisions, people from different backgrounds."\*

As Johnson says, "Chance favors the connected mind."

Increase your chances, make new connections, and create new ideas...at the NCPH Annual Meeting.

(\*Where Good Ideas Come From: The Natural History of Innovation, 2010)

## Welcome New Members!

Annie Abrams Raleigh, NC	Jennifer Burns New Market, VA	Dusty Dye Carrollton, GA	Gertrude Hutchinson Guilderland, NY	Daniel Ott Chicago, IL	Kimberly Sebold Presque Isle, ME
Gregory Alcorn Silver Spring, MD	Rachael Bussert Marquette, MI	Charlotte Egerton Wilmington, NC	Rebekah Karelis Wheelin, WV	Sophie Perl Berlin,	Allison Seyler Baltimore, MD
Anneliesa Alprin Washington, DC	Jan Calvert Prairie Village, KS	Andrea Field Scottsdale, AZ	Timothy Kneeland Rochester, NY	Margaret Powell Takoma park, MD	Zachary Siegel Washington, DC
Peter Alter Chicago, IL	Matthew Carter Verona, PA	Emily Finke Cincinnati, OH	Monique Laney Bowie, MD	James Price Fredericksburg, VA	Victor Silverman Claremont, CA
Noelle Alvey Boston, MA	Pamela Carter Carlisle Bossier City, LA	Annika Frahm Berlin, Germany	Paul Travis Lathrop Fort Collins, CO	Todd Price Glenview, IL	Jennifer Stout Annandale, VA
Rebecca Andersen Tempe,, AZ	Thomas Cauvin Florence, Italy	Solomon Franklin Charlotte, NC	Melinda Leonard Chicago, IL	Jessica Rast Decatur, GA	J Edward Townes Russellville, AR
Matthew Andres Schaumburg, IL	Burgess (Buck) Cole Austin, TX	Laura Galke Fredericksburg, VA	Barbara Little Takoma Park, MD	Natalie Ray Pensacola, FL	Sara Van Arsdel Orlando, FL
Maitrii Aung-Thwin Singapore,	Michelle Cooke Sulpher, OK	NormaJean Garriton Brooklyn, NY	Sarah Marshall Austin, TX	Tim Reidy Pascagoula, MS	Diane Wakeman St. Petersburg, FL
Kathryn Barnard Brooklyn, NY	LaNesha Gale DeBardelaben Bloomington, IN	Hester Goodwin New York, NY	Sarah McCormick La Quinta, CA	Leslie Reithmiller Pensacola, FL	Katie Walker Columbia, SC
Brain Beaton Toronto, ON	Nicole DeRise Astoria, NY	Jordan Grant Washington, DC	Andrea Melvin Grand Rapids, MI	Christina Runkel Tuscaloosa, AL	Alexandra Wallace Fort Collins, CO
Audra Bellmore Suttons Bay, MI	Marc Dluger Alexandria, VA	Benjamin Guterman Olney, MD	Robert Moore Carrollton, GA	Mattea Sanders Forest, VA	Susan Williams New Ipswich, NH
Cassandra Bennett Nacogdoches, TX	Sarah Doherty Chicago, IL	Everett Hardy Philadelphia, PA	Alison Novak Philadelphia, PA	Kari Santangelo Middletown, CT	Anne Woodward Austin, TX
Mary Bergman Washington, DC	Meghan Donahue Smyrna, GA	Samantha Howell Washington, DC	Katie Odom Woodstock, GA	Ann Schoenacher St. Petersburg, FL	Christopher Young Fort Oglethorpe, GA
Laura Blackburn Nacogdoches, TX	Haley Drown Vanlue, OH	Eileen Hurst New Britian, CT	Robert Ogle Lamar, CO	Emily Schreiner Eau Claire, WI	

# A Small Agency Acquires Its History

Jesse Stiller | [jesse.stiller@occ.treas.gov](mailto:jesse.stiller@occ.treas.gov)

A little over three years ago, this tantalizing item arrived in my email:

“My husband’s Great Uncle was Lawrence O. Murray, Comptroller of the Currency for Theodore Roosevelt. We have boxes and books of his correspondence during his term. They are silk copies of letters etc. and books of his duties as comptroller. Is there a Museum or Historical area where all of these things are kept? If so do they want such things or shall we just keep them in storage?”

Murray was one of the most controversial and least understood figures in the history of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), an independent bureau of the Treasury Department founded during the Civil War to charter and regulate national banks. Murray, the twelfth person to head it, came to the office in 1908, and made an instant impression on his staff of bank examiners by blaming them publicly for the problems in the U.S. banking system, including those that went well beyond their competence. They called him insane, and worse. So it went for five years, until Murray’s term came to an end and Congress created a new Federal Reserve system in hope of starting afresh.

