

Public History News

Inside This Issue

Students' Focus on Photo Blurs Boundaries

by Benjamin Filene
bphilene@uncg.edu

2

Touring Kentucky

6

President's Comments

7

From the Director's Desk

8

Actions of the Board of Directors

9

National Coalition for History Update

14

Roosevelt's New Deal, 75 Years Later

A quarterly publication
of the **National Council on
Public History** in cooperation with
the Department of History,
Indiana University-Purdue
University Indianapolis.

Bill Bryans, President

Marianne Babal, Vice President

Robert Weible, Past President

Patrick Moore, Secretary-Treasurer

John Dichtl, Executive Director

Traditional history classes aim to teach students how to think like historians. So should *public* history classes get them to think like *public* historians? What would that mean, and what would it look like? As a first-year director of UNC Greensboro's public history program, I pondered these issues as I considered how to plan final projects for my graduate seminar on Museum and Historic Site Interpretation, a required class for first-year Master's students in history who concentrate in museum studies.

To help these students see—*feel*—what makes public history distinctive, I settled on four teaching goals for the final project. I wanted them to

- work with community members;
- collaborate with *each other*;
- think of their work as public storytelling; and finally
- end up with a tangible public product for public audiences.

To anyone with public history experience, these goals probably seem familiar. But how would they translate to a university setting? In the end, the stumbling blocks my students and I faced illustrated for me how public history fits awkwardly into academia. At the same time, our successes gave me hope that a public history program can indeed serve as a tool for civic engagement, and emphasized how much public and academic historians share the same toolkit.

But first I took a deep breath and called Julius Clark. Julius is the director of the Rosetta C. Baldwin Museum in High Point, fifteen miles down the road from Greensboro. I had heard about him and the museum from another local museum colleague, Edith Brady, curator of education at the High Point Museum. I had talked to Edith about my interest in collaborating with a local institution, and she had mentioned the Baldwin Museum. Rosetta Baldwin started teaching school in her High Point living room in 1942. Eventually she moved her school, affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to a church basement and then to its own building.



Former Baldwin Chapel students at "the Class of '63" exhibit opening. Courtesy of High Point Museum, NC.

She taught four generations of African Americans in the neighborhood before her death in 2000. Julius, a former student, inherited her house. With no training or experience in public history, he decided to open the house as a museum.

> continued on page 11



Mark Your Calendar!

Registration for the 2008 Annual Meeting opens December 1. Register at www.ncph.org.

PLANS FOR THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

Touring Kentucky, April 2008



The Brennan House & Medical Office Museum in Louisville, KY. Courtesy of Donna Neary.

by Donna Neary
donna.neary@ky.gov

The NCPH Annual Meeting in Louisville next spring takes full advantage of local landscape and cultural features of the host city and region. Rather than being concentrated on one day, as in past conferences, tours will take place on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

- Led by sports historian John E. Findling, the sports history tour on Thursday will feature the Louisville Slugger Bat Factory, the new and award-winning Muhammad Ali Center, the world-renown Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby Museum, and other sports venues.
- The tour of Cave Hill Cemetery on Thursday will include funerary art and local history and lore about the best "final" address for Louisvillians. Explore this beautiful park-like setting, resting place of local and national celebrities, Colonel George Rogers Clark, Colonel Sanders, and stonemason Michael Muldoon, and countless politicians, social reformers, and community leaders. The tour is a stretch of the legs, and requires walking.
- Public engagement through archaeology is the subject of the Friday tour of Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremen Landing, the David Farnsley House, and the Portland Wharf site. Archeologists and historians will discuss successful programs partnering these allied fields to teach school-aged children how to look below the surface to learn about the past in our communities.
- A Friday excursion across the mighty Ohio River into Floyd County, Indiana, will take tour participants to the AASLH award-winning Underground Railroad exhibit at the Carnegie Center for Art & History. Filson Institute Director of Research Glenn Crothers and Canadian historian and archaeologist Karolyn Smardz Frost, author of, *I've Got A Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of The Underground Railroad*, will lead discussions exploring the history and memory of the Underground Railroad, from the Ohio River Valley to Canada.



Bourbon bottle, 19th century. Courtesy of Gettysburg National Military Park.

- The Historic Locust Grove tour on Saturday brings visitors to the final home of Louisville founder George Rogers Clark, the preeminent American military leader in the West during the American War for Independence. He was the elder brother of Jefferson County, Kentucky, native William Clark, co-leader with Merriwether Lewis of the Corps of Discovery. Observe a Revolutionary War reenactment on the far western frontier at this thriving plantation.
- Saturday sends participants to Bardstown to learn about fine spirit-making, where we are pleased to offer an exclusive tour of Heaven Hill Distillery and the Bourbon Heritage Center. The distillery will send the Heaven Hill shuttle to the Brown Hotel to ferry thirty-three lucky individuals to the center of bourbon production in the world. *Note: participants must be 21 years of age (with legal ID) to sample the spirits.*
- Walk along the shoreline and observe prehistoric fossil formations from the days when an ocean covered the area.
- Louisville is one of four communities in the U.S. to boast an Olmsted Parks and Parkway System. Begun by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1891, the Louisville project was halfway between Olmsted's commissions for the grounds of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, and Biltmore in Asheville, North Carolina. Louisville's relationship with the Olmsted firm spans into the 1960s, and includes numerous corporate and residential commissions in addition to parks-90 projects in all.
- Old Louisville Historic District is tops in the nation for the number of Victorian residences in one neighborhood. The historic district is the first ring suburb of Louisville and a manageable walk from the Brown Hotel. With the Ohio River as our northern boundary, the city's development has moved south, west, and east. Kentucky ranks fourth in the nation for the number of properties listed in the National Register, and boast 30 National Historic Landmarks, ten of which are located in Louisville.

The following are not scheduled as tours but are definitely worth attention:

- The Falls of the Ohio Museum in southern Indiana, right across the river from Louisville, is home to the oldest Devonian Fossil beds in the world.



Louisville Slugger Museum. Courtesy of Greater Louisville Convention & Visitor's Bureau.



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. 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



New Awards from NCPH Apply today!

CONSULTANT AWARD

This \$500 award recognizes excellence in consulting or contract work in the field of public history.

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECT AWARD

A \$1,000 award for a project that contributes to a broader public reflection and appreciation of the past or that serves as a model of professional public history practice.

GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

Five \$300 travel grants for graduate students who have a paper, poster, or other presentation accepted for inclusion in the program of the 2008 NCPH Annual Meeting.

