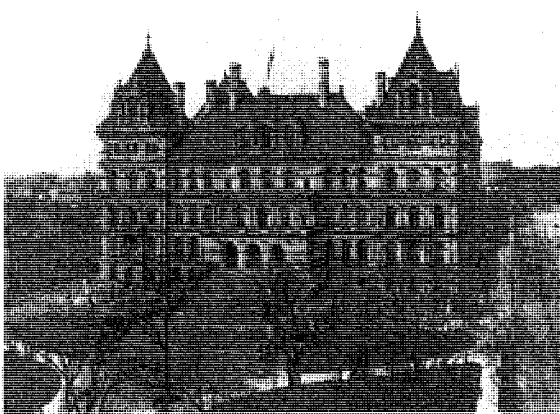


“PUBLIC HISTORY AND PUBLIC MEMORY”: THE 1997 NCPH CONFERENCE AT ALBANY

by Ivan Steen



New York State Capitol Building (c. 1920). Courtesy of the McKinney Library, Albany Institute of History & Art.

This May the National Council on Public History will meet in one of the oldest cities in the United States. Albany, New York was originally established as Fort Orange in 1624 under the auspices of the Dutch West India Company. Renamed Albany when it was taken over by England in 1664, it received a city charter in 1686. The region played a pivotal role in both the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War, and it was designated the capital of the State of New York in 1797. Located at the confluence of the Hudson and Mohawk valleys, its major commercial importance dates to the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. The railroad ultimately connected Albany with New York City to the south, Montreal to the north, Boston to the east, and Buffalo to the west. Later, major Interstate roads further enhanced those connections. The expansion of the state's operations, especially under Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller in the 1960s, resulted in Albany becoming the second-largest governmental center in the country. The Capital Region of New York State is the home of the University at Albany, one of the four university centers of the State University of New York, as well as several other higher education institutions. It also contains a significant concentration of federal, state, and private historical and cultural agencies and institutions.

The theme for the 1997 NCPH Annual meeting is “Public History and Public Memory,” and many of the sessions will address that theme. In addition to formal sessions, there will be a variety of events that highlight the history of the region. Several local walking and “trolley” tours will be available at different times. The afternoon of May 3 will feature excursions to the Schuyler Mansion and the Saratoga Battlefield site, and to the Blenheim-Gilboa site of the

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

- **Michael Frisch**, SUNY-Buffalo, received the Oral History Association Book Award for his book *Portraits in Steel* published by Cornell University Press.

- **Martha McNamara** has received a J. Paul Getty Fellowship to study “Disciplining Justice: Massachusetts Courthouses and the Architecture of Professionalization, 1750-1850.”

- The **National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT)** received a Presidential Citation from the American Institute of Architects for work in developing and implementing research, training, and information programs that address urgent needs of the preservation and conservation community throughout the US. The citation honors NCPTT's extensive work with the preservation and conservation community, and its wide-ranging achievements in only two years of operation.

- **David G. Vanderstel**, NCPH Executive Director, received a Clio Grant from the Indiana Historical Society to write a biography of Edmund O. Hovey, a Presbyterian minister who in 1832 helped to found Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana.

New Members

Barbara Abrash, *New York, NY*
 Cathy J. Ambler, *Lawrence, KS*
 Maria Salomon Arel, *Cranston, RI*
 William A. Babcock, *Missoula, MT*
 Barbara Bair, *Santa Cruz, CA*
 Morgan Baird, *Murfreesboro, TN*
 T. Lindsay Baker, *Rio Vista, TX*
 Tonya Blair, *Greensboro, NC*
 Carole Blaire, *Davis, CA*

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Diane Britton, President
 Janelle Warren-Findley, Vice-president
 Jeffrey P. Brown, Past-president
 Marianne Babal, Secretary-treasurer
 David G. Vanderstel, Executive Director

