

Public History News

Inside This Issue

3

2008 Election Results

6

Intersections

7

President's Comments

8

From the Director's Desk

9

Consultants' Comment

14

**World Wide Help for
Historical Photos**

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A Time for Renewal: the 2008 Annual Meeting

Marla Miller and Pat Mooney-Melvin

The Kentucky poet, essayist and novelist Wendell Barry writes “Planting trees early in spring, we make a place for birds to sing in time to come. How do we know? They are singing here now. There is no other guarantee that singing will ever be.”



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Spring—a season of hope, planting and renewal—is also the time we public historians gather to plant and nurture new ideas, and with luck enjoy some professional renewal. Barry’s poem reminds us of the importance of stewardship, a value public historians especially embrace. Elsewhere Barry also urges readers to slow down, to value special places, to embrace communities that sustain us and to attend mindfully to their health and maintenance. In April, we have an opportunity to gather in one special place—Louisville, Kentucky—to spend a few days together in contemplation of communities past and present, in small and large locales across the nation, around the world, and within our discipline. At this year’s annual meeting, more than fifty talks, sessions, workshops and other conversations will help us think about ways in which public history practice serves both to unite, and sometimes divide, a wide range of communities.

This year’s meeting pilots some new ways to engage one another as well as the residents of our host city, Louisville. Many of you have already read about the “working group” session format that will debut at this meeting. In these innovative gatherings, groups of historians will share their experiences with colleagues struggling with similar issues in the hope that they can, in the weeks before, during and after the meeting, engage in specific, solution-oriented discussions about common concerns. Other sessions are also meant to promote conversation alongside presentation: for instance, Cathy Stanton and Martha Norkunas will facilitate a free-flowing conversation about public historians and climate change, while Donna

M. DeBlasio, Ann McCleary, and Ivan Steen will steer what promises to be a lively discussion of “Best Practices in Public History Curricula” in a session that builds on a longstanding project of the Curriculum & Training Committee.



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Another aspect of the meeting aims to make the conference more permeable. The opening talk by Andrew Ferguson will be a public event held in Louisville’s landmark public library. Members of the community together with public historians from around the country will hear Ferguson’s commentary on the state of Lincoln-based historic site interpretation and tourism, and quiz the author on his sometimes-controversial perspectives. Two other sessions, also hosted by the library, invite Louisville residents to learn alongside conference-goers about current issues in the interpretation of the Civil War at the nation’s historic sites, and the ins, outs, and potentially revolutionary applications of the cutting-edge software Zotero for history professionals and other practitioners.

> continued on page 5

Our 2008 Annual Meeting has been endorsed by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.



COSMOPOLITANLY

This international section of *Public History News* and other NCPH activities reflect the organization's support of public history initiatives that reach across borders. The Winter 2008 special issue of *The Public Historian* and an accompanying session at the Louisville annual meeting will focus on civic engagement at international sites of conscience. At least two other sessions, "Globalizing Museums and Public History," and "Presenting Controversy in Living History Museums," will offer international perspectives. In addition, the 2009 NCPH Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, will emphasize dialogue that moves beyond geographical boundaries. Please send your news of other international connections to nph@iupui.edu.

Audience, Memory, and Meaning in Australia, New Zealand, and the U.S.



University of Sydney. Courtesy of Flickr.com user Alex U. See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/> for license terms of this work.

Among the keynote speakers for the Australia-New Zealand American Studies Meeting is Ian Tyrrell, who has added historical perspective to the practice of history outside the university in his recent work, *Historians in Public: The Practice of American History, 1890-1970* (University of Chicago Press, 2005). To expand on his analysis, a group of public historians will present a roundtable discussion of some of the most pressing issues that face those who practice contemporary public history, applied history, community history, oral history and memory studies, natural and cultural resource management, or heritage studies in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. The conference takes place at the University of Sydney, Australia July 4-7, 2008.

2008 Public History Conference in Liverpool

Building on similar conferences in London, England (2006), and Swansea, Wales (2007), an international conference organized by the University of Liverpool for April 2008 will "encourage rigorous reflection" on "the theory and practice of the production, dissemination, and consumption of historical knowledge and heritage by diverse agents and for diverse publics." As the conference web site <http://www.liv.ac.uk/history/public-history/Conference_Outline.htm> notes, Liverpool boasts compelling cultural and historical resources. It is the European Capital of Culture in 2008, while in 2007 it commemorated the 800th anniversary of its city charter and the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the British slave trade with a specially designated Heritage Year and the opening of the International Slavery Museum. Conference organizers hope to involve more scholars with the exciting commemorative and other public history work bubbling out of museums and related historical institutions. Heritage professionals and scholars from the U.K., Europe, Canada, the U.S., and beyond will focus on two main themes: "the role of museums in constructing, documenting, and reinforcing collective identities"; and, "current agency-funded public history research projects which combine cutting edge research with innovative community work."

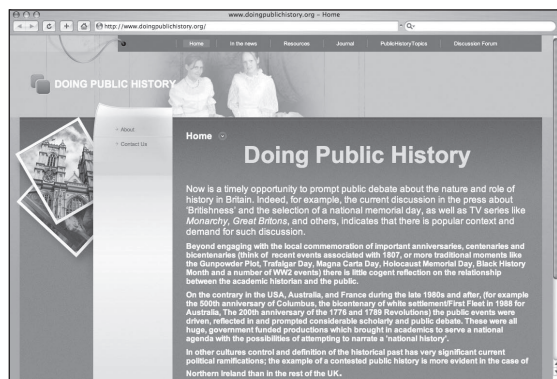
The panel will examine questions about audience(s), memory and the meanings of history, collection, and interpretation. Paula Hamilton and Paul Ashton of the University of Technology in Sydney will speak about their examination of the meanings of memory in Australia. Their work builds on, but reveals significant differences to, the late Roy Rosenzweig's and David Thelen's *The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life* (Columbia University Press, 1998), which examined the meanings of history held by people in the United States. Gavin McLean of the History Group/Ministry of Culture and Heritage in New Zealand and Janelle Warren-Findley of Arizona State University in the U.S. will explore how historic preservation and cultural resource management differ in their countries. Tangible culture and cultural landscapes are immovable objects of great personal meaning and historical significance to many people but professional historians often overlook or undervalue the information that reading such resources uncovers. Finally, Claudia Orange of Te Papa Tongarewa/Museum of New Zealand and James B. Gardner of the National Museum of American History will compare collecting/interpreting material objects from a transnational, multicultural world. Like the other panelists, Orange and Gardner confront issues of memory and commemoration, interpretation of some material culture and not of other things, and outsider stories in a context of strong national narratives. But because of their positions in national museums, they also must help construct the bridges between the best academic writing of their nations' past with the audiences whose varied and various history it is.