Submission guidelines and deadlines for these and all other NCPH awards are available at www.ncph.org or by contacting the executive office.

Best Practices in Public History Education

The NCPH Curriculum and Training Committee is working on developing "best practices" recommendations for public history training, and would like your help. The committee is focusing on five areas, which are listed below, followed by the committee member working on each topic:

- the structure of MA programs in public history (Ann McCleary)
- certificate programs in public history (Donna DeBlasio)
- undergraduate public history programs (Cherstin Lyons)
- internships (Steve Berg)
- the introductory course to public history (Ivan Steen)

Over the next few months, members of the committee will be initiating discussion on the NCPH listserv for public history educators to gather ideas. (Please visit the graduate and undergraduate education page on the NCPH web site for more information about joining this listserv.) We hope that you will engage in the conversation! The committee will present its preliminary findings at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Louisville in a session on Saturday, April 12, entitled "Best Practices in Public History Curricula: Program Structure and the Introductory Course: A Facilitated Audience Conversation."

If you have any questions or insights, or if you would like to help with this task, please contact Ann McCleary, Committee chair, at amcclear@westga.edu.



Downtown Louisville, 1940. Courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

Annual Meeting Registration April 10-13, 2008 The Brown Hotel

Registration for the 2008 Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY, begins December 1. Visit <http://www.ncph.org> to register online or print off the registration form and mail or fax it back to the executive office. Annual Meeting Programs will be mailed to members in January!

Don't forget to reserve your hotel room as soon as possible. Downtown hotels within the vicinity of the Ohio River are expected to sell out quickly due to the large crowds anticipated for the Kentucky Derby kick-off event, "Thunder Over Louisville," on April 12.



Photo by Dan Dry. Courtesy of Greater Louisville Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

Don't Worry!

There's still time to sponsor an event or set up a booth in the exhibit hall at the 2008 NCPH Annual Meeting! Promote and showcase your organization, institution, press, or company to hundreds of conference attendees and other visitors. Visit the conference web page at <http://www.ncph.org> for more information.



Visit us at www.ncph.org

Call for Poster Sessions

You are invited to submit a proposal for the National Council on Public History's Poster Session at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY. The Poster Session is an informal format for public history presentations on research and 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. Presenters may demonstrate and discuss websites or other computer applications for public history projects; mount table-sized exhibits of research or interpretation; or share images, audiovisual materials, and handouts from successful public programs. The call deadline is January 11, 2008. Graduate students applying for a poster session may simultaneously apply for a \$300 Graduate Student Travel Award. Visit www.ncph.org for more information.



Poster session at Santa Fe meeting in 2007.

Experiments You Can Observe

An exciting new aspect of this year's annual meeting in Louisville is a trial run of three "Working Groups." Each involves a group of ten to twelve people who have been thinking about a given topic and who are eager to gather with others to discuss mutual concerns. Participants will have read before the conference opens short "case statements" that describe what their similarly-preoccupied colleagues are doing and thinking. At the annual meeting in April, each Working Group will be ready to move straight into substantive, focused, and extended seminar-like conversations about those shared interests.

The groups have already been assembled from among individuals who responded to the call in October, but Working Group sessions will be open to other conference-goers who would like to sit in on the discussions.

Public History and Civic Life

This Working Group will explore the present and potential role of public history in contemporary life. Case studies representing experiments in making history relevant to civic life might include community partnerships, neighborhood-based installations, K-12 collaborations, public policy initiatives, or other programs that reach new audiences and forge connections between past and present.

Facilitators: **Benjamin Filene** is director of public history and associate professor at UNC Greensboro and former senior exhibit developer at the Minnesota Historical Society. **Lorraine McConaghy** is senior historian at Seattle's Museum of History and Industry.

Unifying and Dividing Communities through Historic Preservation

Facilitators will call on specific historic preservation case studies as the canvas for discussion about the politics of preservation. Participants will speculate on why certain buildings get saved, how archaeological sites and cultural landscapes fit into the equation, how communities decide what to fight for and what to dispute as historic, and why some neighborhoods are overwhelmingly ignored.

Facilitator: **Carroll Van West** is director of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University. **Leslie Owens** is research coordinator at the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University. **Spurgeon King** is a preservation and historic real estate consultant.

Finding Common Ground between Interpreters and Historians

Cosponsored by the Association of National Park Rangers and the National Association for Interpretation. Can National Park Service interpreters who are regularly in immediate contact with people in public offer concepts or approaches that will help public historians to bridge what David Glassberg calls "the enormous distance that exists between historians and the public"? How might public historians assist interpreters in contextualizing and analyzing historical information?

Facilitators: **Chuck Arning** is lead ranger at The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. **Charlene Mires** is associate professor of history at Villanova University.

There's Still Time to Donate!

Please count my contribution toward the annual fund drive of the National Council on Public History to build the endowment.

Contribution Levels

\$50.00
 \$75.00
 \$100.00
 \$ _____ Other


Payment Options

Check enclosed (made payable to NCPH)
 VISA MasterCard American Express
 Account # _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____
 (Required for Credit Card Donation)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Mail to:  National Council on Public History
 327 Cavanaugh Hall
 425 University Blvd.
 Indianapolis, IN 46202

Or donate online at: <http://www.ncph.org>

Contributions to the NCPH Endowment Fund are put to work immediately building new programs for public historians. NCPH is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation, and contributions to the endowment fund are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



by Bill Bryans
bill.bryans@okstate.edu

I happen to live in a community that currently is undertaking a good deal of infrastructure improvements, and hardly a day goes by that I do not encounter a sign informing me that the project slowing my travels about town represents my tax dollars at work. While passing through a construction zone and thinking about the need to prepare this column (I hasten to add I was not driving at the time), it struck me that I should let NCPH members know how their investment in the organization is at work.

Much of what I have to say relates to my last column dealing with plans to utilize the earned income from the endowment, which, along with dues, represents a substantial portion of the membership's investment in the organization. The risk of repeating myself seems warranted for at least two reasons. First, I can now illustrate more specifically how the endowment earnings are being spent, especially to enhance the upcoming annual meeting in Louisville. Second, it affords an opportunity to illustrate how these actions also represent implementation of NCPH's current long range plan (see related article on page 10).

For instance, a major goal in the plan is to promote professionalism and best practices in history—in part by expanding our efforts to recognize excellence through an already well established awards program. Two new awards to be presented in Louisville directly address this objective.