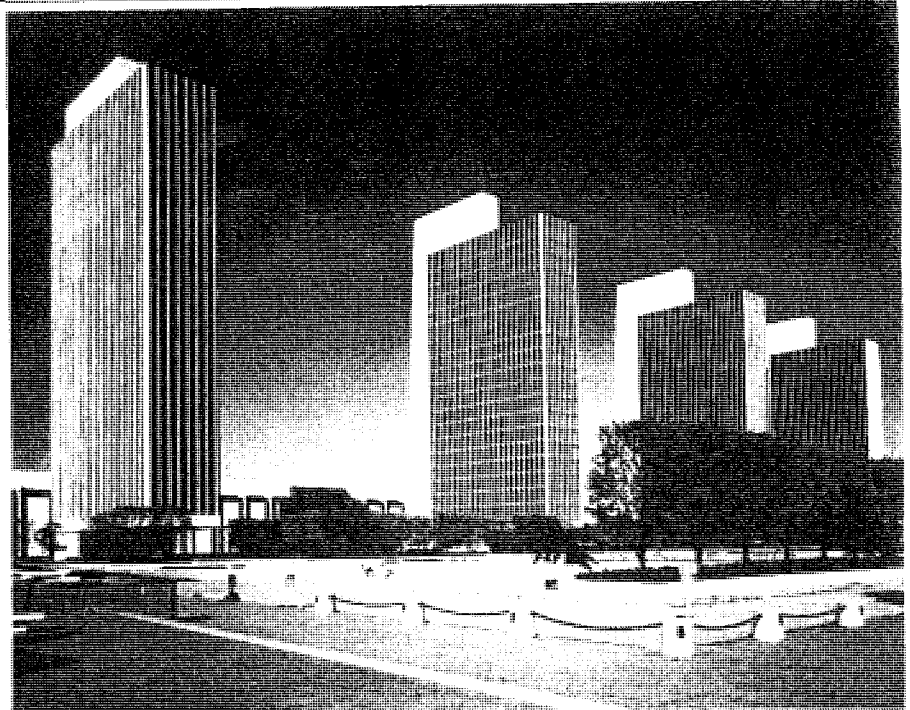
➤ *Continued on next page*

➤ *See Members on page 18*

► *Albany Conference from front page*

New York State Power Authority. Two post conference tours will be held on Sunday May 4. One will be a Hudson Valley tour, including visits to the Van Alen House, the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, and Olana (home of the Hudson River School artist, Frederick Church). The other will concentrate on the Shakers, with stops at the Shaker Heritage Society (site of the first Shaker settlement in America), the Shaker Museum, and the Hancock Shaker Village, where dinner will be served. Another conference event will be the opening reception on May 1, hosted by Mayor Gerald Jennings at Albany's City Hall, a Henry Hobson Richardson building.

A highlight of the conference will be the dinner banquet, which, through the generosity of Fleet Bank, will be held at their Albany headquarters, the magnificently restored Albany Union Station. The evening's keynote speaker will be Joseph E. Persico, who collaborated with General Colin Powell on *My American Journey*. Among his seven other books are biographies of William J. Casey, Edward R. Murrow, and Nelson A. Rockefeller, as well as a novel. He has published numerous articles in *American Heritage*



Empire State Plaza, Albany (c.1970). Courtesy of the McKinney Library, Albany Institute of History & Art.

and *Military History Quarterly*. From 1966-1977 he served as chief speech writer for New York Governor and Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller. His talk will be entitled, "Confessions of a Biographer."

The conference will be headquartered at the Omni Albany Hotel in downtown Albany. Standard room rates are: \$80 per night for a single room; \$90 per night for a double room. Suites are \$139 (single) and \$159

(double). A limited number of rooms at lower rates will be available for students at a nearby hotel. Registration fees for the meeting will be the same as they were in 1996—\$75 for members; \$85 for non-members; \$45 for students. Registration materials will be arriving in your mailboxes soon.

For further questions concerning the conference, contact Ivan D. Steen, Local Arrangements Chair, telephone (518) 442-4811, e-mail: oralhis@csc.albany.edu.



The National Council on Public History promotes the application of historical scholarship outside the university in government, business, historical societies, preservation organizations, archives, libraries, professional associations, and public interest groups.

For details contact NCPH President Diane F. Britton, Department of History, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606; Vice-president Jannelle Warren-Findley, Department of History, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-2501; or David G. Vanderstel, 327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140; (317)274-2716; e-mail: ncph@iupui.edu.

For change of address, write UC Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720.

Submissions to *Public History News* should be sent to David G. Vanderstel, Editor, at the address above.



Albany Union Station, current home of Fleet Bank and site of the NCPH dinner banquet.

Campaign 2000: Endow Public History for the 21st Century

by Rebecca Conard
Chair, NCPH Endowment Committee

When Bob Kelley coined the term "public history" in 1976, he revitalized the progressive - era ideology of the New Historians; that history should be enlightening, accessible and useful to the commonwealth. In support of this revival, the National Council on Public History organized specifically to act as an advocate for the value and pleasure of history *in the present*, not simply as another special interest group that could address the particular concerns of its practitioners. At the 1997 annual meeting, NCPH will formally launch "Campaign 2000" as a means to ensure that NCPH continues to be a progressive leader in the history profession as we move into the next century.

Plan 2000, approved by the Board of Directors in March 1995, notes that public history still needs strong advocates because:

- history has become a public battleground for educational priorities and partisan agendas;
- history departments still produce far too many graduates who define the locale for practicing history as the classroom;
- history - related career fields are increasingly under pressure to focus on technological skills rather than scholarly content or the research methods of history.

Since the adoption of **Plan 2000**, NCPH has undertaken vigorous new - member campaigns, adopted PUBLHIST as its e-mail networking apparatus, established the Robert Kelley Memorial Award, developed the "Careers in History" annual workshop to foster greater organizational awareness among students, developed a track record of successful professional workshops at the annual meeting, expanded its ties with other professional organizations, and taken strong advocacy positions on important issues such as the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualification standards for historians. We all know, however, that NCPH should be doing more. A substantially increased endowment fund is an all

important case for expanding NCPH's role as the leading professional organization in public history.

NCPH's existing sources of revenue -- membership dues, annual conference income, publication sales, royalties, and occasional gifts -- currently produce a total annual income of approximately \$38,000. This income, generously subsidized by institutional support from the University of California - Santa Barbara and Indiana University - Purdue University at Indianapolis, enables the organization to maintain fiscal soundness from year to year. In addition, the NCPH Endowment Fund, produced by setting aside ten percent of each year's income, currently has a balance in excess of \$27,000. In an era of increasing costs and increasing competition for organizational support, fiscal soundness and even a tiny endowment fund are remarkable achievements for a small organization.