So—yes, we wanted those books and boxes, as well as the memorabilia stored alongside them for nearly a century in an upstate New York attic, the better to understand Murray, his motivations, and his eccentricities. But it was a long road from offer to acquisition. Our potential donors had their own ambivalences to resolve about parting with more or less treasured family heirlooms. Financial considerations inevitably came into play. The Internal Revenue Service has exacting rules regarding property donations and their proper valuation, and these complications are multiplied when the Federal government is the intended recipient. It took months to track down an IRS-qualified historical-documents appraiser in central New York State and additional months to get the job done.

The big question was what to do with this windfall. Some items were clearly suited for

display in and around the OCC’s Washington headquarters. The oil portrait of Murray by William Haskell Coffin, one of the best known U.S. commercial artists of his day, was a special prize because it filled one of the few gaps in the OCC’s portrait collection of former Comptrollers. Framed, signed photographs of Murray’s friend and political benefactor, Theodore Roosevelt, and the photograph of Roosevelt’s Tennis Cabinet, of which Murray was a member, are not only visually interesting, but also provide an implicit explanation for Murray’s zeal in office.



Then-Comptroller of the Currency John C. Dugan with the donors, Jack and Ned Kelley, of Painted Post, New York and Kensington, Maryland, respectively, upon acceptance of the collection. Image courtesy of author.

The “boxes and books” of Murray correspondence consist of perhaps 13,000 items dating from his arrival in Washington as a young lawyer in 1892 to his organizational work on behalf of American troops in Europe after World War I. That’s not an especially large number, but it posed a practical challenge for an organization like the OCC, whose on-site “museum or historical area” was never more than a secure walk-in closet.

While Murray was clearly not a national figure of the first rank, his contribution to the history of banking regulation in the United States was significant. Before his time, national bank examiners were essentially unsupervised independent contractors who collected a fee from each national bank they inspected. The system encouraged examiners to be quick rather than thorough. Murray tried to change that, to weed out those he viewed as incompetent or corrupt. Those who fit that description saw him as a threat



The collection after processing. Image courtesy of author.

and worked to undermine him. Murray might have prevailed regardless, but just months after he came to office, Roosevelt gave way to the less reform-minded Taft administration. Murray was vindicated when the Federal Reserve Act made national bank examiners salaried employees of the United States and subjected them to real direction and accountability.

The Murray papers shed light on how these and other changes evolved, which is why the OCC made the commitment to their conservation and organization. Working from a preservation management plan developed by History Associates Incorporated of Rockville, Maryland, we have inventoried the collection, digitized the most important documents, and re-housed the entire collection to preserve it and make it accessible to users.

For the typical OCC employee who will not have the opportunity to experience Murray through his papers, we are preparing a museum-quality exhibit on his life and times. This will be installed in the agency’s headquarters, but a separate, transportable version is also being prepared for display in the OCC’s field locations.

The Murray papers might have found their way into the National Archives or the Library of Congress, had either of those agencies been willing to accept them. But our donors knew they could find no better home than the OCC, a small agency with a history it cares about and the resources to do it justice.

*Jesse Stiller is the special advisor for executive communications (speechwriter to the comptroller/historian) in the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Washington, D.C. He previously was professorial lecturer in International Affairs, George Washington University, command historian at the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School, and assistant professor, Bernard Baruch College, CUNY.*



Marty Blatt  
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## Public History in Cyber Space

In January 2011, I was roaming the book displays at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Boston when I ran into Steve Barnes, Director of the Center for Russian Studies, George Mason University. He told me about his forthcoming book from Princeton University Press, *Death and Redemption: The Gulag and the Shaping of Soviet Society*. Steve had been a key scholarly advisor five years ago when Louis Hutchins and I developed the traveling exhibit for the National Park Service, "GULAG: Soviet Forced Labor Camps and the Struggle for Freedom." That had been his first venture into public history. In response to my inquiry if he was doing any public history these days, he excitedly replied that he was just about to launch a blog, [russianhistoryblog.org](http://russianhistoryblog.org).

That got me to thinking that I want to remind our members about the wonderful blog that NCPH now operates—Off the Wall: Critical Reviews of History Exhibit Practice in an Age of Ubiquitous Display. I find the articles to be interesting, lively, and quite varied.

A major problem regarding public history in cyber space may be generational. My neighbor and good friend David is quite knowledgeable about many topics but never buys a newspaper; he gets the information that he wants on line. In contrast, not too long ago I was quite upset at the threat of the cessation of print publication of the Boston Globe owing to the steady decline in circulation. David is 40 and I just recently turned 60.

On one large corner of my desk sit fairly neatly arranged piles of journals, newsletters, and books. On a regular but intermittent basis, I try to plow through as much of this material as I can. However, what occurs to me now is that I should try to do a much better job of just as regularly plowing through cyber space. I confess that for a while I would say to myself that anyone can launch a blog or website so there is no accounting for quality. This is of course true, but what it reveals is a clear bias towards printed matter. Much that is published might be just as bad as the majority of postings in cyber space.