The first is the Consultant Award, designed to recognize outstanding contribution to the field of public history through consulting or contract work. Consultants have long been an important constituency for NCPH, and it is fitting that we finally have a way to acknowledge their important contributions to public history.

The new Outstanding Public History Project Award will also be presented for the first time in Louisville. It seeks to acknowledge projects by individuals, groups, community organizations, businesses, or other organizations—or work done in support of such projects—that contributes to a broader public reflection and appreciation of the past, or that serves as a model of professional public history practice. By making non-fiction books and journal articles ineligible, this award recognizes the diverse, often unpublished, ways in which public historians craft their trade. A generous contribution from Stevie and Ted Wolf helped make this award possible, so if you see them in Louisville, please thank them.

A third new award, the Graduate Student Travel Award, is part of NCPH's long range goal to support history education with a public historical perspective at all levels. Thanks to this award, five graduate students participating in the meeting will receive a stipend from NCPH to help offset their expenses of attending.

If you are interested in learning more about these awards and how to apply for any of them, visit www.ncph.org. Just remember the deadline for nominations and applications for all three is January 11, 2008.

There are two other features of the Louisville meeting worth mentioning that represent both the endowment and long range plan at work.

Our effort to promote professionalism and best practices in public history includes offering ongoing professional development opportunities for members and others. We have long sought to do this through workshops conducted in conjunction with the annual meeting. Two workshops being offered in Louisville are made possible by the endowment. One deals with the timely topic of measuring performance. It will address the issues of accountability many public history institutions face and the use of performance measures to enhance organizational effectiveness. The other will be a digital web workshop spanning over two days. It will cover the creation of content, how to do XML markup language, and how to communicate needs and ideas to the technologists who will help create the virtual presence of a public history web project.

“ Our effort to promote professionalism and best practices in public history includes offering ongoing professional development opportunities for members and others. ”

Finally, the National Council of Public History, despite the implication of its name, is actually an international organization. Accordingly, our long range plan calls for cultivating an international membership that reflects the diverse community of history's publics and practitioners. Toward this goal, endowment earnings earmarked for enhancing an international presence at the annual meeting will bring Agrita Ozola, a Latvian public historian to Louisville. Ms. Ozola is director of the Tukums Museum and active in the European branch of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

These conference-related activities only partially represent the ways in which our endowment is making NCPH a better and stronger organization. We can indeed feel very good that we recently met our NEH challenge grant and began utilizing its earned income. Yet, the reality is that we must continue to increase the endowment and its earnings if NCPH is to have the future it deserves. So, when you are asked to invest in NCPH by making a contribution to the endowment, remember the good work mentioned above and give that request serious consideration. And please know your contribution, whatever the amount, is appreciated and meaningful to this organization.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by John Dichtl
jdichtl@iupui.edu

Our organization and the field of public history are in a period of expansion. Having access to abundant membership and financial information, I know NCPH is in vigorous condition. But how healthy is the field and what lies around the corner for NCPH and all those who practice public history?

Now is a good time to learn more. The practice of public history appears to be flourishing, flowing into new venues and bumping up against other applied fields. Museums and academia embrace civic engagement, every few weeks another college or university begins offering courses or launches a program in public history (there now are more than 100 programs listed on the NCPH web site—up from about 60 only five years ago), and business is steady for the consultants with whom I have spoken. History itself is attracting a growing number of undergraduate majors (see related story page 10).

But we need to learn more, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Much more. NCPH in the past has conducted surveys of public history programs and the membership, even undertaking an intensive self-assessment in 2004-2005. H-Public deftly provides

snapshots of the field and probably an early warning system for changes that lie ahead. But what do we know about the larger trends in the field? Are salaries—across the many kinds of public history jobs—increasing? Are public historians satisfied with their jobs, their training, their membership association? Do most graduates of public history MA and PhD programs find the jobs they expected? How many consultants work freelance or in firms, and has this number changed appreciably in the past ten years? Are old and new public history programs providing an education that public history employers find most desirable in new hires? How many people are employed in public history, and how many were trained in history versus other disciplines?

NCPH is beginning to gather information to answer such questions. In 2008, we will be conducting a survey of members and non-members with the help of the Survey Research Center here at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. I also hope to collaborate with sister associations so the information is comparable to their surveys and to our own past research efforts. Understanding the wide variety within our membership, and lying just beyond it, will give a clearer picture of the profession writ large.

The NCPH Curriculum and Training Committee is embarking on an ambitious effort to survey graduate and undergraduate public history programs, with the goal of creating a set of “best practices” guidelines.

Please respond to the committee when you see the calls appear on H-Public or your departmental mailbox. We also will work to provide a comprehensive directory of public history education programs at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

The joint Working Group on Evaluating Public History Scholarship will be combining the efforts of NCPH, the Organization of American Historians, and the American Historical Association to put forward a report and recommendations regarding how history departments—and eventually museums, businesses, and other institutions—value public history work. The working group currently is surveying how history departments evaluate public history in promotion and tenure decisions.

To take a broader look at the field, NCPH has been invited to participate in a survey about historians and job satisfaction. Meanwhile, the Consultants and Membership committees and other NCPH groups are continuing their ongoing discussions about conditions across the field. There is much to learn about trends in the marketplace of history, about where and how public history practitioners are employed.

As the premiere professional organization for the public history community, NCPH is taking on a larger role in tracking the current shape of the field and anticipating what lies ahead.

Tell Us What It's Worth

The National Council on Public History, American Historical Association, and Organization of American Historians recently formed a joint working group to advance discussion about evaluating public history work in tenure, promotion, hiring, and other situations. This project will coordinate a series of formal conversations during the next year and a half culminating in a substantive, contextualized report.

The goal is to open up the ways in which history departments and other organizations think about historical research, writing, and education beyond the monograph, peer-reviewed article, and classroom. In the end, the working group intends to produce a set of guidelines that will help academic and other institutions and agencies define what constitutes public history work and how it should be accounted for.

As an initial step in this effort, we are compiling information on how history departments already are evaluating and rewarding public history activities. If your department does have hiring, promotion, tenure, or any other guidelines that address this issue, we would appreciate you sharing them with us. Electronic copies of any pertinent documents can be sent to msforres@oah.org; paper copies may be sent to Melanie Forrest, OAH, PO Box 5457, Bloomington IN 47407.

ACTIONS OF THE NCPH BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Board members met in Providence, RI, which will be the site of the 2008 NCPH Annual Meeting.