The current level of annual income does not allow NCPH to deliver all the services and recognition that its members deserve or to provide the degree of advocacy that public history truly needs. For this reason, the NCPH Board of Directors charged a new endowment committee with the task of formulating a new statement of purpose and a plan for augmenting the existing endowment fund. Accordingly, the following statement of purpose was proposed and adopted in 1996:

*In keeping with the goals of **Plan 2000**, the NCPH Endowment Fund shall be used to advance and serve a membership that reflects the varieties of Public History; to cultivate a profession that is more ethnically, racially and culturally diverse; to foster an organizational identity that projects the vibrancy of public history; and to strengthen public awareness of history's value in all realms of human activity.*

By utilizing the Endowment Fund for these purposes, it is the intent of the Endowment Committee to create budgetary flexibility for NCPH and, indirectly, to move the organization toward even better

self-sufficiency. Toward this end, Endowment Fund income may be used to pursue strategies that have been previously identified as desirable, as well as future proposals that further the stated purposes.

These include, but are not limited to:

- *grants to students, minorities, and new career professionals to defray the cost of attending annual meetings;*
- *professional outreach activities such as continuing education programs for mid-career historians, traveling and/or regional workshops for key constituencies, and annual summer institutes that focus on cutting-edge developments in public history;*
- *an expanded awards program that recognizes substantial contributions to public history, student contributions to public history, and important contributions to NCPH as an organization; and,*
- *special projects that produce marketable deliverables.*

NCPH's goal is to raise an additional \$200,000 for the endowment fund. While grants can be an important source of funding for specific projects and programs that NCPH could not otherwise support, the endowment fund must come from the membership. NCPH will need the support of each and every member to strengthen the mission for which it was created. Between now and May, please take time to reflect on what the future of public history means to you personally and to the broad spectrum of professional public historians that NCPH represents.

For more information about the campaign, contact:

Rebecca Conard
Department of History
Wichita State University
Wichita, KS 67260-3150
(316) 689-3150
email: conard@twsuvm.uc.twsu.edu

or the NCPH Executive Offices.

Awards Committee Invites Member Comment and Suggestions

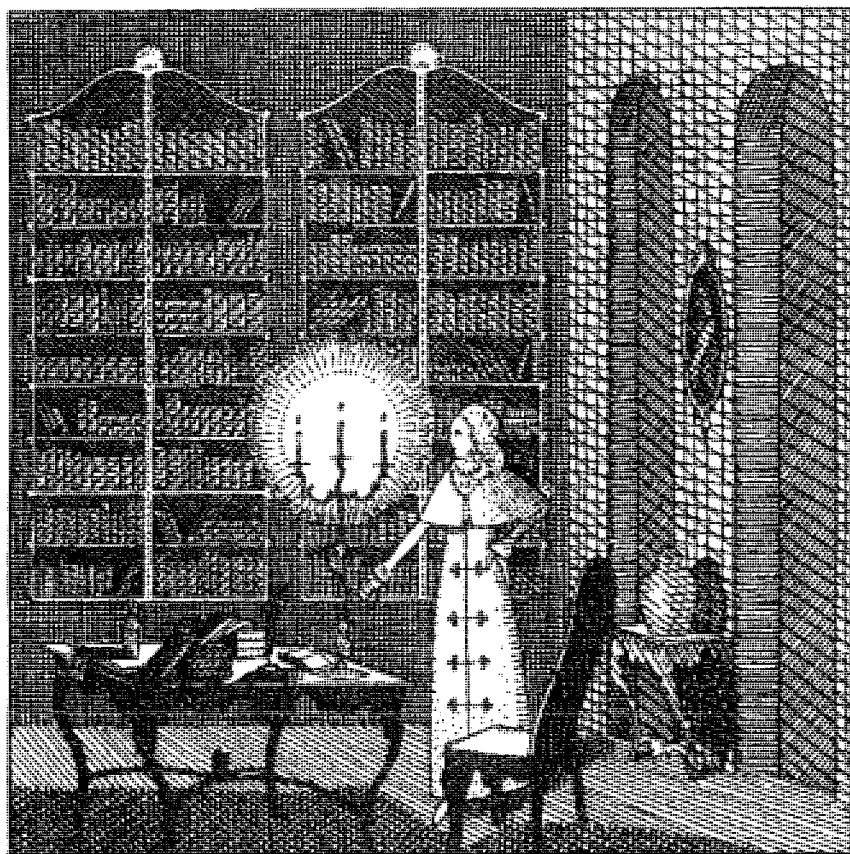
by Jo Blatti, Chair

At the direction of president Diane Britton, the Awards Committee is investigating awards in two specific areas: outstanding teachers and students participating in the National History Day program, and outstanding students enrolled in public history programs.

Committee members Jo Blatti and Beth Boland are working on the History Day assessment. Bob Carriker and Susan Douglass Yates are exploring the public history student award(s) at both undergraduate and graduate levels. The committee report will outline award purposes, eligibility criteria, application procedures, administration, and suggestions for the actual awards.

We invite member comments on this awards agenda and suggestions for development that focus on the mission and objectives of NCPH, particularly as these relate to broad public understanding of historical forces that affect all citizens. The committee will be preparing a final report in April 1997 for presentation at the annual meeting in Albany.