I am pleased with myself that I am regularly checking in on Off the Wall but I could benefit from consulting other blogs and websites. In preparing this column, I looked around in a few familiar places I had not visited in a while—Boston historian John Bell's blog 1775 and the website of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. I, of course, found all sorts of interesting things. *The Public Historian* and the *Journal*

*of American History* regularly review websites which would certainly yield excellent additions to my list of favorites. I am on the email mailing list for "Dispatches from the Future of Museums," produced by the American Association of Museums. There are all sorts of interesting postings, often links to websites or blogs. I find that I can't take the time to look at this email every time I receive one, but whenever I do, I find items of great interest. An interesting website is Common-Place, which I find often has valuable contributions.

Tom Engelhardt edits TomDispatch.com, a lively and oppositional blog that bills itself as a regular antidote to the mainstream media for anyone seeking deeper understanding of our post-9/11 world. My daughters (ages 16 and 12) have been asking me to explain what the United States is doing in Afghanistan. This blog's views are quite contrary to the policies of my employer, the federal government, so I recommend this site as a private citizen and not as a federal employee. The posting of 1/3/11, *Reliving the Soviet Experience in Afghanistan*, offers an excellent summary of the role of the United States since the 1980s in that war-torn nation.

So, there are all sorts of public history opportunities in cyber space. Perhaps I should more consistently alternate between plowing through my pile of publications and an exploration of familiar and not yet visited blogs and websites.

## Seminar for Historical Administration

The 51st Seminar for Historical Administration met from October 30–November 20, 2010, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The nineteen members of the Class of 2010 represented the multiple facets of the history field, from historic houses and sites, to statewide, and even national, history organizations and included two participants from Canada.

The SHA review committee makes its selections each year after considering an applicant's experience, evidence that he or she is in a position to take on a leadership role and/or new challenges at his or her institution, and an indication that the applicant has the potential to be a rising leader nationally in the field.

Applications for this year's seminar are due in the office of the American Association for State and Local History by May 17. For more information, go to the AASLH website at [www.aaslh.org/histadmin](http://www.aaslh.org/histadmin). SHA is presented by AASLH, the American Association of Museums, Colonial Williamsburg, Indiana Historical Society, National Museum of African American History and Culture, and National Trust for Historic Preservation.

## Save the Date — Humanities Advocacy Day

Annual Meeting  
National Humanities Alliance  
March 7-8, 2011



The George Washington University Marvin Center & Capitol Hill, Washington, DC

Meet national leaders and others who shape humanities policy, learn about the current state of federal funding and new policy issues, develop your advocacy skills, and make sure your voice is heard in support of the humanities.

The 2011 Humanities Advocacy Day preliminary program includes commentary on the post-election landscape, discussion of humanities funding and other policy issues, a luncheon and keynote address, presentations of current work in the humanities, a Capitol Hill reception, and visits to Congressional offices. Register early at [www.nhalliance.org](http://www.nhalliance.org). The fee to attend is \$75.



John Dichtl  
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## Public and Academic History in the Wider World of the Other

There are signs that public history today is enjoying broader recognition than ever before. Still, worries about the field or the profession's identity do crop up. Thirty years on, in conference sessions, journal articles, and presidential addresses, we are still talking about public history's place in the larger discipline of history. Indeed, 15 percent of the 3,800 respondents to the Survey of Public History Professionals in 2008 cited definitional problems—public awareness of “public history,” lack of respect for the field, and tension with academics—as the most serious issue(s) facing public history today. These were not the main concerns but they ranked third, behind lack of funding and resources—40 percent—and society's lack of interest in history and historical institutions—20 percent. Clearly, many of us still doubt our profession has the respect it deserves.

In January, I attended American Historical Association conference in Boston, and despite the snowstorm, found a relatively warm reception for public history. This annual gathering of 5,000 members of a 14,000-member society incorporated by Congress in 1889 “for the promotion of historical studies,” has something for every field of history. In the past several years, the AHA as an organization, if not the rank and file membership, has embraced public history. This is largely due to Arnita A. Jones's tenure as executive director. A founding figure in the public history movement, in NCPH, the Society for History in the Federal Government, and others, Jones's commitment to the idea of a public role for historians, whether as public intellectuals or as public historians, was the subject of the fascinating opening plenary session in Boston. (You can

watch the video on C-SPAN's website, at <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/Historyandt&showFullAbstract=1>).

AHA's new executive director, Jim Grossman, formerly of the Newberry Library, is continuing the public trajectory set by Jones and many of the AHA's presidents in the past decade. The AHA will push the discipline of history to reassert itself outside of academia. At the Boston conference, Grossman presented to former Congressman Lee Hamilton the association's eighth annual Theodore Roosevelt-Woodrow Wilson Award, which is for “individuals outside the academy such as civil servants and public officials who have made a significant contribution to history.” Three of five of Grossman's columns as executive director in *AHA Perspectives in History* have called on historians to adopt a greater public role: “History in a Public Square” (September 2010); “Historical Malpractice and the Writing of Textbooks” (December 2010); “Citizenship, History, and Public Culture” (January 2011).