Bridging Ages

Bridging Ages, an international network of public historians, educators, and museum professionals that focuses on Historic Environment Education, formed a Non-Governmental Organization at its annual conference in Latvia in October. Historic Environment Education uses local historic sites and nearby history as an active way of learning and inspiring people and communities today about the past. Members from Finland, Estonia, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, South Africa, Sweden, and the United States bring these practices to classrooms, museum settings, and public events. Bridging Ages is conducting a survey on how organizations and educators are using nearby history and heritage in their classrooms and museums. To tell us how you incorporate the local environment in your public history projects and programs, please contact Jon Hunner at jhunner@nmsu.edu. The Bridging Ages web site is <http://www.bridgingages.com/>.



Staff from the Kalmar Museum in Sweden lead a sixth-grade class in a reenactment at the reconstructed fifth-century fort of Eketorp. The Time Travel technique uses living history where everyone is in the past time period to enable students to directly experience the past. Courtesy of Jon Hunner.



site, “Doing Public History” <<http://www.doingpublichistory.org/>>, is fueled in part by recent press discussion in Britain about “Britishness” and the creation of a national memorial day and calls for more “cogent reflection on the relationship between the academic historians and the public” along the lines of what has taken place in the U.S., France, and Australia. Among other features, the web site includes an online journal that welcomes contributions. Professor Justin Champion, Department of History at Royal Holloway, University of London, is the project’s creator and the journal editor. He can be reached at J.Champion@rhul.ac.uk.

A new British web project aims “to bring together all people and institutions interested in the practice and dissemination of public history both in the UK but also globally.” The

The NCPH executive office is pleased to announce the results of the recent NCPH elections. New officers and board members will assume their duties at the end of the annual meeting in Louisville.



In-coming NCPH vice president, Marty Blatt

Vice President - Martin Blatt, Boston National Historical Park

Marty has served as the chief of Cultural Resources/historian at Boston National Historical Park since 1996 and has been deeply involved in public history and NCPH for many years. He has served on the NCPH Board of Directors, *TPH* Editorial Board, Nominating Committee, and was the Program Committee cochair for the 2006 joint annual meeting with OAH.

Board of Directors - Robert Carrier, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Bob heads the History and Geography Department and is director of Public History Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He also serves as a consultant and advisor to various regional historical outlets in Louisiana including the Lafayette Historic Preservation Commission, the Preservation Alliance of Lafayette, and the River Road African American History Museum.

Board of Directors - Michele Gates Moresi, National Museum of African American History and Culture

Curator of collections with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture since May 2006, Michele previously was a historian with the National Park Service’s National Register for Historic Places, where she coordinated the Diversity Internship Program, conducted research projects, and reviewed nominations for the National Register.

Board of Directors - Cathy Stanton, Tufts University and Vermont College of Union Institute & University

Cathy has been a member of NCPH since 1983. In addition to teaching anthropology at Tufts University and cultural and historical studies at Union Institute & University, she serves as editor of *H-Public*, the H-Net listserv sponsored by NCPH. Her book, *The Lowell Experiment: Public History in a Postindustrial City* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2006) was the winner of the 2007 NCPH Book Award.

Nominating Committee - Jon Hunner, New Mexico State University

Jon has served on the Curriculum and Training Committee, as cochair of the Program Committee for the Victoria 2004 conference, as chair of the Local Arrangements for the 2007 Santa Fe conference, and as a member of the Board of Directors. He is currently the director of the Public History Program at New Mexico State University.

Going Green

Conferences can use a lot of resources and leave a big carbon imprint. A growing number of organizations—from BlueGreen Meetings, a charity developing environmental “best practices” for the tourism industry, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s “Green Meetings”—offer ideas for holding gatherings that are more environmentally responsible. The following are ways we hope to be a bit greener beginning in Louisville:

- The Brown Hotel places cards in every room asking patrons to reuse towels and bed linens to conserve water.
- The hotel buys fair trade coffee and uses ceramic coffee mugs, instead of disposable cups, during coffee breaks to minimize excess trash.
- The hotel also buys locally raised meat to help support community farmers and donates leftovers (when collected within two hours of display) to local food banks.
- Sharing lodging and ground transportation with a friend or colleague will conserve resources.
- Recycle bins for paper will be set up throughout the Brown Hotel.
- Conference tote bags given to each participant are made in the USA from cotton, suitable for reuse after the meeting for traveling or shopping.
- We will collect and recycle plastic name badges.
- NCPH has asked its shuttle transportation provider to minimize the number of trips needed to off-site events.
- NCPH’s online registration and double-sided printing efforts save paper. The office also uses post-consumer recycled paper—and beginning with this March issue, *Public History News* will use recycled paper.

Let us know if you have other ideas we can use to reduce and recycle. If you are interested in participating in a related conversation on Saturday morning during the Louisville meeting, see session 25, “What Does My Work as a Public Historian Have to Do with Climate Change?”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You Meeting Sponsors

The Brennan House & Heritage Center

Cosponsoring the Historic Preservation Working Group

The Carnegie Center for Art & History

Cosponsoring the Roundtable and Tour, Remembering Slavery and the Underground Railroad

C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience, Washington College

Cosponsoring the Saturday Dinner

Farmington Historic Home

Sponsoring the NCPH Endowment Fundraiser

The Filson Historical Society

Sponsoring the Graduate Student Reception

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Historical Confederation of Kentucky

Sponsoring the Public Plenary speaker, Andrew Ferguson

Historic Locust Grove

Sponsoring the NPS Working Group and Locust Grove Tour

Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

Cosponsoring the Public Plenary Speaker, Andrew Ferguson

Kentucky Archaeological Survey, the Friends of the Farnsley-Kaufman House, the Portland Museum, and Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremom Landing

Sponsoring the Connecting with Community through Archaeology, Architecture, and History Field Trip

Kentucky Heritage Council and Kentucky Historic Preservation Office

Sponsoring the Historic Preservation Working Group

University of Louisville, Department of History and Oral History Center

Sponsoring the First-time Attendee/New Member Breakfast

University of Louisville, College of Arts and Sciences

Sponsoring the Public History Educator Breakfast

The Louisville Free Public Library

Event Space for the Public Plenary Speaker, Andrew Ferguson

Loyola University Chicago, Department of History

Cosponsoring the Opening Reception

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of History

Cosponsoring the Opening Reception

Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History

Cosponsoring the Saturday Dinner

New Mexico State University, Department of History

Cosponsoring Thursday's Coffee Break

University of South Carolina, Department of History

Sponsoring the Poster Session Reception and Onsite Guide printing

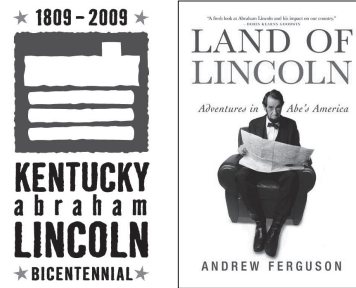
University of California Press

Sponsoring the Conference Tote Bags

Four Plenary Speakers to Address the Conference

Andrew Ferguson, author of *Land of Lincoln: Adventures in Abe's America* (2006)