Please contact chair Jo Blatti or any of the following members of the committee with your comments on awards under investigation by **March 15, 1997**: Beth M. Boland, National Parks Service, (202) 343-9545, fax (202) 343-1836, e-mail: beth_boland@nps.gov; Bob Carriker (602) 894-9757, e-mail: carriker@asu.edu; Bruce Craig, National Park Trust, (202) 223-6722 ext 106, fax (202) 861-0576; Susan Douglass, Oral History Program, University Research Library, UCLA, (310) 825-7524, e-mail: douglass@library.ucla.edu.



The Mentoring Program Needs You at the Albany Meeting

For students who are attending their first NCPH meeting in Albany this Spring, the National Council plans to offer its mentoring program once again and cordially invites you to participate. The program pairs public history students with established practitioner mentors to enable those who are new to professional meetings to get more out of the conference. Not only will you gain an experienced guide to the conference, but a person who can provide introductions to others, answer questions about the Council and the profession, and offer ideas and advice informally from the perspective of an established public historian.

For NCPH members who have mastered the mysteries of the Annual Meeting, the mentoring program offers you the chance to host a student soon to join the professional ranks. By sharing your experience and extending a friendly hand, you aid entry to the NCPH and promote the sort of collegiality and participatory involvement with the Council that will benefit the association and the profession for years to come.

The mentoring program has proven quite successful in each of the past two annual meetings, a useful and enjoyable experience for students and mentors alike. More information on the program will be included in the conference registration materials and over the electronic Public History Discussion List <PUBLHIST@iupui.edu>.

To register your interest in participating or for further information, contact Randy Bergstrom at bergstro@humanitas.ucsb.edu, or via Department of History, University of California-Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

Susan B. Anthony: Her Struggle Continues

by Mary Kay Glazer

The house at 17 Madison Street in Rochester, New York, may be the home of an American legend, but the treasures it holds are in danger of being lost forever, simply because of a tragic lack of resources and know-how. Susan B. Anthony lived with her sister Mary in the simple brick Victorian home, now a National Historic Landmark, for the last forty years of her life. The artifacts at the site tell the story of the fight for woman suffrage and of the woman who was the life force of that fight. But those objects are now at the mercy of the insidious destruction of both Mother Nature and human nature.

"While demand for information about Anthony is increasing," says Lorie Barnum, Executive Director of the House, "our ability to make it accessible is decreasing." In part, that inaccessibility is because there is no inventory of the collection and the site lacks appropriate space to accommodate larger school classes and group tours. But that is in the process of changing.

Barnum and the House's Board of Trustees are leading the fight to preserve Anthony's legacy. The house is launching a \$1.4 million capital campaign that will fund the rescue and expansion of the historic site. The money raised will be used to restore Anthony's aging home and gardens, and construct a new Education and Visitor Center at the one-time home of Anthony's sister Hannah, who lived next door. The center will also provide much needed office space; currently, the kitchen of Anthony's home serves as a makeshift office. Most importantly, this project will catalog the historic Anthony collection and protect it for generations to come.

Susan Brownell Anthony lived in this middle-class house from 1866 - 1906, her most politically active years. From this house, she traveled across the country, rallying people around the fight for woman suffrage. Her home became the headquarters