On Saturday, November 3, 2007, the NCPH Board of Directors convened at the John Nicholas Brown Center, Brown University, in Providence, RI, and took the following actions:

- Approved the Minutes of the Spring 2007 Board Meeting in Santa Fe, NM.
- Adopted the gift acceptance policy suggested by the Finance Committee. The policy describes the types of financial contributions the organization will accept and how it will handle them.
- Approved the Finance Committee recommendation to shift the organization's fiscal year from a July 1-June 30 basis to a calendar year basis beginning January 1, 2009.
- Selected Portland, OR, as the site for the 2010 NCPH Annual Meeting. The meeting may be held jointly with the American Society for Environmental History, which already has chosen Portland for its 2010 annual conference.
- Approved the final description and guidelines for the new Graduate Student Travel Award (GSTA), which were submitted by the Student Project Award Committee. The GSTA will provide modest assistance with conference travel costs for graduate students who have a paper, poster, or other presentation accepted for inclusion in the program of the NCPH annual meeting. Five travel awards of \$300 each will be given annually.
- Approved the description and guidelines for the new Consultant Award, which was submitted by the Consultants Committee. The award is a \$500 prize intended to recognize professionals whose primary engagement with public history is through consulting or contract work within the past five years.
- Decided to schedule the next fall board meeting during the Oral History Association's 2008 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, October 15-19, and to accept OHA President Charles Hardy's invitation to propose a joint session for the OHA program.

Between its spring and fall meetings the NCPH Board of Directors, or its executive committee on the board's behalf, took the following actions via email discussions:

- Board approved the appointment of Jon Hunner as the at-large member from the board on the executive committee.
- Executive committee approved increases, as proposed by the University of California Press, in the 2008 institutional subscription rates for *The Public Historian*.

- Board voted to increase funding for the G. Wesley Johnson Award for best article in *The Public Historian* to \$750. NCPH will begin contributing \$250 each year from its endowment earnings, and NCPH member Stan Hordes has offered to increase his annual contribution of \$300 to \$500.
- Board approved the final description and guidelines for the Outstanding Public History Project Award.
- Executive committee voted to send a letter to the Canadian National Archivist protesting the reduction in hours during which researchers at the Library and Archives Canada main building in Ottawa may use collections and consult with reference staff. [Note: effective November 26, 2007, the Library and Archives Canada reinstated some of the hours in question and announced that it would "obtain the advice of the new LAC Services Advisory Board (SAB), drawn from its client communities," about restoring some of the hours during which services are provided by LAC staff.]
- Executive committee voted that NCPH sign on to an *amicus curiae* brief that JSTOR submitted on behalf of the National Geographic Society in the legal case *Greenberg v. National Geographic Society* ("Greenberg"), now before the Eleventh Circuit. According to the lawyer for JSTOR, "at stake in *Greenberg* is whether the copyright owner of a 'collective work' has the right to digitize the collective work in a format that retains its 'look and feel' without obtaining permission from the work's underlying contributors. 'Collective works' are works such as periodicals and scholarly journals, in which a number of contributions, such as articles and photographs, constituting separate and independent works in themselves, are assembled into a collective whole."



Candidates for the 2008 NCPH Election

Vice President

Martin Blatt, Boston National Historical Park

Board of Directors (three positions)

Robert Carriker, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

Dee Harris, Mid-America Arts Alliance

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

Jay Price, Wichita State University

John Sprinkle, Federal Preservation Institute

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

Nominating Committee (one position)

Sharon Babaian, Canada Science and Technology Museum

Jon Hunner, New Mexico State University

Ballots and candidate biographical information will be distributed to all members beginning in December. Your vote counts!

NATIONAL COALITION FOR HISTORY UPDATE



by Lee White
lwhite@historycoalition.org

ARCHIVES INKS DEAL TO DIGITIZE CIVIL WAR RECORDS

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) have announced a five-year partnership agreement to digitize case files of approved pension applications of widows of Civil War Union soldiers from NARA's holdings. Upon successful completion of a pilot project, GSU, doing business as FamilySearch, in conjunction with Footnote.com, intends to digitize and index all 1,280,000 Civil War and later widows' files in the series. These records currently are available only at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

FamilySearch will make the digitized materials available for free through and in 4,500 family history centers worldwide, or on a subscription-based website operated by a third party, subject to National Archives approval. They will also be available at no charge in NARA's research rooms in Washington, DC, and its regional facilities across the country. In addition, FamilySearch will donate to the National Archives a copy of all the digital images and the associated indexes and other metadata that they create. This is one of a series of agreements that NARA has reached or will reach with partners to digitize portions of its holdings.



Engraving after a W. Dickinson painting of the funeral of William D. Latane, Confederate cavalry captain. Courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MATERIALS MISSING

The Library of Congress came under fire from Congress recently when an internal Inspector General's report surfaced showing that nearly 17 percent of materials requested by users from the library's inventory could not be found. Of that figure, 4 percent were found to be in processing, but nearly 13 percent were considered unaccounted for.

At an oversight hearing, members of the Committee on House Administration questioned officials on the library's operations, including significant gaps in its inventory management plan. Library officials who testified before the committee claim that subsequent inventory reviews had found the percentage of unaccounted for items to be closer to 10 percent.

Despite the fact that a "Baseline Inventory Project" has been in operation since 2002, only 20 percent of the 135 million items in the library's holdings have been inventoried.

Committee member Dan Lungren (R-CA), suggested that the library consider modeling their tracking system after successful tracking programs within the private sector. "If UPS can track tens of thousands if not millions of pieces per day, and doesn't have a lost rate of 10 percent, why can't you?" Lungren asked. "I would bet you that if UPS or any of the others had a loss rate of 10 percent, they would be out of business."

NEW DIRECTOR FOR CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein recently announced the appointment of Terri Garner as the new director of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, AR. From 2005 to the present, Garner has served as executive director of the Bangor Museum and Center for History. Garner will assume her duties on November 5, 2007. Ms. Garner is currently finishing her Ph.D. in history at the University of Maine, Orono.

HOUSE PASSES WILSON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY BILL

On September 24, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1664, a bill authorizing the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to make

pass-through grants towards the establishment of a Woodrow Wilson presidential library in Staunton, VA, Wilson's birthplace.



Woodrow Wilson in the Oval Office. Courtesy of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library.