At the same time, the new AHA president, Anthony Grafton (Princeton University), also aims to unite academic and public historians. In his inaugural message to AHA members, “History under Attack,” (*AHA Perspectives in History*, January 2011), Grafton shows that history and other humanities professors face intense criticism these days for being too focused on overly specialized research topics pursued at the expense of teaching undergraduates. Critics charge that historical “research and teaching are nothing more than sterile pursuits of mind-numbing factoids, tedious and predictable exercises in group think, or politicized exercises in deploying the evidence to prove predetermined conclusions.” Answering them, says Grafton, means showing historians “do in fact discover knowledge that turns out to be useful.” Historians must also present a united front, university and public historians must “make clear, as often as possible, the great importance and deep impact of their collaborative enterprises.” The history researched and taught in universities “enriches and is enriched in its turn by the extraordinary work of America's public historians.”

Grafton's and the AHA's call for collaboration and unity is echoed by the academy's growing interest in “civic engagement” or “community engagement.” College and university trustees

and presidents—and, for public institutions, state legislators—are pushing faculty to show they can collaborate with “their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.”<sup>1</sup> This turn toward public service and connection is taking place both because of interest in the “mutually beneficial” exchanges of civic engagement and as a strategic defense. As criticism falls on universities, they try to become engaged. One way a history department can help itself and its university, for example, is to build the connections to community inherent in a public history program.

Thus, public history as a field is more firmly lodged than ever in colleges and universities across the country and abroad, and it is spreading. The number of history departments with public history programs—130 or so and counting—grows by a handful a year. More and more departments are offering public history courses and seeking new faculty members who can bring a public history perspective.

Public history's proliferation in colleges and universities is also due to the recognition that “there be jobs there.” In a bad economy with a depressed job market, history departments, like colleges and universities, see a public history program as a means to gain an edge over other departments—internally for majors; externally for matriculating students. A quick gander at websites for Master's degree and undergraduate public history programs reveals the extent to which most use the vocational aspects of public history as a selling point. So we have a 30-year institutionalization of public history within the academy, the more recent turn of civic engagement, and the return to public history as a path to employment for students at the Master's and Bachelor's levels.

Add to them the ongoing academic job crisis for PhDs. As history PhDs continue to find it very difficult to land tenure-track jobs, more and more end up in “alternative careers” such as public history, and more and more departments are pondering the idea of providing “alternative career” or public history training to students still in the PhD pipeline. During the AHA conference in Boston, AHA Assistant Director, Robert

continued on page next page →

Townsend, put some numbers behind the job market problems. (You can see his presentation, “The Academic Job Market: Finding Solutions in a Time of Crisis,” on the History News Network at <http://hnn.us/roundup/63.html>). According to Townsend, “the sad fact of the matter is that the history [PhD] job market has been in near perpetual state of crisis since 1970.” Only 55 percent of those who matriculate into a PhD program finish. Only about 25 percent of those who matriculate end up in tenure-track positions. Approximately 40 percent of those who do finish will end up employed outside of academia. The scandal, Townsend concludes, is that PhD programs are training their students for a job market in which most of

them will never be employed. And the vast majority of departments have neither cut back on the number of students nor begun preparing PhDs to work anywhere other than an academic teaching post.

It is my hope, however, that as the academic side of the discipline grows more receptive to public history courses and programs, departments will adopt a holistic view. They will prepare PhD and MA students to work in a true variety of settings. Academically oriented historians will find allies, colleagues, and intellectual community among public historians situated in museums, corporations, historical societies, and county offices, and the doors of the university will remain open

for historians, wherever they are employed and whatever their approaches, to move back and forth across what has been too sharp of a dividing line between academia and the wider world. Academic departments will benefit from exposure to the methods, expertise, and experiences of public historians. Public historians will benefit from the intellectual ferment of the academy, both drawing from and contributing to new scholarship as well as inspired teaching.

<sup>1</sup>Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, “Community Engagement Elective Classification,” at <http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/classifications/index.asp?key=1213>. See also the WGEPHS white paper, “Tenure, Promotion, and the Engaged.....” at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org)

## History News Service

This article is adapted from the HNS website, <http://www.h-net.org/~hns/>.

In fall 2010, historian and Indiana University journalism professor David Nord took over as editor of the History News Service (HNS), an informal syndicate of historians who seek to improve the public discussion of current events by setting those events in historical context.

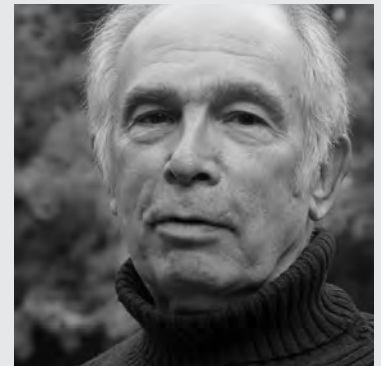
Founded in 1996 by Joyce Appleby and James M. Banner, Jr., HNS provides “op-ed” articles to the news media, puts reporters and editors in contact with historians, and tries to improve links between the journalism and historical professions. HNS articles are also distributed to selected Web sites and H-Net lists and to the History News Network.