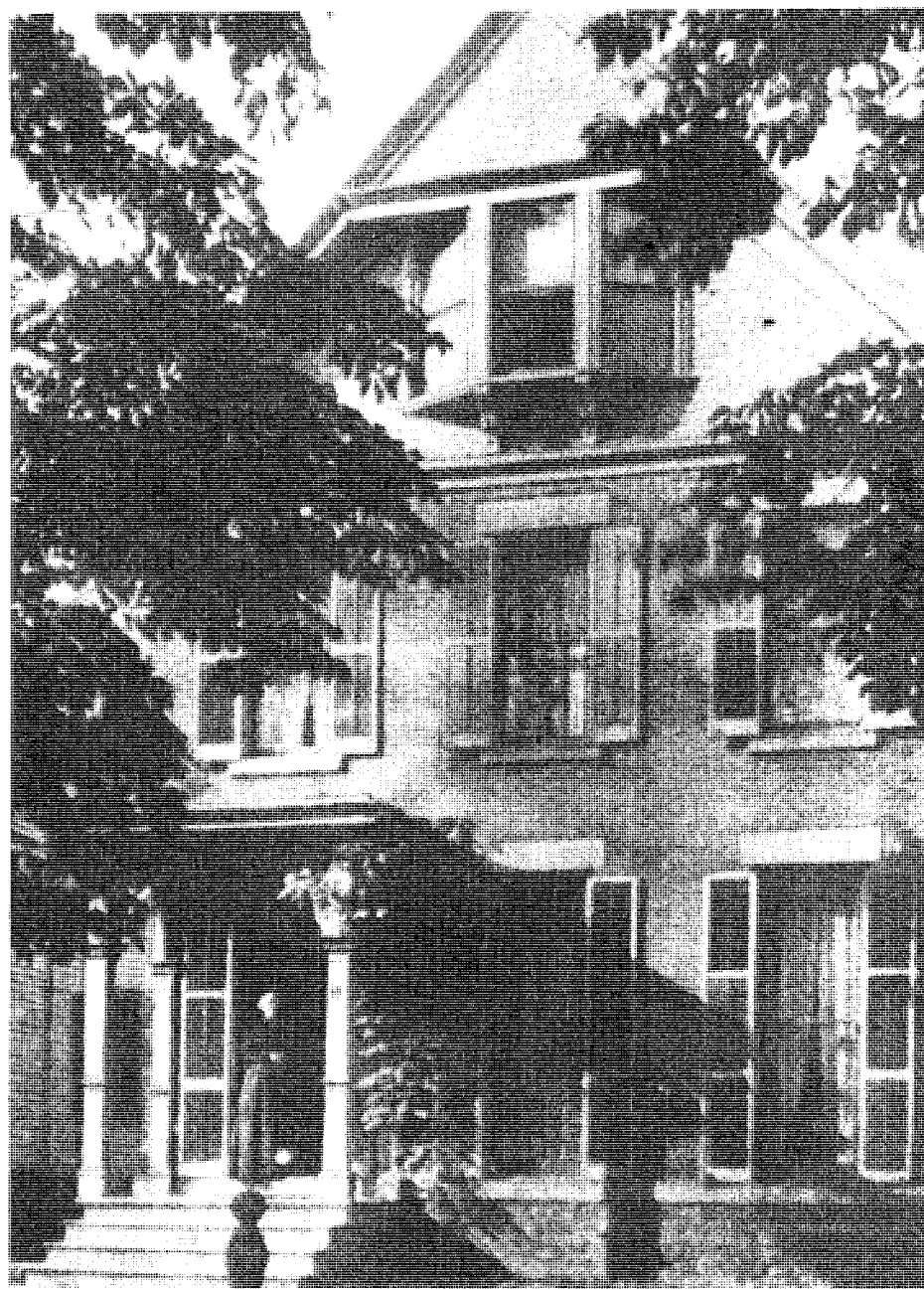
of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which she founded in 1869. It was here at 17 Madison Street that Anthony met with many of the major reformers of the day, such as Frederick Douglass and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and where in the front parlor in 1872 she was arrested for voting.

In 1906, at the end of her full and active life, Anthony passed away at age 86 in her upstairs bedroom. She laid in state in her modest front par-

lor while the world mourned her loss. But, Director Barnum says, "in light of Anthony's single-mindedness it seems to me that she would have rather have had all those people honor her memory by rallying to the cause so dear to her heart."

After Anthony died, her sister Mary gave away many of the suffragist's belongings, scattering them across the country. When

► *Continued on page 17*



Susan B. Anthony on porch of 17 Madison Street home, Rochester, NY. Courtesy Susan B. Anthony House.

Researching the American Girls Collection®

by Kathy Borkowski

About six years ago I sat with my then seven-year-old daughter reading a bedtime story. As we read about Kirsten and her travels from Sweden to a small farm in Minnesota, I was struck by the historical accuracy of the story. It was written in such a way that my daughter learned a great deal about immigration during the nineteenth century. This was my first introduction to Pleasant Company and The American Girls Collection®. Now, as the historical researcher for Pleasant Company, my job is to ensure a high level of accuracy in our historical dolls and accessories.

The American Girls Collection currently tells the stories of five nine-year-old girls in various historical periods. Felicity lives in colonial Williamsburg in 1774 on the eve of the Revolution; Kirsten is a Swedish immigrant living on a small farm in the Minnesota Territory in 1854; Addy escapes from slavery to live in

freedom in Philadelphia during the Civil War in 1864; Samantha is an orphan being raised by her wealthy grandmother near New York City in 1904; and Molly lives in a small Midwestern town during World War II in 1944.

The books, written at about a third grade reading level, each include a "Looking Back" selection -- a nonfiction historical essay about some aspect of the period, such as education, celebrations, or child rearing. The essay also places the fictional story in a broader historical context. In the case of Kirsten, for example, the "Looking Back" for the first story discusses immigration in the nineteenth century.

Now ten years old, The American Girls Collection has been enormously successful in bringing history into the hearts and minds of children. The books are used in many schools across the country, and while the stories focus on girls, the books are read by

both boys and girls. The series follows the same basic format for each character, allowing children to compare and contrast the same elements throughout different historical periods. For example, the second book in each series focuses on education. Children can easily see how vastly different schooling for Kirsten was in 1854 as compared with Molly in 1944. Children can also relate to concepts such as friends, family, and emotions that cross the barriers of time. In addition, Pleasant Company publishes a series of teacher's guides with suggested projects and activities to help integrate social studies, literature, and language.

Since the books deal with so many aspects of daily life as well as political and social events and influences, the research for each character's period is amazingly comprehensive. We need to determine not only what effect the growing discontent among the colonists in 1774 might have had on a

➤ *Continued on page 16*



The American Girl Collection: Felicity, Kirsten, Addy, Samantha, and Molly.

Another Kind of Glory: Celebrating the Centennial of the Monument to Robert Gould Shaw and the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment

by Martin Blatt and Erin Beatty

May 31, 1997, will mark the centennial of the installation in Boston of the Augustus Saint-Gaudens monument to Robert Gould Shaw and the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment, the first Union grouping of free black volunteers in the Civil War. To celebrate the centennial of this extraordinary piece of public art, a public history program will be held in Boston from May 28-31, 1997.