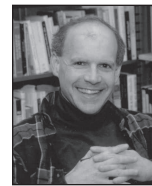
Public Plenary, Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Louisville Free Public Library



Bill Bryans, Oklahoma State University

“A Tale of Two Bills: Racism, Anti-Semitism, and the Sensibilities of a Public Historian”

NCPH Presidential Address, Friday, April 11, 1:00 p.m. in The Brown Hotel



Edward T. Linenthal, Editor of the *Journal of American History*

“Healing Wounds, Opening Wounds: the Burdens of Remembrance”

Keynote Address, Friday, April 11, 8:30 a.m. in The Brown Hotel

Robert Sutton, Chief Historian of the National Park Service

“Interpreting the Civil War in the National Park Service”

Saturday Dinner, Saturday, April 12, 7:00 p.m. in The Brown Hotel



Exhibit at the Muhammad Ali Center. Courtesy of the Greater Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau.

TPH Looking for Reviewers

The Public Historian is organizing a special review section devoted to the historic museums and sites in and around the annual meeting city. If you will be attending the Louisville conference and are interested in being considered as a reviewer, please send a c.v. along with a description of your qualifications to write exhibit and historic site reviews and your pertinent areas of expertise to Julia Brock, Assistant Book Review Editor, *TPH*, jbrock@umail.ucsb.edu.

A Time for Renewal: the 2008 Annual Meeting > continued from page 1

Another session of note is a Saturday reading group devoted to *The Public Historian's* special issue "Civic Engagement at Sites of Conscience." Bring your copy of the Winter 2008 issue of the journal (excellent reading for the plane or train if you don't get a chance any earlier) and join Erika Gee, Bonita Bennett, and Steve Long in a discussion of these essays and their implications for public history practice around the globe.

A lively poster session will bring together an interesting mix of professionals and students. Dedicated this year to Connie Schultz of the University of South Carolina to honor her retirement, the range of topics and the opportunities for good discussion will serve as a fitting testimony to Connie's contributions to the intellectual vitality of the public history community.

There will be plenty of time for fun as well. Tours to the Kentucky Derby Museum, the Louisville Slugger Museum and the Ali Center, to Bourbon country, and beyond, promise to offer the sorts of light-hearted learning that many NCPH-ers have come to expect at our annual meeting. You are especially encouraged to attend the Endowment Fundraiser at historic Farmington House on Friday, April 11. And of course the celebrations associated with Thunder Over Louisville will lend a particularly festive air to our Saturday night banquet, capped with fireworks appropriate for this 30th meeting.

Advance Your Career

Why not push yourself in a new direction at the annual meeting in Louisville? Sign up for a professional development workshop today! More details are available on page 13 of the 2008 Annual Meeting *Program*, available at www.ncph.org.



Class participating in *Armor of Yesterday and Today* classroom program. Photograph by Craig Schneider. Courtesy of the Frazier International History Museum.

Digitizing History

Wednesday-Thursday, April 9-10,
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$55.00; Size: 30 people

The Internet Digital Encyclopedia Alliance (IDEA), a history group exploring technology and content creation standards for Internet reference works, will offer a two-day, three-

Lastly, building on Santa Fe's successful opening and summation format in 2007, the Louisville conference will feature an opening plenary by Ed Linenthal. Ed will explore issues of contestation and healing and set the stage for exploring related topics in conference sessions and during visits to places like Farmington (the Speed family plantation) and the AASLH-award-winning exhibit at the Carnegie Center for Art & History, "From the Ohio Valley to the 'Promised Land': Remembering Slavery and the Underground Railroad." The meeting will conclude with a capstone plenary at which Ed Linenthal rejoins us, along with Bob Weible, Rose Diaz, and Calinda Lee, to lead a discussion intended to review the insights gained over the course of the meeting, and suggest what they imply about the future.

As program chairs, we have worked to make this one of the most innovative meetings yet for our community. We are grateful for the Herculean efforts and steady good cheer of John Dichtl, Sarah Koepfel, and Amy Powell, who embraced our various and sundry notions, schemes, and queries with vigor and enthusiasm. Together we think we have crafted one of the most exciting and unusual meetings yet. Join us in Louisville and see what we mean!

part preconference workshop. Part 1 focuses on issues of creating content for an online environment; Part 2 is a hands-on exploration of XML basics, the powerful technology "language" behind many online archives and publications; Part 3 covers aspects of design & technology specifications and how one works successfully with web designers and technologists. This workshop is appropriate for both those considering or already working on online history projects.

Measuring Performance

Thursday, April 10, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$95.00; Size: 25 people

Paul Richard and Larry Lad—consultants to numerous museums, historical societies, and other cultural organizations around the country—will focus your thinking about practical ways in which public history institutions or programs, as well as public history leaders and other professionals, can integrate performance measures to enhance all aspects of organizational effectiveness. Based in forward thinking about organizational architecture, the "balanced scorecard," and integral leadership practices, the workshop will expose you to a variety of dynamic frameworks for thinking about your organization.



Farmington, home of Joshua Speed and location for the 2008 NCPH Fundraiser. Courtesy of Farmington Historic Home.

Marla Miller and Patricia Mooney-Melvin are cochairs of the 2008 Annual Meeting Program Committee. Miller is associate professor in the Department of History and director of the Public History Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Mooney-Melvin is associate professor of history at Loyola University Chicago and serves as the associate dean of the Graduate School.

Job Hunting: Improve Your Skills

Thursday, April 10, 1:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00; Size: 40 people

Discover, define, and package your skills to aid in landing the position you desire. Learn how to avoid common mistakes made by numerous applicants in resumes, references, and cover letters, and how to prepare for that big interview. This workshop will focus on making you more competitive and will emphasize the essentials whether you are looking for your first position or seeking to advance your career.

Walk this Way to a Career in Public History

Friday, April 11, 9:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00; Size: 20 people

This onsite workshop, sponsored by the NCPH Curriculum and Training Committee, invites graduate students and early career professionals to visit public historians in the context of the workplace. As part of a walking tour of downtown Louisville, participants will visit the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, the Frazier Museum of History, and the new Muhammad Ali Center. Explore the multiple facets of professional life for a public historian and get a behind-the-scenes introduction to three unique locations, their missions, and professional staff.