It should be made clear that H.R. 1664 only authorizes that federal funds can be used to make grants to the Wilson library. Separate language in an appropriations bill would be needed to provide NARA the funds needed to make the grants. In addition, the legislation sets stringent requirements that must be met before any federal dollars may be appropriated. First, the private entity running the Wilson library must certify that it has raised double the amount of the proposed federal grant from non-federal sources. Second, the grant is conditioned on the Wilson library coordinating its programs with other federal and non-federal historic sites, parks, and museums that are associated with the life of Woodrow Wilson. Finally, the bill prohibits the use of federal grant funds for the maintenance or operation of the library. The legislation also makes it clear that the library will not be considered part of the existing Presidential Library System and that the National Archives will have no involvement in the actual operation of the library.

While the Bush administration took no formal position on H.R. 1664, sources at the National Archives do not feel that NARA should be used as a pass-through for federal funds to a private entity. Private institutions usually receive funds through specific earmarks in appropriations bills. The bill had the unanimous support of the Virginia delegation in the House. Companion legislation (S. 1878) has been introduced by Senator James Webb (D-VA), with the co-sponsorship of Virginia's senior Senator John Warner (R-VA).

> continued on page 14

Andrew Altepeter Oshkosh, WI	Julie Davis St. Cloud, MN	Benjamin Hruska Block Island, RI	Timothy Milford Jamaica, NY	David Saxe State College, PA
Christopher Benning Amherst, MA	Victoria Dehlbom Pullman, WA	Janelle Jenkins Upland, IN	Laura Miller Southampton, MA	Ryan Schwier Indianapolis, IN
Jane Berger Media, PA	Ruth Dobyns Wilmington, OH	Jeanne Jesernik Homer Glen, IL	Aaron Monson Mesa, AZ	Alan Shackelford Granville, OH
Jordan Biro Folso, CA	Dana Dorman Philadelphia, PA	Ivan Jurin Perkasie, PA	Aaron Moore Stillwater, OK	Travis Shaw Alexandria, VA
David Boevers San Marcos, TX	Hank Dudding Memphis, TN	Carol Kennis Colorado Springs, CO	Amanda Murphy Fort Collins, CO	Stephanie Steinhorst Las Cruces, NM
Sarah Bohl Tempe, AZ	Linda Eastman Philadelphia, PA	Laura Koloski Philadelphia, PA	Elena Olivera Goleta, CA	Johannes Strobel West Lafayette, IN
Alida Boorn Wichita, KS	Carol Ely Louisville, KY	Katherine Landdeck Denton, TX	Merry Ovnick Granada Hills, CA	Keni Sturgeon Salem, OR
Dollie Boyd Murfreesboro, TN	Linda Epps Newark, NJ	Niki Lefebvre Amherst, MA	Mark Patrick Chelsea, MI	Cammie Sublette Barling, AR
Linda Burton Shoreline, WA	Kirsten Erickson Phoenix, AZ	Na Li Amherst, MA	Gordon Patton Ponca City, OK	Gerald Takano Daly City, CA
Marcella Callahan Parkton, MD	McKenzie Falvo Hertford, NC	Vickie Lindsey Pensacola, FL	Brendan Peabody Clifton Park, NY	V. Elaine Thompson Ruston, LA
Patricia Campbell Yorba Linda, CA	James Fennell Lexington, SC	Christine Link Cleveland, OH	Jennifer Phipps Odenton, MD	Santi Thompson Cayce, SC
Sandra Campos Chicago, IL	Ashley Flubacher Tuscaloosa, AL	Vanessa Macias El Paso, TX	Robert Pomerenk Collierville, TN	Rachel Tooker Columbus, OH
R. Scott Carmean Pensacola, FL	Scott Gaitley Independence, MO	Laura Malmberg Des Plaines, IL	Carolyn Powell Monterey, TN	Rozelle Trizuto Brentwood, CA
Robert Chidester Ann Arbor, MI	Anne Gorham St. Paul, MN	Patricia Maloney Bradley Beach, NJ	Louise Pubols Los Angeles, CA	Elizabeth Vogedes Durham, NC
Lauren Clark Fairfax, VA	Charles Graul Falls Church, VA	Kenny Maloney Medford, OR	Allen Ramsey Eau Claire, WI	Paul Wenglowsky Orlando, FL
Wandarita Clark Chandler, OK	Connie Gray Seattle, WA	Aaron McArthur Las Vegas, NV	Raymond Rast Fullerton, CA	Katherine Wilmes Arlington, VA
Jennifer Coleman Mesa, AZ	Meaghan Heisinger Tempe, AZ	Michelle McCargish Stillwater, OK	Jason Rey Derby, KS	Tushun Wisemiller Chandler, AZ
Jasper Collier Washington, DC	Mary Ann Hellrigel Passaic, NJ	Laura McDowell Chicago, IL	Janet Rozick Whitehouse, OH	Robert Wolk Wayne, NJ
Julia Cowart Johnson City, TN	Kyna Herzinger Columbia, SC	Norman McLeod St. George, UT	Denisse Rubio Jamaica Plain, MA	Sheryl Woodruff New York, NY
Sabrina Crane Manassas, VA	Patricia Holm Huntsville, TX	James McReynolds Austin, TX	Nancy Sambets Rock Hill, SC	

A Rising Tide of History Degrees?

A bachelor's degree in history—that marker of future historians or simply avid consumers of history—has reached a 30-year high point. According to a recent report by Robert B. Townsend, the American Historical Association's assistant director for research and publications, the number of history majors earning a BA climbed to 31,398 in 2004-2005. This 5.3 percent increase over the previous year was a sharper rise than what most other disciplines experienced.

Townsend reports that "history degrees now account for 2.18 percent of the baccalaureate degrees conferred." This is a vast improvement over the situation 15-20 years ago when history dropped to about 1.5 percent. For comparison's sake, 3.78 percent of BA degrees in 2004-05 were in English, and 2.65 percent were in political science and government. For a full demographic and historical analysis of new history degrees, see Townsend's article, "Undergraduate History Degrees Continue to Grow in Number," in the November 2007 issue of *Perspectives*. It is available online at www.historians.org.

Students' Focus on Photo Blurs Boundaries > continued from page 1

The Baldwin Museum's homemade exhibits pay tribute to "Miss Rosetta" and celebrate African American history, from great inventors to the Million Man March. The displays will not win any design awards from AAM, but they have a voice and a look that I knew my students and I could not improve. Yet Julius, despite my obvious lack of local connections, money, and staff, was open to a partnership. What could my students and I do that would help him without duplicating his good work?