The Centennial committee planning the event is broadly inclusive, involving public agencies, universities, libraries, museums, historical agencies, Civil War reenactor groups, private sector firms, and others. The overall coordinator is Ken Heidelberg, Site Manager of the Boston African-American National Historic Site, which features the African Meeting House, a key site in abolitionist organizing and a center for the recruitment of free blacks into the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts.

Centennial efforts are focused on an interpretation of the Fifty-fourth

Massachusetts which emphasizes the crucial role played by African-Americans in the Union army. The Centennial will celebrate the heroism and contributions of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts, examine the historical context of the regiment in the 1860s and of the monument in the 1890s, and explore the relevance of the regiment and the monument for our contemporary world. The program will encompass three distinct areas of activity: educational outreach, a public symposium, and public ceremony/encampment by reenactors.

The educational outreach component will be aimed at school children in Boston-area public schools. This activity will commence in February during Black History Month and continue through May 31, 1997. We will sponsor teacher workshops and curriculum packets and organize field trips to the monument and Boston's Black Heritage Trail, a project of the Boston African-American National Historic Site and the Museum of Afro

American History. School children will be actively engaged through essay writing and art contests.

A symposium, "The Monument to Robert Gould Shaw and the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment: History and Meaning," will be held from May 28-30, 1997. The symposium, free and open to the public, will begin on Wednesday evening, May 28, at Harvard University's Sanders Theater. Colonel Shaw attended Harvard and the university played a central role in the installation of the monument in 1897. The remainder of the symposium will be held at Suffolk University on Boston's Beacon Hill, only a few blocks from the monument and the African Meeting House. Featured speakers will include distinguished historians such as David Blight, Barbara Fields, James Horton, and William McFeely, as well as African-American Civil War reenactors, descendants of the Fifty-fourth, and others. To keep the conference lively, individual sessions will vary in format

► *Continued on page 16*



Monument to Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Photo by Steve Dunwell.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Diane Britton



NCPH sponsored a luncheon and roundtable session, titled "Public History and Professional Organizations," at the recent American Historical Association (AHA) annual meeting in New York City. The informal program encouraged discussion about what the future holds for public history and the expectations that public historians have of professional organizations. Panel members included myself; Joyce Appleby, president-elect of the American Historical Association; Rebecca Cameron, president-elect of the Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG); Linda K. Kerber, president of the Organization of American Historians (OAH); and Robert Townsend, AHA publications manager. NCPH vice-president Jannelle Warren-Findley served as moderator. About twenty five individuals gathered for the discussion which raised several issues of importance to NCPH members.

Joyce Appleby emphasized the sense of affinity that we share as a group bound together by our commitment to history. She pointed out the need to identify shared interests and expressed her hope that public historians can find enough in AHA to draw them to the larger organization. Member activities drive AHA and public historians who join the organization can have an influence. Linda Kerber echoed these sentiments for the OAH and reiterated the already existing long relationship between that organization and the NCPH, including joint meetings held about every five years. She briefly summarized a crisis in the profession and pointed to the Enola Gay exhibit as an event "tragically energizing" of the profession as a whole. The publicity surrounding that debate had an ironically good effect in that it allowed us to drop the boundaries between various historians and face our common enemies. Sustaining memory and cultural heritage should be a common goal and we can in some ways be grateful for this point in our history in that it allows us combine our efforts as members of a profession.

Rebecca Cameron's comments focused on what distinguishes federal historians, despite diversity with that group, within the larger profession. She emphasized that most government historians work for agencies whose main function is not history and therefore, they are often marginalized and must convince their agencies of the importance of history. The main scholarly interests of federal historians focus on policy history because it is their job to interpret the past of government agencies. Cameron pointed out what is true for many public historians—the AHA program does not reflect their interests. Federal historians tend to speak to their colleagues in archives, historic preservation, records management and other fields whose concerns do reflect similar interests, than to those in academia. Advocacy, an issue of increasing interest among the members of the larger organizations, is a sensitive area for federal employees. But they do wish for support from their academic colleagues and would welcome a greater sense of collegiality.

Robert Townsend spoke about the various efforts by AHA to reach out to historians in all areas of the profession. In particular, he mentioned the recent addition of a public history column to the AHA newsletter *Perspectives*, though he has found it difficult to recruit public historians willing to submit articles. I hope NCPH members will consider writing essays for this publication as a way of promoting our discipline.

A lively discussion ensued that ended all too quickly as individuals for another session gathered anxiously outside our meeting room in the New York Sheraton. Training issues became a focus after mention of the need to expand professional opportunities for historians. Participants seemed to agree that public history opportunities should come early in the undergraduate program, not something tacked on to the end of an individual's graduate work. Public historians identify with professions other than history and therefore need to develop a commitment to those areas early in their educational programs. Graduate students present at the session emphatically agreed with the need to introduce public history at the undergraduate level. There still seems to be a perception that history majors will become teachers. This is an issue that all undergraduate history programs should think about, especially in times of declining enrollments. Several individuals suggested connecting public history practitioners with academic history departments to help educate both faculty and students. NCPH is committed to moving this initiative forward.