"Intersections" offers brief, reflective pieces illuminating how public historians interact with each other, with the public, or with other professionals. Please contact John Dichtl at nchp@iupui.edu if you have ideas for future articles.

Communities and Public History

by Modupe Labode
mlabode@iupui.edu



Labode. Courtesy of the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts.

During the years that I worked at the Colorado Historical Society as its chief historian, I collaborated with community groups on several projects, including exhibitions. These communities defined themselves in various ways, on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, location, or occupation. I soon understood that asking a professor to proofread geological terms for a map was very different than consulting with a group about a historical marker interpreting Denver's African

American history. As I strove to understand what my colleagues and I were doing during public partnerships, I became aware that we often underestimated the ways in which the culture of a museum could further, thwart, or simply alter these partnerships. Over the years, I have come up with a few questions that a museum or other public history institution can ask when working with local community groups.

Does the museum understand how the community partners view the institution? On a very practical level, many community members did not know whether the historical society was public or private or how it was governed. While there was no need for them to have a prior understanding of these issues, I found it helpful to explain how "things worked" at the Society. For many people, a staff member embodies the museum. My job title, which many people misheard as chief executive officer, compounded the mistaken impression about my position in the agency. Public history and museum professionals often underestimate the cultural power associated with museums, while community partners had often experienced the power of a museum only when they encountered resistance (or indifference) from it.

On a deeper level, many community members had strong, if ambivalent, feelings about the historical society. Many people saw the institution as the arbiter of the state's history. They were concerned or angry that they had not recognized themselves in the society's exhibitions or programs, even as they were excited about the prospect of the collaboration. It also became clear that exhibitions occupied a special place in conferring legitimacy to a group or a topic, thus heightening the issues at stake in the project. Over time, community members accepted the limitations and exigencies of the exhibition process. In turn, many of the curators, fabricators, and designers creatively worked with community members to ensure that objects and stories were displayed and treated with respect.

How does the entire institution understand the partnership? Looking to a community group to provide a "stamp of approval" for a project underestimates the potential power of collaborations and rarely works, since the group members may feel they are not being

taken seriously. Further, community partnerships cannot be limited only to the department leading the collaboration. In my experience other departments did not get into interpretation, but serious misunderstandings arose when those responsible for development or design, for example, were not prepared to accept the nature of community processes. In some profound ways, successful collaborations alter "business as usual."



Portrait of a Ute woman and baby, c.1899. Colorado Historical Society staff and a community advisory group developed the interpretation for the exhibition, *Tribal Paths*. A section of the exhibition focused on posed, 19th-century studio portraits, which are valuable historical sources, but which also can reinforce stereotypes. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-111572.

Does the museum understand the diversity of the community? Although it is obvious, I continually had to remind myself and be reminded that issues such as gender, marriage, age, and location have an impact on how community members relate to one another. One person does not necessarily speak for the entire community. When challenged about the content of a historical marker or an exhibition panel, I explained the process by which we consulted with an advisory group. Confronted with the rejoinder that the process did not capture the complexity of the community, my colleagues and I admitted that the constituency of the advisory committee could affect the outcome of the interpretation, despite our best efforts. We strove for representation, tried to avoid playing into community factions, and relied on the advisory council's sense of responsibility to represent the diversity of the community.

This hardly constitutes a checklist to assess an institution's capacity to undertake community partnerships and collaborations; there are scores more questions. One of the difficulties about such partnerships is that the staff and the institution need to be willing to cede authority and acknowledge the possibility that a project might take unexpected turns. However, these risks are worth it; community projects have transformed the ways in which I approach public history and museums.

Modupe Labode is the Public Scholar of African American History and Museums at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis and is part of the History Department there as well as the Museum Studies program and African American and African Diaspora Studies program.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



by Bill Bryans
bill.bryans@okstate.edu

This marks my last presidential column. As the first to serve a two-year term, I have to date authored more of these missives than anyone. That makes me wonder who is more pleased that this is the last, you or me. I suspect both.

Shortly after assuming office, I ran into two former presidents at another conference and they asked me what the agenda would be for my presidency. What big project did I want to accomplish? These were excellent questions, and ones to which I had not given much thought. To be honest, I did not have any specific undertaking in mind when I became president. My goals at that time were more general. And they remained my primary goals these past two years.

The first was to do all I could to help NCPH make the transitions necessary to be successful under its redefined executive directorship. As long-standing members know, a self-study several years back concluded we needed a new kind of executive director, one who would act as a chief executive officer rather than a chief operating officer. Thus, we advertised the position, interviewed candidates, and ultimately hired John Dichtl.

John's first year as executive director and my first year as president largely coincided with one another. Anyone in their right mind should have found this at least a bit frightening. I did, especially since I had never served on the board before becoming president-elect. Yet, I believe things have worked out well, sometimes because of our efforts and perhaps at times in spite of them.

Certainly, NCPH has weathered the transition. More accurately, it has flourished. I invite you to read *Public History News* over the past two years. They are available online through the NCPH web page. Reviewing these will illustrate that a great deal of good work has occurred during this time. Allow me to offer a sampling.

We successfully met our NEH Challenge Grant and have started putting the endowment's earned income to work to better the organization through new awards, increased stipends for existing awards, underwriting workshops at the annual meeting, and trying to increase the international presence within the organization. We have had very successful annual meetings, including the largest ever, last year in Santa Fe. We also adopted a new strategic plan and collectively discussed just what is meant by the term public history. Recently, we joined with the American Historical Association and Organization of American Historians to examine the role of public history scholarship in the tenure and promotion process, and offer guidelines and best practices that will recognize and reward the work of public historians in the academy. Just as important, this is only a first step toward helping all public historians to have their professional work valued, no matter the venue in which they work.



Participants in a special session, "Public History, Tenure, and Review: Continuing the Conversation about Redefining Historical Scholarship," during the American Historical Association 2008 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Debbie Doyle, the AHA public history coordinator, organized the event with the help of the joint NCPH, OAH, and AHA Working Group on Evaluating Public History Scholarship. The working group will present a similar session at the Louisville conference on Saturday, April 12.

In short, NCPH is an important organization doing important work. Of course, any accomplishments during my term resulted more from the labor of others. The executive office has done a fantastic job in attending to the day-to-day operation of the organization and, I hasten to add, providing meaningful leadership in all we seek to do. The officers and board are among the most dedicated individuals with whom I have ever served. They dispatch their responsibilities with the utmost professionalism and are sincerely dedicated to making NCPH the best it can be. The same can be said of the editorial board and its efforts toward *The Public Historian*. Most of the credit however falls to the committee chairs, committee members, and general membership which engage themselves in the life of the organization. They together are what make this organization work.