Then Julius showed me a class photograph from 1963. Forty-six children, kindergarten through 8th grade, looked back at me—a flash in time from a moment on the cusp. These faces know that President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. are alive, that High Point's schools are segregated, that their own lives stretch out into the future. How did they handle what they learned next? Could we discover how their lives unfolded after they said goodbye to Baldwin's school? Could their life stories be pulled back from the past? Or were they lost to history?

That became the challenge I posed to my nine graduate students: find these people, learn their life stories, and share them with a wider public. Julius embraced the idea; Edith and the High Point Museum agreed to let us open the exhibit for a four-month run in their changing gallery, so that we would not disrupt Julius's installations for a temporary show; the existing Baldwin school expressed interest in being a long-term home for the exhibit after it closed; UNCG's History department gave me a small amount of money, and the university's Office of Service Learning provided a little more through a Community-Based Research Grant.



The photo that started it all: Students of the Baldwin Chapel School, 1963. Courtesy of Rosetta C. Baldwin Museum, High Point, NC.

Right away, though, the class ran into some challenges. First, public work does not fit a semester schedule. A museum would never schedule just three and a half months to research, design, and install a community-based exhibit, but we had no choice. And several weeks went by with only silence from our supposed "informants." Julius had identified a few names in the photo for us and they generated a few others. The students were poring through city directories, censuses, land records, marriage certificates, birth and death certificates, but only scraps of information were surfacing. Where were those engaging life stories that I was always prattling on about in class?

People did not answer their phones; several people apparently did not *have* phones. Some had moved, some had died—sometimes after tangles with the law, according to public records. The students, largely inexperienced in talking to people outside their own age bracket and racial and educational backgrounds, were getting apprehensive about meeting these people. And there was the issue of collaboration. Most of the class was getting along swimmingly, but a few students could not help but ask, Did I realize that a couple of students weren't quite pulling their weight? Yes, they knew that public history depends on collaboration, but...they were going to get grades, right? I emphasized that class participation and collaboration were in themselves significant parts of their grades, and that students would get a chance to do peer evaluations at the end of the semester, but that people needed to stick together and that this period of uncertainty was in itself part of the learning process. Soon the project was going to take off, I assured them. And I crossed my fingers.

But then it *did* begin to take off. A few people did call the students. Two of the large daily newspapers in the area and the Greensboro-based African American paper picked up the story of the UNCG students whose nutty professor had asked them to become historical detectives. Two students and I attended a service at the Seventh-day Adventist church and gathered several more names. More people began returning calls.

The students who did the first interviews came back thrilled. The people were so *nice*, so eager to share; their lives had been so fascinating, difficult, inspiring, complicated. Other students gained confidence and began throwing themselves into the project, and stories began to emerge: the power of Baldwin's Bible-based instruction; her liberal use of "the Switch" to enforce dedication; her generosity in waiving tuition for struggling families; her penchant for RediBurger meat substitute (Seventh-day Adventism preaches vegetarianism); the mixed results that desegregation brought to the neighborhood.

The hours never did exactly even out, which continued to rankle with some students, but for most, passion for the project seemed to be carrying them through. They mastered the PowerPoint program we used to design exhibit panels; they supervised the output and mounting of panels by UNCG's University Graphics office; they devised a way to play digital excerpts from the oral interviews the group had conducted; and, all of us went to the museum for a whirlwind afternoon of exhibit-installation. And suddenly it was opening night. In the end the students had identified 35 members of the Class of '63, and conducted interviews with 18 of them and their descendants or friends. Dozens of Baldwin students and their families came to the exhibit opening, bestowing hugs on the students who greeted them at

the door and, in turn, receiving corsages that designated them as guests of honor. Looking at the photographs and hearing the exhibit's stories generated more storytelling. Then the group gathered in the museum's auditorium, where the students formally introduced each person they had interviewed to the assembled group. The most emotional moment came when student Jeremiah DeGennaro paid tribute to Julius Clark's sister, Janis, a spirited storyteller who had died only three weeks after Jeremiah had interviewed her. Then all the students and their collaborators came to the stage to pose for a picture.



Opening night: UNCG graduate students and alumni of the Baldwin school came together to celebrate the exhibit at the High Point Museum. Courtesy of High Point Museum, NC.

What turned the project around? The answers may sound surprisingly familiar to academic historians. Above all, I feel, the success of the *Class of '63* project demonstrates the power of the primary source—the mysterious, unidentified photograph; the life stories waiting to be told but slipping away; the voices that eventually emerged to tell their own tales. The press, our community contacts, and museum-goers responded to the thrill of historical discovery, of the past being reclaimed, of using fragments from the past to construct a story for the present. The *Class of '63* project recapitulated in microcosm every historian's process of brainstormed conception, fruitless research, despairing uncertainty, lightbulb discovery, and late-night efforts to make sense of it all. In this case, though, every stage was publicly exposed. Instead of trying to clean up the process for public consumption, this project sought to involve the public—community partners, newspaper readers, and museum audiences—in the messy but exhilarating process of unearthing and piecing together the story. The students became practicing historians on the public stage with partners at their side. As I had hoped, they felt like public historians, and, for the moment, the divide between academic and public history seemed bridgeable after all.

Benjamin Filene is director of public history and associate professor at UNC Greensboro.

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

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND INTERNSHIPS

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History is accepting applications for summer 2008 **Lemelson Archival Internship**. Stipend is \$4,000 plus a travel allowance. Open to graduate students and recent graduates. <<http://www.si.edu/lemelson/lemelson/internships.html>> Deadline is March 3, 2008.

Winterthur Museum & Country Estate is accepting applications for its 2008-09 **Research Fellowship Program**. Fellows have full access and should conduct research based on the museum collection of objects and artworks made or used in America to 1860. <www.winterthur.org/research/fellowship.asp> Applications due January 15, 2008.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) invites applications for its 2008-09 **Scholars in Residence Program**. The program provides support for up to eight weeks of full-time research and study and is open to those conducting research on Pennsylvania history. <www.phmc.state.pa.us> Deadline is January 11, 2008.

The Arkansas Women's History Institute announces its call for the **2008 Susie Pryor Award**. A \$1,000 prize is offered annually for the best unpublished essay on topics in Arkansas women's history. Contact: Ethel C. Simpson, Chair, AWHI Susie Pryor Awards Committee, esimpson@uark.edu. Deadline is February 8, 2008.

The Texas Historical Commission is seeking nominations for the **T.R. Fehrenbach Book Award** for original research of Texas history. To be eligible, a book must have been published during the contest year in an edition of no fewer than 200 copies. <<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/awards/awdtrf.html>>. Deadline is December 31, 2007.