The discussion turned to the issue of professional history's relationships to the public and what we do to promote ourselves and our work. Gerald Herman of Northeastern University suggested that we think seriously about how to reach the 30 million viewers of the History Channel. Based on recent events in Ohio where the Board of Regents pulled funding from doctoral level programs, we certainly need to make those outside the profession more aware of the contributions professional history makes to society. We must develop strategies to be stronger advocates for our own causes. The officers of NCPH, OAH, AHA and SHFG are committed to working together to advance the interests that we have in common as professional historians. I urge the membership to continue discussion of these issues, perhaps through PUBLHIST, and to make the officers and Board members aware of our concerns.

NCPH members and friends of public history planning to attend the upcoming OAH meeting in San Francisco are invited to attend the NCPH Welcome Reception on the evening of Thursday, April 17 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The reception will be held at the Wells Fargo History Museum, 420 Montgomery Street. Shuttle transportation from the conference hotel will be provided. Check the OAH pocket program for any additional information. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wells Fargo Bank for its generous support of this event.

I also look forward to seeing all of you at the NCPH annual meeting in Albany.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by David G. Vanderstel



The media has done it again -- launched the Smithsonian into the national spotlight. At issue this time is the future of military exhibits and the hiring of a military curator for the National Museum of American History. It seems that Steven Lubar, chair of the division in charge of the military collection (and a member of NCPH and winner of the 1996 G. Wesley Johnson Award), has voiced his desire to bring this section more in line with exhibits throughout the institution. As such, Lubar is suggesting that the museum shift from mounting traditional military exhibits to those which examine the military's relationship with civilian culture, society, and politics.

Based upon internal Smithsonian memoranda leaked to the press, the *Wall Street Journal* of 6 January 1997 proclaimed a new round of "Smithsonian Wars." The editorialist criticized Lubar's "hot stuff themes," or "themes freighted with political resonance" favored by the so-called "new breed of curators who view their roles as mainly political instructors whose mission is to transmit enlightened social values." Clearly, the writer never checked his Oxford English Dictionary for the meaning of "museum" nor investigated the mission of Charles Willson Peale's museum, one of America's first, that opened in the early 19th century.

The *OED* defines a museum as "a building or apartment dedicated to the pursuit of learning [my emphasis] or the arts; a home of the Muses; a scholar's study." Peale, whose museum enshrined objects of natural science and art, considered his institution to be a "school of useful knowledge" where visitors could be both amused and educated. Although Peale's museum emphasized the natural world, it was among the first to set objects within a contextual framework. In other words, Peale intended his collection to display elements of the created order, demonstrate the connectedness and evolution of things and events, and create interest and encourage inquiry

and analysis by those viewing his collection.

Which brings me back to the criticism lodged by the *WSJ*. The writer obviously considers the Smithsonian, or any museum for that matter, to be simply a "cabinet of curiosities," the label used in the early American republic to describe a collection of random, unconnected objects with no theme and no context. "Cabinets" aroused public interest, but they provided no meaning beyond their descriptive labels and taught nothing about the course of history.

Our nation's museums contain objects that are significant to our history as a people and a culture. While they should not be perceived simply as a reliquary of our national icons, museums have, in fact, become a part of our national civil religion, constituting a type of sacred space. Consequently, many people, as represented by the *WSJ* editorialist, believe that history and the institutions that preserve and exhibit our past should be like church doctrine--immutable, untouchable, infallible. Those of us who are historians, however, fully realize that history changes and that our understanding of the past constantly changes. Therefore, our museums and their exhibits must change as well to reflect our ever-widening and richer comprehension of our past, but a past that continues to raise questions and lead us deeper into unexplored recesses of time.

Students, when asked the reason for studying history, regularly echo George Santayana's infamous claim that we study the past so as not to repeat the mistakes of the past. That, of course, suggests that there is a larger historical picture to explore beyond the simple facts, such as the realm of "cause and effect." Even if that is only part of the reason for studying history, what does one learn about the past by viewing a "traditional exhibit" describing the caliber and firepower of weapons, colors of battle ribbons, and styles of uniforms? Such simplified knowledge is useful only for playing Trivial Pursuit or appearing on television game shows; it does not allow us to com-

prehend who we are as a people or a culture.

The *WSJ* editorial also cited a memo from Sarah Rittgers, ordnance specialist at the Smithsonian, who claimed that American citizens insisted upon a "traditional exhibit of American military history" and that the Smithsonian should abide by their wishes "since they pay our salaries." I did not realize that our history was founded upon a public referendum or that it was "officially sanctioned" by some unseen power. Furthermore, have we not as a nation been critical of others, namely China, the former Soviet Union, and Japan, for presenting a one-sided view of history, one that excludes sensitive and controversial elements of their past? Is the stance taken by the *WSJ* or Ms. Rittgers any different?

Amidst the chastisement that historians and scholars have received for their "p.c." (politically correct) view of the past, we have witnessed a comparable rise of what I call the "m.c." or "militarily correct" view of our history, one centering on heroism, tactics, and objects but which is sterile and seriously lacking in analysis and historical meaning. It is a history outside the flow of time, separate from other events, and lacking the connectivity so wonderfully demonstrated by James Burke's television series *Connections*.