To enhance understanding of the origins and significance of current events, HNS distributes to the general media short, reflective commentaries that bring historians’ knowledge to bear on issues of pressing public concern. Currently, HNS offers distribution for one-time non-exclusive use to 300 daily newspapers in 42 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Bermuda, and Canada. Because reporters and editors, working under pressure of deadlines, seek information and advice on the origins and significance of breaking news, HNS also attempts to link journalists with historians who are equipped to assist them in preparing news articles and in understanding the historical implications of the events they cover. Finally, HNS seeks to strengthen the often tenuous links between print and electronic journalists on the one hand and professional historians on the other. It seeks to help editors and reporters understand historical resources, concepts, and contexts and at the same time to present opportunities for historians to learn the practices and values of professional journalists.

Directed by the HNS editor and a steering committee of historians and journalists, HNS has no members, only writers and editors. HNS writers are chosen for proven command of their fields and the ability to use their knowledge to illuminate current affairs. All articles represent the work of their authors, not HNS, which supplies editing and distribution services only. All authors of HNS articles retain copyright in their works



Joyce Appleby. Courtesy of HNS.



James M. Banner, Jr. Courtesy of HNS.

Below is a select list of North American and other newspapers that have published articles distributed by the History News Service:

<i>The Los Angeles Times</i>	<i>Nashville Tennessean</i>
<i>The International Herald Tribune</i>	<i>Newark Star Ledger</i>
<i>Albany Times Union</i>	<i>New Orleans Times-Picayune</i>
<i>Albuquerque Journal</i>	<i>Omaha World Herald</i>
<i>Arizona Daily Star</i>	<i>Peoria Star Journal</i>
<i>Arkansas Democrat-Gazette</i>	<i>Philadelphia Inquirer</i>
<i>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</i>	<i>Pittsburgh Tribune-Review</i>
<i>Augusta (GA) Chronicle</i>	<i>Portland Oregonian</i>
<i>Austin American-Statesman</i>	<i>Providence Journal Bulletin</i>
<i>Bakersfield Californian</i>	<i>Raleigh News &amp; Observer</i>
<i>Baltimore Sun</i>	<i>Roanoke Times and World News</i>
<i>Bergen County Record</i>	<i>Sacramento Bee</i>
<i>Buffalo News</i>	<i>Salt Lake Tribune</i>
<i>Charlotte Observer</i>	<i>San Diego Union Tribune</i>
<i>Charleston (WV) Gazette</i>	<i>San Francisco Examiner</i>
<i>Chattanooga Times Free Press</i>	<i>San Jose Mercury News</i>
<i>Cincinnati Post</i>	<i>Santa Fe New Mexican</i>
<i>Denver Post</i>	<i>South Bend Tribune</i>
<i>Florida Sun Sentinel</i>	<i>Spokane Spokesman Review</i>
<i>Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel</i>	<i>St. Augustine Record</i>
<i>Greensboro News &amp; Record</i>	<i>St. Louis Post Dispatch</i>
<i>Harrisburg Patriot-News</i>	<i>St. Paul Pioneer Press</i>
<i>Hartford Courant</i>	<i>St. Petersburg Times</i>
<i>Houston Chronicle</i>	<i>Tallahassee Democrat</i>
<i>Idaho Statesman</i>	<i>Toronto Star</i>
<i>Kansas City Star</i>	<i>Tulsa World</i>
<i>Las Vegas Review Journal</i>	<i>Washington (DC) Times</i>
<i>Lexington (KY) Herald Leader</i>	<i>Wichita Eagle</i>
<i>Memphis Commercial Appeal</i>	<i>Wilmington (DE) News-Journal</i>
<i>Miami Herald</i>	<i>Wisconsin State Journal</i>
<i>Milwaukee Journal Sentinel</i>	<i>Worcester Telegram and Gazette</i>
<i>Milwaukee Journal Times</i>	

# → Committees on the Go

*These brief updates give a sampling of what NCPH volunteers are doing. If you are interested in participating, please let us know at [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu). The committees encourage your input. Committee meetings during the annual meeting are open to all members. Contact information for committee chairs and members is listed on the NCPH website.*

## **Consultants**

The Consultants Committee has opened a Twitter account (@NCPHConsultants), raised nearly \$1,000 for the Consultants Reception at the Pensacola annual meeting, and submitted a proposal for a roundtable titled, "Historians in the Legal Arena," for the 2012 NCPH-OAH Annual Meeting. The committee has also prepared recommendations for improving the NCPH Excellence in Consulting Award.