This brings me to the second goal I harbored when I assumed the presidency. During my term, I have tried to do whatever I could to promote inclusivity. This is no easy task given the diversity of public historians working within different specialties at a variety of workplaces. I fully realize that in the past some have viewed NCPH as unwelcoming and an organization dominated by a handful of individuals. I trust my presidency, if nothing else, at least partially dispels this feeling. I believe a solid foundation toward a more inclusive NCPH has been laid, but work remains to build a membership more diverse in terms of occupations, gender, race, and ethnicity. This will certainly continue to be an interest of mine after I step down as president, and I invite all of you to contribute to this goal as well.

Finally, I want the entire membership to know it has been a true privilege and honor to serve as your president. Playing a leadership role in an organization about which I care deeply has proven more rewarding than I ever imagined. Make no mistake about it; at times it was also hard work. But I can honestly say that ultimately it was worth it. Thanks to all our efforts I firmly believe NCPH is stronger now than ever and truly poised to be the most influential voice for public history. Being the president of NCPH has been both humbling and a highlight of my professional career. I thank all of you for making that possible.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by John Dichtl
jdichtl@iupui.edu

Nearly thirty years. Yes, NCPH has been in existence for almost three decades. Although it is a bit early to be celebrating the anniversary, I have been thinking about this recently because our Louisville conference is technically our thirtieth meeting and *The Public Historian* itself turns thirty in 2008.

Our origins as an organization are clear enough, but the key founding dates stretch over a two-year period. In 1978, G. Wesley Johnson and Tom Fuller began the journal that became *The Public Historian*. The first national conference on public history, held in Montecito in Santa Barbara County, California, came in April 1979. The core group of individuals who would eventually form NCPH left that April meeting with plans to meet in Washington, DC, to create something, a body that would advance the public history movement. On September 14, 1979, fifteen people met at the National Archives and agreed to plan exactly how to form a council on public history. The Second National Conference on Public History was held in Pittsburgh in April 1980, and the steering committee voted to form itself into an acting board for the organization. On May 2, 1980, NCPH was incorporated in the District of Columbia. (This timeline comes from Barbara Howe's "Reflections on an Idea: NCPH's First Decade" in the Summer 1989 issue of *The Public Historian*).

To be crystal clear, our organization will turn thirty in the spring of 2010. When we meet in Portland, Oregon, that April, we can officially celebrate. The lead-up to this culminating event will be a two-year period of research, planning, and commemoration, all of which begins with our thirtieth annual meeting in Louisville.

While reading through the first few issues (1980-82) of this newsletter to get a sense of NCPH's early years and the direction people thought the whole endeavor would be heading, I was struck by how much "applied

history" and "history and public policy" were mentioned at NCPH's beginning. I also saw frequent examples of how the organization struggled in, as one newsletter contributor phrased it, "gaining acceptance among the academic and business communities and convincing them that public and applied history is a 'legitimate' profession...."

I was most interested, however, to find a report about the "Second Annual Conference on Public History," which was in April 1980 in Pittsburgh. The report provides a statistical breakdown of the many individuals who attended. I have placed the percentages in a table below that includes comparable information drawn from a couple of recent surveys about the makeup of NCPH's membership today.

	1980 Annual Meeting Attendees	2008 NCPH Membership
Consultants	10%	14%
Federal Government	11%	14%
Students	13%	23%
College & University Faculty	44%	25%
Other (museums, foundations, historical associations and societies, or in state or local government, etc.)	22%	24%

It is interesting that some categories in the two sets of numbers are so similar. What is remarkably different is that the proportion of professors involved in the organization has dropped dramatically while the figure for students has increased just as sharply. Obviously we are looking at years of intervening growth in which graduate public history programs arose and have increased the raw number of graduate students interested in public history or enrolled in public history programs. The decreased proportion of members who are faculty perhaps can be

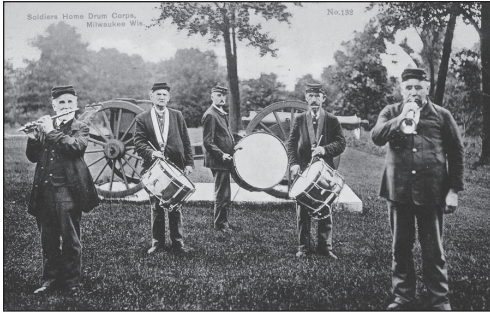
explained by the increased in the variety of public history jobs since the 1970s and early 1980s. MAs and PhDs who might have been more likely to end up as faculty thirty years ago today work in a broad range of public history positions.

As reported in my previous newsletter column, NCPH during the next year will be surveying its members as well as non-members in the field of public history. We will work in conjunction with other associations so the survey results are broadly comparable. And I will be sure to examine and share the results in the context of thirty years of changes and continuity in NCPH and the field of public history.



The initial planning session for the Fourth Annual Conference on Public History was held in Chicago at the Charles E. Merriam Center for Public Administration, headquarters of the Public Works Historical Society, on June 17, 1981. Robert Bytnar, Ted Karamanski, Carole Krucoff, Suellen Hoy, John Zukowsky, Ann Campbell, Mike Robinson, Harold Platt, and Joan Draper were present.

NCPH is committed to promoting the interests of its members who provide historical services as consultants. This column seeks to highlight new developments and achievements in historical consulting and contract work. Please send news of events and accomplishments to Heather Lee Miller, Consultants Committee, at hmliller@hrassoc.com. Be sure to include your full name and address.



Drum corps at Northwestern Branch in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, one of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers eleven campuses nationwide. Courtesy of the National Park Service.

National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

Suzanne Julin, an independent historian in Missoula, Montana, recently completed a study and evaluation of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers under a cooperative agreement between the NCPH and the National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office (MWRO). Established by Congress in 1865 to provide residential and medical services to disabled veterans, the National Home had grown to eleven branches across the country by the time it was absorbed into the newly created Veterans Administration in 1930. An assessment of significance produced under the cooperative agreement establishes the importance of the National Home as a precursor to the modern system of veterans' benefits and identifies four branches with outstanding architectural integrity that will be nominated as National Historic Landmarks. The project has been a true collaboration. MWRO Project Managers Dena Sanford and Brian McCutchen, staff at local sites, and members of state and federal agencies have contributed time and information to the project.

Recapturing the History of the Internet

Through the reminiscences of its pioneers, the unwritten history of the creation of the Internet has been captured in a series of videotaped sessions by History Associates Incorporated (HAI) oral historians. The November 2007 sessions, moderated by HAI historians Philip Cantelon, Kenneth Durr, Jason Gart, and James Lide, explored the pivotal role of the National Science Foundation Network (NSFNET) in transforming the small and experimental networking initiatives of the 1970s into the worldwide Internet of the 1990s. The group's oral history sessions, sponsored by the nonprofit organization the Internet History Archive (IHA), each featured from three to seven veterans of the NSFNET project and covered such topics as technology, government involvement, and commercialization. The objective of the IHA is to create a digital archive of source materials covering the creation and evolution of the Internet. To this end, the IHA will make streaming video of the sessions available for web access. The oral history event took place in conjunction with the volunteer-organized conference, "NSFNET: The Partnership that Changed the World," held in November 2007 in Arlington, Virginia.