Brown University's John Nicholas Brown Center announces the Fellowship for the **Study of the Public History of Slavery**. The fellowship is for students seeking a Master's degree in public humanities who are interested in working in museums and other cultural institutions. For more information visit <www.brown.edu/JNBC>



CALLS FOR PAPERS, ARTICLES, PROPOSALS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Sixth Triennial Vietnam Symposium is accepting papers examining any aspect of American involvement in Southeast Asia. The symposium is hosted by the Vietnam Center and will take place March 13-15, 2008, in Lubbock, TX. For more information visit <www.vietnam.ttu.edu>. Deadline is December 31, 2007.

2008 Pacific Northwest History Conference, April 17-19, 2008, in Corvallis, OR, invites papers for their conference entitled "Across Time and Terrain in the Pacific Northwest." For more information visit <<http://northwesthistory.blogspot.com/2007/11/call-for-proposals-2008-pacific.html>>. Deadline is December 31, 2007.

Preserving the Historic Road Conference, September 11-14, 2008, in Albuquerque, NM, invites papers addressing historic preservation strategies, engineering solutions and alternatives, highway safety, and innovative management and protection policies. Visit <http://www.historicroads.org/sub7_1.htm>. Deadline is January 31, 2008.

Conference on New York State History, June 5-7, 2008, in Saratoga Springs, NY, invites presentations on any aspect of the history of New York State over the past 400 years. For more information email conference@nyhistory.net or visit <<http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=159100>>. Deadline is December 31, 2007.

McGill-Queen's Graduate Conference in History, March 14-15, 2008, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, invites graduate student submissions relating to the conference theme "Negotiating Histories." For more information visit <<http://www.arts.mcgill.ca/programs/history/graduates/gash/Index.htm>>. Deadline is January 7, 2008.

Organization of American Historians, March 26-29, 2009, Seattle, WA, is accepting papers for the conference themed "History Without Boundaries." For more information visit <<http://www.oah.org/2009/>>. Deadline is February 15, 2008.

CONFERENCES AND LECTURE SERIES

Sharing Authority: Building Community-University Alliances through Oral History, Digital Storytelling and Collaboration, February 7-10, 2008, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. <<http://storytelling.concordia.ca>>

Scouting: A Centennial History Symposium, February 15-16, 2008, Baltimore, MD. <<http://userpages.wittenberg.edu/tproctor/scoutwebpage08.htm>>

Communities and Memories: A Global Perspective, February 19-22, 2008, Canberra, Australia. <<http://www.amw.org.au/mow2008/mow2008.htm>>

Military Oral History Conference, February 21-23, 2008, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. "Between Memory and History." <<http://web.uvic.ca/~veterans/>>

Morrissey Oral History Workshop, February 28-March 1, 2008, San Francisco, CA. For more information email Elizabeth Wright, Elizabeth@HistoryInProgress.com.

Building Museums Symposium 2008, February 28-March 1, 2008, Washington, DC. <<http://www.midatlanticmuseums.org/buildingmuseums.html>>

Southwestern Historical Association, March 12-15, 2008, Las Vegas, NV. "Place Your Bets: Approaches to Engaging the Social Sciences." <<http://www.sssaonline.org/meeting.htm>>

Society for History in the Federal Government, March 13, 2008, College Park, MD. <http://www.home.earthlink.net/~chas_downs/id17.html>

"Museum and Refugees - Keeping Cultures," March 13-14, 2008, London, UK. <<http://attic-museumstudies.blogspot.com/2007/09/cfp-museums-and-refugees-keeping.html>>

Oral History and Performance Conference, March 14-15, 2008, New York, NY. <<http://www.ohmar.org/pastconferences/conf2008spring.htm>>

National Popular Culture & American Culture Association, March 19-22, 2008, San Francisco, CA. <<http://www.pcaaca.org/conference/national.php>>

Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, March 25-29, 2008, Memphis, TN. "The Public Sphere and Engaged Scholarship: Challenges and Opportunities for Applied Anthropology." <<http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2008.html>>



JOBS AND POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Maryland Humanities Council is seeking an Executive Director. Applicants should have an advanced degree in humanities, experience in public humanities programs, demonstrated success in fundraising, and advanced oral and written communication skills. Send cover letter, resume, and list of three references to Dr. Rhoda Dorsey, Search Committee, edsearch@mdhc.org. For more information visit <http://www.mdhc.org/about/employment_position01.htm>.

Western Carolina University seeks applicants to fill the Sequoyah Distinguished Professorship. Successful applicant is expected to teach as well as maintain an active scholarly role of research relevant to Cherokee and Native American studies. Submit cover letter, c.v., and list of references with full contact information. Apply at <<https://jobs.wcu.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/frameset.jsp?time=1195054982518>>.

Saint Vincent College is seeking a Curator for the Foster and Muriel McCarl Coverlet Collection. Minimum requirements include a MA in Fine Arts, American History, or Public History with five years experience as a curator or museum experience with textiles. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, and three letters of recommendation to Director of Human Resources, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650. For more information visit <<http://www.stvincent.edu/hr/staff/curator-deadline-1/18/08>>.

Nathaniel Newlin Grist Mill Historic Site in Concord, PA, seeks a Foundation Director. Candidates should have a graduate degree in history or museum studies, significant experience as an administrator, and the proven ability to lead and inspire others. Send a letter of interest and resume to Prof. M.N.S. Sellers, Executive Trustee of the Nicholas Newlin Foundation, Center for International and Comparative Law, 1420 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201 or by email to msellers@ubalt.edu.

DuPage Children's Museum in Naperville, IL, is seeking an Associate Director of Programs to supervise both public and school programming. Applicants should have a Master's degree in museum management, arts administration, business administration, or a related field. Send letter of intent with resume to jobs@dupagechildrensmuseum.org. For more information visit <www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org>.

Jewish Historical Society in Washington, DC, seeks a Director of Education and Public Programming. Applicants should have a Master's degree in Museum Education or similar field, five years experience in the museum field, and a degree or strong interest in American Jewish History. Email resume with a statement of interest to Laura Apelbaum, Executive Director, Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington, laura@jhsgw.org. For more information visit <www.jhsgw.org>.

Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, WY, is seeking candidates for a Collections Handler for the Paul Dyck collection of Plains Indian artifacts, art work, and related material. Candidate should have at least a bachelor's degree in Museum Studies or a related discipline, such as anthropology, history or art history, and at least one year of collections related work experience. Send cover letter, resume, references, and salary history to chriss@bbhc.org or fax to 307-587-5714. For more information call Chris Searles, 307-578-4089.