## **Curriculum & Training**

The Curriculum & Training Committee is compiling short reading lists of books and articles that will be useful to public history educators seeking ideas for their courses. The lists include the following: museums; preservation; international issues in public history; oral history; historiography of the field; public history controversies; and case studies in public history. The committee also is refining two new "best practices" documents, one on "certificates" and another on "the introductory public history course." Prior to the committee meeting in Pensacola, members will promote the NCPH's online Guide to Public History Programs.

## **Development Committee**

The Development Committee has been gathering written commitments from the several individuals who have included or will include NCPH in their personal estate plans, and it has been discussing how best to recognize and thank them. The committee also is shaping a strategy to approach corporate donors on behalf of NCPH.

## **Digital Media Group**

The group is organizing the THATCamp workshop taking place during the NCPH Annual Meeting in Pensacola, has launched the NCPH annual meeting conference blog, and continues to help supervise H-Public and Off the Wall, the NCPH-sponsored blog for "Critical reviews of exhibit practice in an age of ubiquitous display."

## **Graduate Student Ad Hoc Committee**

The Graduate Student Committee has prepared a short membership survey for graduate student members and non-members to distribute in the next few weeks. The committee also is helping to organize the Speed Networking event for the annual meeting and updated a list of Frequently Asked Questions about the conference for the NCPH website.

## **International Task Force**

The task force, along with fifteen to twenty other public historians around the world, has become an interim steering committee for the International Federation for Public History. During the NCPH Annual Meeting in Pensacola, the IFPH will elect a permanent steering committee. All who are interested are invited to participate.

## **Long Range Planning**

The Long Range Planning Committee is gathering information about NCPH's strengths and weaknesses from a targeted group of members and non-members. It also has been analyzing data from the 2008 Survey of Public History Professionals and post-annual-meeting evaluation surveys. In Pensacola, the committee will discuss this material and provide a preliminary report to the Board of Directors.

## **Membership**

Members of the Membership Committee have been contacting individuals in their states whose NCPH memberships have lapsed as well as other public historians who might join the organization. The committee has been critiquing the NCPH website and providing other marketing feedback to the executive office. Vickie Lindsay has stepped in as chair.

## **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee worked with the vice president and executive office to assemble the slate of candidates for the 2011 election. For 2012 and beyond, the committee will be considering the possibility of inviting one or two professionals from outside of the public history community to participate in the NCPH governance structure. Elizabeth Fraterrigo took over as chair in December 2010.

## **Professional Development**

The Professional Development Committee is looking at how other professions and disciplines—such as lawyers and engineers, the Society of American Archivists, etc.—think about continuing education. The committee is assessing the workshops NCPH has offered in the past and what members have called for in post-conference evaluations, in preparation to revise the organization's workshop guidelines and offerings.

## **2012 Program Committee**

The five NCPH members of the joint program committee for 2012 have been soliciting sessions for the call, which closed on February 1. The committee will convene during the OAH Annual Meeting in Houston, March 17-20, to discuss with their OAH counterparts the proposal submissions and to establish the schedule of sessions, plenaries, and other events in Milwaukee.

## **2012 Local Resource Committee**

Jasmine Alinder has agreed to co-chair the Local Resource Committee for next year's conference in Milwaukee. The joint OAH-NCPH committee is finishing a list of possible tours and offsite venues for anchoring the conference in the Milwaukee community.

## **"The Real War Will Never Get in the Books"**

The Public History of the American Civil War, a Sesquicentennial Symposium

March 26, 2011  
North Carolina State University

The approaching 150th anniversary of the American Civil War provides a unique opportunity to explore the many ways that public and academic historians can work together to engage general audiences at battlefields, historic sites, and museums across the country. On Saturday, March 26, 2011, the History Department at North Carolina State University will host a symposium to facilitate discussions among Civil War interpreters, museum curators, and scholars about how to convey integrated narratives of military, social, and political history. <http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/smllee4/civilwarconference/>

# Teaching Global and Comparative Public History

Gerald Zahavi | [zahavi@albany.edu](mailto:zahavi@albany.edu)

For over two decades I have been offering core readings courses in our public history program. Many focused on local and regional history, especially community and state- and town-level studies of labor and business history. Last year, however, I began to consider how the teaching of public history might be enriched by bringing in a more cosmopolitan and comparative perspective, offering students an opportunity to explore their field through a wide-angle lens that takes in the whole world. Such an approach, I felt, would augment the more micro-historical training and perspectives often characteristic of public history programs. The end result of this thinking was my creation of a new course, first offered in the fall of 2010: “Readings in U.S. and Global/Comparative Public History.”

The course focused broadly on how historical knowledge and historical interpretations were shaped by different political, cultural, and ideological milieus in various national and regional contexts. Students examined popular narratives, textbooks, media, exhibitions, memorials, and various other forms of public history. Around half of the semester was devoted to coverage of public history as practiced in the U.S.—utilizing well-known books and articles by Mike Wallace, Edward Linenthal, James Loewen, Tony Horwitz, and others. Once grounded in domestic soils, we spent the rest of the semester taking a comparative approach in surveying the history, theory, and practice of Public History in Asia, Africa, South America, Great Britain, Eastern and Western Europe, and in Australia.