Reprint of *Frederick: Local and National Crossroads*

Consultant and NCPH member Chris Heidenrich's 2003 book about the history of Frederick, Maryland, is being reprinted. The 2008 edition of *Frederick: Local and National Crossroads*, part of Arcadia Publishing's "The Making of America" series, is now available. The general-interest book chronicles the history of the city from Native American settlement to the twenty-first century. Arcadia Publishing is a leading producer of local histories across the United States. To research and write the book, Heidenrich used knowledge she gained about Frederick through her work as a historian with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

New President of Historical Research Associates

Historical Research Associates, Inc., (HRA) has undergone a transition of corporate officers, effective January 1, 2008. Replacing founder Alan Newell as president is Matthew Godfrey, who has been serving as the head of the company's History Division for the past year and a half. Godfrey has a PhD in public history from Washington State University and is the author of *Religion, Politics, and Sugar: The Federal Government, the LDS Church, and the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, 1907-1921* (Utah State University Press, 2007). HRA is 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.

History Associates Incorporated Client Selected for Sundance Film Festival

History Associates Incorporated (HAI) historians conducted research for the documentary film *I.O.U.S.A.*, which premiered on January 19, 2008, at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Directed by Patrick Creadon and produced by Christine O'Malley, *I.O.U.S.A.* examines the historical origins of America's national debt crisis and its troubling implications for our economic future. HAI historians reviewed more than twenty hours of the Nixon White House Tapes and collected segments discussing the 1971 decision to abandon the gold standard.

**Plan now to attend the
Consultants Breakfast, Friday,
April 11, 7:30-8:30 a.m.**

The Consultants Committee will circulate by email questions and issues for an informal discussion at the breakfast.

A Public Historian Is Selected as Florida Professor of the Year



Patrick Moore, 2007
Florida Professor of
the Year.

Patrick Moore, associate professor and public history program director for the University of West Florida's Department of History, was named the 2007 Florida Professor of the

Year. Sponsored by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and administered by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, the award recognizes professors for their influence on teaching and their outstanding commitment to undergraduate students. A state Professor of the Year was selected for 40 states and the District of Columbia. Moore is also the NCPH Secretary/Treasurer.



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: ncp@iupui.edu. Tel: 317-274-2716. New members are welcome. Join online or renew at 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.

We welcome submissions to *Public History News* sent to John Dichtl, Editor, at the above address. Articles are 400-800 words in length; announcements and bulletin items are up to 100 words. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization.

www.ncph.org

Welcome New Members!

Annette Amerman Woodbridge, VA	Lynn Denton San Marcos, TX	Christine Henry Washington, DC	Joseph McGraw Baltimore, MD	Alice Smith-Goeke Indianapolis, IN
Heather Bailey Murfreesboro, TN	Dawne Dewey Dayton, OH	Corrie Hodge West Chester, PA	Tim Merriman Fort Collins, CO	Justin Sochacki Death Valley, CA
Kate Baldwin El Paso, TX	Elena DiGrado Murfreesboro, TN	Kathleen Hulser New York, NY	Martin Nord Oak Park, IL	Paul Spitzer City of Industry, CA
Kristen Baldwin Deathridge Mt. Juliet, TN	Barry Dressel Indianapolis, IN	Andrew Hurley St. Louis, MO	Ashleigh Oatts Murfreesboro, TN	Karen Strohmeier Warrensburg, MO
Robyn Binns Sneads Ferry, NC	Diana Dwyer Fort Collins, CO	Audra Jennings Columbus, OH	Kelli Oliver Bethlehem, PA	Coxey Toogood Philadelphia, PA
Daryl Black Chattanooga, TN	Kimberli Engel Mesa, AZ	Marilyn Julius Baltimore, MD	Janet Ore Fort Collins, CO	Ann Toplovich Nashville, TN
Maria Blaine Las Cruces, NM	Melissa Ferguson Salt Lake City, UT	Jennifer Kleinman Northampton, MA	Laurie Pasteryak Boston, MA	Tammy Turgeon Sterling Heights, MI
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Bethany Canfield Saegertown, PA	Kelly Gascoine Indianapolis, IN	Emily Lonie Kanata, ON	Taran Schindler Rolling Hills, CA	Susan Whipple Boise, ID
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Nancy Collins New York, NY	Ricky Gomez Pensacola, FL	Cynthia Lundeen Cleveland Hts., OH	Lynette Scriver Great Falls, MT	Martha Wilson Lewisburg, WV
Alisha Cromwell Athens, GA	Brian Hackett Murfreesboro, TN	Michael Manning Woodlawn, TN	Elizabeth Smith Murfreesboro, TN	Jamil Zainaldin Atlanta, GA
Maggie Dennis Washington, DC	Elizabeth Haven Hawley Minneapolis, MN	Stephanie Massaro Colonia, NJ	Gary Smith Dallas, TX	

For weekly updated information on jobs, fellowships, internships, awards, conferences, and calls, please visit www.ncph.org.

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND INTERNSHIPS

The United State Holocaust Memorial Museum is accepting application for the summer 2008 **Dorot Summer Fellows Program for Graduate Students**. Recipients will work on four special projects during their fellowship. <<http://www.ushmm.org/research/center/fellowship/dorot/>> Applications due March 24, 2008.

The Institute for Learning Innovation is seeking graduate students for their **Summer Internship Program**, June 1-August 31, 2008. Projects may include evaluating exhibitions, developing family resources, or organizing national seminars. <<http://www.ilinet.org/internships.html>> Applications due March 31, 2008.

The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University is accepting submissions for the **2008-2009 Postdoctoral Fellowship Program**. Fellowships will support scholars in research projects that are associated with the aims of the GLC. <<http://www.yale.edu/glc>> Applications due March 31, 2008.

The Grace Museum in Abilene, TX is looking for **Graduate Student Summer Interns**. Recipients would work with the education or curatorial programs. Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate museums studies, art history, art education, or history program. <http://www.thegracemuseum.org/about_grace/about_jobs.html> Applications due April 15, 2008.

The History Channel is accepting applications for the **Save Our History Grant Program**. During the 2008-2009 school year, The History Channel will award grants of up to \$10,000 to historical organizations to fund projects that teach students about their local history and actively engage them in its preservation. <<http://www.saveourhistory.com>> Applications due June 6, 2008.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is accepting applications for the **Preservation and Access: Humanities Collections and Resources**. <<http://www.neh.gov>> Applications due July 15, 2008.