RELEASE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has announced it will open for the first time all of the individual Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) of Army, Army Air Corps, Army Air Forces, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard military personnel who served and were discharged, retired or died while in the service, prior to 1946. Collectively, these files comprise more than six million records. This is the second step in the progressive opening of the entire paper and microfiche OMPF collection of over 57 million individual files. Additional military personnel records will be made available to the public each year through 2067 until the entire collection is opened. To view an original record, individuals may visit the NPRC Archival Research Room in St. Louis, MO. Research room hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Central Time Tuesday through Friday. Visitors are strongly encouraged to call ahead (314-801-0850) to make reservations.

WORLD DIGITAL LIBRARY AGREEMENT

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and UNESCO Assistant Director for Communication and Information Abdul Waheed Khan recently signed an agreement at UNESCO headquarters in Paris pledging cooperative efforts to build a World Digital Library web site.

The World Digital Library will digitize unique and rare materials from libraries and other cultural institutions around the world and make them available for free on the Internet. The Library of Congress and UNESCO will cooperate in convening working groups of experts and other stakeholders to develop guidelines and technical specifications for the project, enlist new partners, and secure the necessary support for the project from private and public sources. A key aspect of the project is to build digital library capabilities in the developing world, so that all countries and regions of the world can participate and be represented in the World Digital Library.

To test the feasibility of the project, the Library of Congress, UNESCO and five other partner institutions ~ the Bibliotheca Alexandrina of Alexandria, Egypt; the National Library of Brazil; the National Library of Egypt; the National Library of Russia; and the Russian State Library ~ have developed a prototype of the World Digital Library. The World Digital Library will become available to the public as a full-fledged web site in late 2008 or early 2009.

Lee White is executive director of the National Coalition for History.



Bibliotheca Alexandrina of Alexandria, Egypt. Courtesy of UNESCO.

National Park Service Centennial Series

In celebration of the National Park Service centennial in 2016, the George Wright Society is introducing a series of 27 essays in the *George Wright Forum*. Each essay will discuss the future challenges and direction of the national park system. The first essay was written by former NPS chief historian, and NCPH member, Dr. Dwight Pitcaithley. To read this article, or for more information about the essay series, visit <<http://www.georgewright.org/>>.



Souvenir Folder (postcard) of Yellowstone National Park; Sent August 12, 1916. Courtesy of the National Park Service.

Roosevelt's New Deal, 75 Years Later



Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees clearing the land for soil conservation, 1934. Courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.

by Kathryn A. Flynn
newdeal@cybermesa.com

In 2008 the nation will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the inauguration of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the start of his New Deal programs. The National New Deal Preservation Association

(NNDPA), a non-profit organization that works to identify, document, and preserve the legacy of the New Deal, is spearheading the commemoration to be held between March 2008 and March 2009. To date, organizations and agencies in more than a dozen states have planned events and activities.

Included in the activities is a New Deal symposium to be held at the Library of Congress's American Folk Life Center in Washington, DC, on March 14, 2008. The following day, a documentary film fest, developed by the National Archives, will premier in the nation's capitol and then be available for travel around the country. An exhibit entitled, "One Hundred Days... That Saved America" opens March 4 at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, NY. On the same day, a new FDR museum will open in Chicopee, MA. A photo exhibit, "This Great

Nation Will Endure: Photographs of the Great Depression," sponsored by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), will travel throughout the year to the various regional NARA offices. On April 4-6, 2008, a symposium on Native American New Deal artists will be held in Santa Fe, NM, at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture.

NNDPA encourages any agency, organization, or site that has a history related to the New Deal to use this celebration as a time to showcase local New Deal treasures. We particularly encourage National Council on Public History members to spotlight public buildings (courthouses, municipal buildings, libraries, museums or their collections, airports, etc.), parks and monuments, public art, schools, WPA stamped sidewalks, dams, oral history collections, or other products of the New Deal.

These remarkable public sites, as well as programs such as Social Security and the Federal Deposit Insurance Commission, are too frequently taken for granted. We hope this anniversary celebration will begin to change that.

For more information on the New Deal 75th Anniversary or to find out how you can become involved, contact NNDPA at <newdeal@cybermesa.com>, call 505-473-3985, or write to P.O. Box 602, Santa Fe, NM 87504. A list of all activities planned to date can be found on our web site at www.newdeallegacy.org. NNDPA can provide a list of speakers of New Deal events. Another New Deal anniversary web site is www.nedeal75.org. Both web sites will be updated as new activities are identified.

Kathryn A. Flynn is executive director of the National New Deal Preservation Association.



A Tennessee Valley Authority hydroelectric dam under construction. Courtesy of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.



Federal Art Project mural at Golden Gate State Park's historic Beach Chalet, painted in 1936. Courtesy of Flickr.com user elston. See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/> for license terms of this work.



Thank you!

The support of the following institutions and organizations, each committed to membership at the Patron and Sponsor levels, makes the work of the National Council on Public History possible.

Patrons

The History Channel
American Association for State and Local History
California State University Fullerton, Center for Oral and Public History
Carnegie-Mellon University, Department of History
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, Department of History
Historical Research Associates, Inc.
John Nicholas Brown Center
Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History
The University of West Florida Public History Program and West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc.



Sponsors

University at Albany, State University of New York, Department of History
American University, Department of History
Arizona State University, Department of History
University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Department of History
Baylor University, Department of History
California State University Chico, Department of History
University of California Riverside, Department of History
California State University Sacramento, Department of History
University of California Santa Barbara, Department of History
Central Connecticut State University
Chicago Historical Society
History Link
University of Houston, Center for Public History
James Madison University, Department of History
JRP Historical Consulting
Loyola University of Chicago, Department of History
University of Massachusetts, Department of History

Missouri Historical Society
University of Nevada Las Vegas, Department of History
New York University, Department of History
North Carolina State University, Department of History
University of Northern Iowa, Department of History
Oklahoma State University, Department of History
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
University of South Carolina, Department of History
Washington State University, Department of History
University of West Georgia, Department of History
Truman Presidential Library
Wells Fargo
Western Michigan University, Department of History

Public History News

National Council on Public History

327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5148

ISSN 08912610

Editor: John Dichtl
Assistant Editor: Sarah Younker-Koeppel
Editorial Assistant: Amy Powell