We often looked back over our shoulders and compared controversies over nationalistic narratives, ethnic and racial histories, and historic sites abroad with similar ones in the U.S. For example, the Smithsonian Enola Gay controversy was linked to our discussion of Japanese memorials and exhibits in Hiroshima and Nagasaki—covered in Daniel Seltz’s essay in Daniel J. Walkowitz and Lisa Maya Knauer, eds., *Memory and the Impact of Political Transformation in Public Space*. Similarly, the points of contention summarized in Linenthal’s overview of the creation of the U.S. Holocaust Museum were compared to controversies over Holocaust memorials in Europe and to debates over memorials to other victims of mass murder and genocide in Asia and Africa. Site discussions in James Loewen’s *Lies Across America* were often brought up in our discussion of critiques of exhibits and sites in Australia and South Africa—the covered in “Places of the Heart: Memorials in Australia,” a special issue of the Australian Center for Public History’s *Public History Review* (vol. 15; 2008) and in Sarah Nuttall and Carli Coetzee, eds., *Negotiating the Past: The Making of Memory in South Africa* (2008).

In addition to monographs and articles, the course’s growing resource bibliography (tapped by students for their final papers and available on line at: <http://www.albany.edu/history/comparativepublichistory/>) included visual and aural material especially appropriate to many of the themes we were exploring. For example, I used the excellent Australian four-part radio series “History Under Siege: Battles Over the Past,” produced by Michele Rayner of *Hindsight* (an Australian Broadcasting Corporation – Radio National series). I had scheduled the series for broadcast on our weekly radio show, *Talking History* ([www.talkinghistory.org](http://www.talkinghistory.org)). The series’ focus on public history debates in four nations—France, Australia, Japan, and Argentina—and on historical representations and debates over imperialism, war and militarism, colonialism, and racism in school textbooks, museums,

memorials, and other public venues was precisely what we were examining in the course. I also used Trey Kay’s “*The Great Textbook War of 1974*,” a radio documentary that had just won a 2010 Peabody Award. Focusing on a 1974 Kanawha County, West Virginia cultural war over the adoption of controversial history and civic textbooks, Kay’s piece was the basis of our discussion of textbooks as forms of public history. This worked especially well in conjunction with our reading of selections from Howard Zinn’s *A People’s History* and Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen, *A Patriot’s History of the United States*—as well as with *Hindsight*’s “History Under Siege” Japan segment, focusing—in part—on debates on school textbook treatments of Japanese imperialism in China and Korea.

The course was clearly successful; class discussions were often lively. The final assignment, a comparative and lengthy essay looking at any public history controversy or theme across national boundaries, yielded some imaginative work. One student compared public exhibits, popular literature, and art in South Africa focusing on the Anglo-Zulu war of the 1870s with their counterparts in the U.S.—devoted to western U.S. military campaigns against the Lakota Sioux. Another—in an exceptional 35-page essay—examined legal and public policy, exhibits, media, and textbooks related to the histories of Indian residential schools in the U.S. and in Canada.

I would say the course more than achieved its aim and, informed by feedback from the class, I intend to refine it and offer it again next year.

Gerald Zahavi is professor of history at the University at Albany, State University of New York. He founded Talking History, an aural history production center with a weekly FM radio program that is also broadcast over the Internet ([www.talkinghistory.org](http://www.talkinghistory.org)), co-founded the Journal for MultiMedia History, and helped establish the interdisciplinary Documentary Studies Program at the University at Albany, a program which he now directs.



See the linked resource bibliography to this article and my course at <http://www.albany.edu/history/comparativepublichistory/>

# INVITATION

## Inaugural Meeting of the International Federation for Public History

Friday, April 8, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

During the NCPH Annual Meeting in Pensacola, Florida, the International Federation for Public History will convene for the first time. All who are interested are invited to participate in selecting the federation's Steering Committee.

The federation was established in August 2010, as an Internal Commission by the General Assembly of the International Committee of Historical Sciences/Comité International des Sciences Historiques (ICHS/CISH). CISH itself was launched shortly after the First World War to encourage international cooperation among scholars; its secretariat is located at the University of Paris.

The federation's purposes are to

- create an international network of public history programs and schools;
- facilitate the international exchange of information on teaching and research in public history;

- foster participation of public historians and their organizations in international congresses and other meetings of scholars in the field; and,
- encourage the formation of national committees of historians working in the field of public history.

In Pensacola we plan to

- establish a formal steering commission and elect an initial set of officers;
- identify national groups, committees, or institutions wishing to become members of the federation;
- plan for the inclusion of federation members in the next meeting of the International Congress of Historical Sciences (CISH) in Jinan, Shandong, China in 2015; and
- discuss further priorities/initiatives for the federation, as well as potential sources of support.