CALLS FOR PAPERS, ARTICLES, PROPOSALS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Centre for Liverpool and Merseyside Studies 2008 Conference, November 13-14, 2008, in Liverpool, England, is seeking proposals. For more information visit <http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/SOC/SOC_docs/CLAMS_CONF08.pdf>. Deadline is March 31, 2008.

Northern Great Plains History Conference, September 24-27, 2008, in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, has issued a call for papers in all areas of history. For more information visit <<http://personal2.stthomas.edu/jcfitzharris/ngphc/>>. Deadline is March 31, 2008.

National Coalition of Independent Scholars, October 24-26, 2008, in Berkeley, CA, is accepting submissions on any scholarly topic for their Biennial Conference. For more information visit <<http://www.ncis.org/papers.htm>>. Deadline is April 1, 2008.



Stan Hywet Symposium, October 17-18, 2008, in Akron, OH, invites submissions for their theme, "On Display: Historic Homes and Great Estates." For more information visit <<http://www.stanhywet.org/record/record.aspx>>. Deadline is April 2, 2008.

Association for the Study of African American Life and History Annual Conference, October 1-5, 2008, in Birmingham, AL is soliciting papers surrounding any topic of multiculturalism. For more information visit <<http://www.asalh.org/callforpapers.html>>. Deadline is April 30, 2008.

Visible Memories Conference, October 2-4, 2008, in Syracuse, NY, is accepting papers based on the intersections between visual culture and memory studies with particular focus on the ways memories are experienced in visible, material, or spatial form. For more information visit <<http://publicmemories.syr.edu/>>. Deadline is May, 1, 2008.

CONFERENCES AND LECTURE SERIES

Organization of American Historians, "Bringing Us All Together: The 101st Annual Meeting of the OAH," March 28-31, 2008, New York City, NY. <<http://www.oah.org/meetings/>>

National Council for History Education, "Leadership in History," April 3-5, 2008, Louisville, KY. <<http://www.nche.net/conference/>>

Pacific Northwest History Conference, "Across Time and Terrain in the Pacific Northwest," April 17-19, 2008, Corvallis, OR. <<http://northwesthistory.blogspot.com/2007/11/call-for-proposals-2008-pacific.html>>

Society for California Archaeology, April 17-20, 2008, Burbank, CA. <<http://www.scahome.org/events/index.html#annual2008>>

Society for Military History, "The Military and Frontiers," April 17-20, 2008, Ogden, UT. <<http://www.smh-hq.org/conf.html>>

Southwest Oral History Association, "Capturing and Preserving Stories in the Southwest," April 18-20, 2008, Tempe, AZ. <http://www.southwestoralhistory.org/addl_pages/conference.html>

Museums and the Web... "the international conference for culture and heritage on-line," April 19-21, 2008, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. <<http://www.archimuse.com/mw2008/>>

American Association of Museums, "Leadership: An Open Mic for Ideas," April 27-May 1, 2008, Denver, CO. <<http://www.aam-us.org/>>

"Creative Construct: Building for Culture and Creativity," April 28-May 1, 2008, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. <<http://www.symposium2008.ca/e/index.html>>

Vernacular Architecture Forum, "In the Garden of the Sun: California's San Joaquin Valley," May 7-10, 2008, Fresno, CA. <<http://vernaculararchitectureforum.org/>>

Transforming Museums: Bridging Theory and Practice, May 15-16, 2008, Seattle, WA. <<http://www.transformingmuseums.org/>>

The Society of Civil War Historians inaugural meeting, June 15-17, 2008, State College, PA. <<http://scwh.la.psu.edu/conferences.shtml>>



History Associates Incorporated in Rockville, MD, seeks applicants to work as historical research consultants. Successful applicants must be experienced in the area of conducting research at various public or official repositories, especially state and local government agencies, archives, and libraries. Submit cover letter, resume, primary-sourced writing sample, transcripts, and three references to History Associates Incorporated, Attn: Doris Miles, Director of Personnel, 300 N. Stonestreet Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850. For more information visit <<http://www.historyassociates.com/about/employment.htm>>.

Walsh University in North Canton, OH, invites applications for an Assistant Professor of US and Public History. Position is full-time and tenure track. Successful candidate will teach survey and upper-division US History courses and support the Museum Studies major through teaching Public History courses. Applicants should send cover letter, c.v., graduate transcripts, three letters of recommendation, and evidence of teaching excellence to: Dr. Douglas B. Palmer, Chair, Division of Humanities, Walsh University, 2020 East Maple St., North Canton, OH 44720. For more information visit <<http://www.walsh.edu/faculty-23.htm>>.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, OH, seeks a Director of Library and Archives. Applicants must have a Master's degree in Archival Management, History, Library Science, or related field and have a minimum of ten years professional archival experience. For consideration, send resume and cover letter detailing qualifications along with salary history to: Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, 1100 Rock and Roll Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44114, Attn: Human Resources - Director of Library and Archives or email, hr@rockhall.org.

Texas Tech University is seeking an Archivist in the Vietnam Center. Applicants should have an MLS from an ALA accredited library school, Master's in US History, and/or archival certification. For more information and online application visit <<https://jobs.texas-tech.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/frameset.jsp?time=1202847227037>>. Job posting number 75779.

Texas Historical Commission seeks an applicant for the open position of Chief Deputy. Applicant should have a graduate degree in Historic Preservation, Architecture, Public Policy, or related field and at least ten years of senior management experience of large programs or organization. Interested candidates should send their resume in confidence to Executive Search firm: donna@mcleskeygroup.com or call 512-658-5949.

The Department of History and Military Studies at **American Military University** invites applications for adjunct professorships in public history. All applications will be considered, but we will give special attention to those able to offer courses such as Introduction to Public History: Theory and Practice, Historic Preservation, Oral History, History in the Digital Age, and History and Public Policy. Preference will be given to those who can also contribute to one or more of interdisciplinary programs, which include Military History and Military Studies. PhD and teaching experience preferred; qualified ABDs will be considered. <<http://www.apus.edu>>.



JOBS AND POSITIONS AVAILABLE

University of Illinois at Chicago Library has extended the search for an archivist for The HistoryMakers video oral history archive. Applicant should have a Master's degree in library science from a program accredited by the American Library Association and archival certification. This is a twelve month Academic/Professional appointment; annual contract renewable for up to three years. For more information visit <<http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/admin/personnel/>>.