The new International Federation for Public History will embrace the widest

possible range of public history practice, including museums, historical sites, academic programs, government historical offices and other venues where historians are engaged in public history. If you cannot attend in person we hope you will let us know ([ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu)) of your interest in this promising new initiative.



Courtesy of Flickr user Jason Bachman



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For more information, contact Michelle Hamilton, Director, at [mhamilt3@uwo.ca](mailto:mhamilt3@uwo.ca) or visit us at [www.history.uwo.ca/gradstudies/publichistory](http://www.history.uwo.ca/gradstudies/publichistory).



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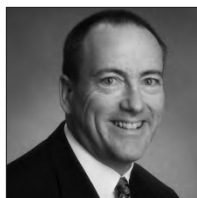


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# → National Coalition for History Update



Lee White  
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## Wal-Mart Retreats from Wilderness Civil War Battlefield

In an unexpected development, Wal-Mart announced on January 26 that it was abandoning plans to pursue a special use permit previously awarded to the retail giant for construction of a supercenter on the Wilderness Battlefield in Virginia. The decision came as the trial in a legal challenge seeking to overturn the special use permit was scheduled to begin in Orange County circuit court. The Battle of the Wilderness, fought May 5–6, 1864, was one of the most significant engagements of the American Civil War.



The National Coalition for History (NCH) is part of the Wilderness Battlefield Coalition, an alliance of local residents and national groups seeking to protect the Wilderness battlefield. Collaborating with the Civil War Trust, NCH organized more than 250 American historians, led by Pulitzer Prize-winners James McPherson and David McCullough, in opposition to Wal-Mart's proposed construction plans.

In August 2009, the Orange County Board of Supervisors approved a controversial special use permit to allow construction of the Wal-Mart Supercenter and associated commercial development on the Battlefield. A wide range of prominent individuals and organizations publicly opposed the store's location. One month after the decision, a group of concerned citizens and the local Friends of Wilderness Battlefield filed a legal challenge to overturn the decision.

## Congress Enacts IMLS Reauthorization

On December 22, 2010, President Obama signed into law the "Museum and Library Services Act of 2010" (Public Law 111-340). The law authorizes funding for fiscal years 2011 – 2016 for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums.

According to the American Library Association, Americans visit libraries more than 1.3 billion times and check out more than 2.1 billion items each year. And the American Association of Museums reports that there are nearly 850 million visits per year to American museums, and that U.S. museums employ as many as half a million Americans and contribute approximately \$20.7 billion to the economy each year.

The law authorizes nearly \$300 million in federal assistance to museums and libraries nationwide in FY 2011. It will also enhance training and professional development for librarians and ensure the development of a diverse library workforce, including by authorizing the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian program, which has been previously funded through annual appropriations. It will help build state capacity to support museums by authorizing IMLS to support state assessments of museum services and the development and implementation of state plans to improve and enhance those services. The IMLS reauthorization also strengthens conservation and preservation efforts. Additionally, the law requires IMLS to improve coordination and collaboration with other federal agencies that have an interest in and responsibilities for the improvement of museum and libraries and information services.

## JFK Presidential Library Launches Digital Archives

To help mark the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy, David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, and Caroline Kennedy, president of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, recently unveiled the nation's largest online digitized presidential archive, providing unprecedented global access to the most important papers, records, photographs and recordings of President Kennedy's thousand days in office.



To manage a digitization project of this enormity, the archivists of the Kennedy Presidential Library prioritized the Library's historic collections beginning with those that hold the highest research interest and significance. At launch, the archive features approximately 200,000 pages; 300 reels of audio tape, containing more than 1,245 individual recordings of telephone calls, speeches and meetings; 300 museum artifacts; 72 reels of film; and 1,500 photos.

## National Declassification Center Issues Prioritization Plan to Eliminate Backlog

The National Archives National Declassification Center (NDC) recently released its Prioritization Plan for eliminating the 400+ million page backlog of reviewed, but unavailable archival records. President Obama has charged the National Archives with eliminating the backlog by December 2013.

The plan is a roadmap for the NDC to declassify and process for release federal records and Presidential materials. The annual work plans provide greater detail about which entries or subject areas within records groups are scheduled for processing this year. The plan may be viewed online at <http://www.archives.gov/declassification/final-prioritization-plan.pdf>.

*NCPH is a member of the National Coalition for History (NCH), a Washington, DC-based nonprofit educational organization providing leadership in history-related advocacy. Consisting of more than 60 organizations, NCH serves as the historical profession's national voice in the United States and acts as a clearinghouse of news and information. Anyone may subscribe to the weekly NCH newsletter, The Washington Update, by visiting <http://historycoalition.org/subscribe/> or subscribe to the RSS feed by going to <http://feeds.feedburner.com/historycoalition>*



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This guide is a free, international resource for prospective students, public history faculty, and anyone interested in the shape of public history education today. It offers basic information, in a standardized format, about the growing number of public history programs. NCPH also intends the guide for public history institutions, government agencies, schools, businesses, and community groups wanting to identify potential partners in their area.

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