14th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
June 12-15, 2008

“The Berks,” held every 3 years, will meet this June in Minneapolis and offer substantial **public history** content. It is co-sponsored by the National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites. The interdisciplinary public history sessions include the following: National Women’s History Project Networking Conference June 11-13, overlapping the Berks. Watch for details at www.nwhp.org • Electronic Sources for Public/Women’s History, including Kitty Sklar of the Women and Social Movements website, “Weaving Charlotte’s Web,” Minnesota Historical Society Records, and Women’s History Databases and Digital Collection • Janet Spector, author of *What This Aul Means*, a pathbreaking archeological study that specifically included women actors, will share her 19th-century Wahpetunwan research site Little Rapids (Inyan Ceyaka Atonwan), followed by a major discussion session, “The Transformative Potential of Feminist Practice” • Historic sites include a tour and session at the Alexander (and Anna Jenks) Ramsey House in St. Paul—“The Public’s Teacher: The Role of Historic Sites Today” • The session “Teaching about Health and Contraception,” includes Mary Melcher telling the story of the Arizona birth control movement and the Farm Security Administration through a heritage trail • “Across Racial Divides” From Maggie L. Walker’s historic site to public archeology at Phyllis Wheatley Home for Girls in Chicago to African American clubwomen • “Tangible Resources and Public Sites”: Canyon de Chelly, The Hermitage, artisans, woman suffrage • “Going Public with Western US Women’s History,” “What Did You Do During the (American Revolutionary) War, Mommy?” and “Culture Vultures: White New Womanhood Preserving and Reinterpreting California’s ‘Primitive’ Heritage 1880s-1940s” • Please note: EVERYONE is welcome at the Berks—that means You! Join us—the Berks is a very special conference that brings scholarship and friendship together. Questions about the Berks? Check <http://berks.umn.edu/>. Questions about public history at the Berks? Contact the National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites at peg.strobel@sbcglobal.net.

Exhibitors

NCPH would like to thank the following exhibitors.

American Antiquarian Society
Arcadia Publishing
Arizona State University
The Filson Historical Society
Kentucky Historical Society
Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office
University of Hawaii Press
Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
University of Massachusetts Press
Middle Tennessee State University
Society for Historical Archaeology
Olmstead Conservancy
Oxford University Press

Visit their booths in the Bluegrass room, April 10-12.

Thank You 2007 NCPH Endowment Donors!

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Special thanks to The History Channel



THE HISTORY CHANNEL.

If we have overlooked your name or you would like information about contributing in 2008, please contact the NCPH Executive Office at ncph@iupui.edu or (317) 274-2716.



Bain News Service photo of race car driver, c.1910-1915. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-B2-2202-4.



Bain News Service photo, c.1910-1915. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-B2-2293-17.

World Wide Help for Historical Photos

In a bold pilot project, Flickr.com is helping the Library of Congress improve descriptive tags for old photographs. Flickr, an online photo-sharing and storage site where anyone can post, view, and comment on other people's photographs, potentially brings thousands of hands and eyes to the solitary and time consuming work of cataloging images. At a new site called "The Commons" <<http://flickr.com/commons>>, viewers' comments are turned into richly descriptive tags or metadata that will help search engines locate the images in the future. Three thousand photos from two Library of Congress collections have been posted to "The Commons"—a tiny portion of the library's more than 14 million photographs, prints, and other visual materials. As the library's director of communications wrote in January: "If all goes according to plan, the project will help address at least two major challenges: how to ensure better and better access to our collections, and how to ensure that we have the best possible information about those collections for the benefit of researchers and posterity." The project's success so far has inspired a new, similar Flickr.com site called "ArchivesOnFlickr" where institutions, such as the Wisconsin Historical Society, have started placing photos for comment.



NCPH Member Benefits

When you become a NCPH member, you'll obtain access to:

- Networks of other public historians
- *The Public Historian* and *Public History News*
- Advocacy on behalf of the profession
- Awards for students, new professionals, consultants, books, articles, and public history projects
- Annual Meeting registration discounts
- Electronic NCPH publications and resources
- Up-to-date job listings, professional development offerings, conference can calls list, and a consultant's directory

Membership Dues

Patron: \$500
Sponsor: \$300
Individual: \$65

New Professional: \$35
Student: \$25

Institutional subscriptions are available through University of California Press.

Join or renew online at www.ncph.org.



Instructor explaining the operation of a parachute to student pilots, Meacham field, Fort Worth, Texas. January 1942. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USF35-279.



Farm workers near White Plains, Georgia. June 1941. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USF35-599.



Courtesy of Flickr.com user bullsh174. See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/> for license terms of this work.



Patrons & Sponsors

The support of the following institutions, each committed to membership at the Patron or Sponsor level, makes the work of the National Council on Public History possible. Join us in thanking them at the Annual Meeting in Louisville, April 10-13, 2008.

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2009 NCPH ANNUAL MEETING

PROVIDENCE, RI

APRIL 2-5, 2009

Toward Broader Horizons

Recognizing Providence, Rhode Island's legacy of global connections, dissent, activism, and innovation, the 2009 NCPH Program Committee invites proposals that explore how expansive visions have shaped and might continue to transform the practice of public history. The committee encourages dialogue that transcends boundaries of geography, academic discipline, and tradition in the spirit of looking outward from our existing vantage point to broader horizons. We look forward to proposals that connect local stories to international issues, capture the role of activism in public history and related disciplines (i.e. public anthropology, folklore, art, economics, and sociology), speak to social justice and environmental politics, commemorate individuals who have brought about change, and, more generally, innovative ideas in the content and practice of museums, historic sites, archives, and other public venues.

The Program Committee prefers the submission of complete session proposals (including panels and roundtables), but will accept individual presentations for consideration as well and will make every effort to construct sessions from topically related single proposals. The committee also invites proposals for sessions in formats beyond the usual paper session, and encourages presenters in more traditional sessions to dispense with the reading of papers.

All proposals must include the following:

- A cover page listing contact information and affiliation of each participant and any requests for audio-visual equipment for the session (We will try to accommodate requests that fit within the annual meeting's budget. Please download the cover page from the NCPH web site.)
- An abstract of no more than 500 words for the session as a whole together with brief summaries of no more than 150 words for each paper or presentation; and
- A two-page c.v. or resume for each participant

All conference attendees, including presenters and other participants, are expected to register for the annual meeting. Some Program Committee funds may be available to assist participants, such as individuals from outside the United States, who might not normally attend a public history conference and whose presence would increase the diversity of the program. Proposals must indicate if any one on the panel will be requesting NCPH assistance from the committee. Workshop proposals should follow NCPH guidelines, which are available upon request at ncph@iupui.edu.

Send proposals to: ncph@iupui.edu, subject line: 2009 Program Proposal

Or via regular mail (submit one copy only)

NCPH 2009 Program Chair
327 Cavanaugh Hall - IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Proposal Deadline: postmarked or received electronically by September 3, 2008

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