This new "history war" brings us back to the question raised by *Public Historian* editor Otis Graham a couple years ago: Who owns history? Should museums be places where we are challenged to open our minds, to explore, to question and learn? Or, are museums, as apparently recommended by the *Wall Street Journal*, places to which we make pilgrimages, where we remove our shoes in reverence to view our nation's idols, and leave knowing nothing about the greater meaning and significance of what we have just seen?

We historians still have our work cut out for us. Let us seek to improve the public's understanding of the meaning and nature of history and their comprehension of the usefulness and rich connections to be found in studying the past.

Best of luck to Mr. Lubar as he faces a new "history war."



by Page Putnam Miller, Director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History

[Editor's Note: We provide here edited versions of NCC updates from the past few months.]

• **Appeals Court Rules Against "Decency Clause" for NEA** -- On November 5 the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that imposing the decency standard on the National Endowment for the Arts' grants process violated the First and Fifth amendments. The court in a 2-1 decision basically ruled that the decency and respect provision was too vague and did not provide an "ascertainable standard for inclusion or exclusion." The decency language first appeared in NEA legislation in 1990 following a dispute in which four artists sued the NEA claiming that they had been denied grants due to political considerations. A lower court ruled in 1992 that the decency clause was unconstitutional. However, the Justice Department appealed the decision. Since most of the controversial cases regarding "decency" were tied to grants to individual artists, the Congress subsequently passed legislation greatly limiting NEA's ability to offer individual grants. Neither the "decency provision" nor the policy of limiting individual grants has ever applied to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

• **Omnibus Parks Bill Signed into Law** — The President signed H.R. 4236, the Omnibus National Parks and Public Lands Act on November 12. He noted that "This bill will create or improve almost 120 parks, trails, rivers, and historic sites in 41 of our 50 states." Among many provisions in this lengthy bill are: provisions to establish 9 new heritage areas, the reauthorization for the next four years of the Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation at an

annual ceiling of \$4 million, and a number of administrative reforms for the National Park Service, which include the Senate confirmation for the Director of the National Park Service.

• **Department of Energy Openness Advisory Panel** — On December 3rd and 4th the Department of Energy's Openness Advisory Panel held its second meeting. The establishment of this panel in 1993 was part of an overall strategy to declassify significant amounts of information that had previously been withheld from the public. The panel is in the process of preparing a report that will address such issues as the need for legal changes in classification policy and strategies for declassifying the mountain of old classified documents.

• **Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress Focuses on Electronic Records** — On December 9 the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress held its second meeting of the year. One of the agenda items was consideration of the report from the planning committee for establishing a technology task force on archiving the electronic records of Congress. The Advisory Committee is in the process of appointing key individuals to serve on the Task Force and will give them a mandate to have an interim report prepared for the spring meeting and a final report by the fall. The task force findings, as well as the survey information and recommendations on electronic records keeping systems, data migration, and preservation will be made available to all members of Congress.

• **State Department Advisory Committee Faces Problems With Declassification of Covert Actions** — At the December 16 and 17 meeting of the State Department's Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation, William Slany, the head of the State Department Historical Office, reported that 13 volumes in the documentary series, the Foreign Relations of the US, had been published in 1996, and he

expected 13 more to be published in 1997. There is considerable concern among members of the committee, however, about declassification problems for volumes that are in the pipeline and are slated to come out in 1998. Public Law 102-138, passed in 1991, requires that the Advisory Committee advise the State Department on the preparation of volumes "which shall be a thorough, accurate, and reliable documentary record." Furthermore the law states that the volumes "shall include all records needed to provide a comprehensive documentation." The most troubling, unresolved problems facing the publication of accurate and comprehensive accounts of US foreign policy remain the State Department historians' access to CIA files and the declassification of CIA operational records.

• **Public Citizen, Historians, and Librarians File Suit Against The Archives Challenging Policies that Allow Destruction of Electronic Records** — On December 23 Public Citizen, joined by the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the American Library Association, filed a complaint against the National Archives in the US District Court for the District of Columbia. The suit challenges the Archivist's promulgation of a "General Records Schedule" authorizing all federal agencies, at their discretion, to destroy the only electronic version of Federal agency records stored on agency electronic mail and word processing systems provided the agency has printed a hard copy of the electronic record on paper or microform. The complaint states that the Archivist has "improperly ignored the unique value of electronic records" and "has abdicated his statutory responsibility to appraise the historical value of such electronic records." The complaint asks the court to declare the General Records Schedule 20 null and void and to prevent agencies from destroying electronic records created, received or stored on electronic mail or word

processing systems pursuant to General Records Schedule 20. The "General Records Schedule" lists categories of records which agencies may destroy without notice or appraisal if the agency determines that such records "are no longer needed for administrative, legal, audit, or other operational purposes." Many in the historical and archival community commented on this schedule prior to its adoption and stressed that the National Archives was abdicating its role in appraising records with these regulations. There are values to records that go beyond their administration and operational use and agencies are sometimes shortsighted in appraising the long term and historical value of records. The regulations give enormous authority to agency heads. The "General Records Schedule" raises issues of both what constitutes a federal record and what are the parameters of the Archivist's authority. Additionally, with the changes in technology some archivists are now recommending that information systems be appraised, not just individual records. The National Archives, however, did not use the opportunity of the revision of the General Records Schedule 20 to adopt a more forward looking approach to appraisal.

• Archives Brings In Outside Specialist To Manage Electronic Records — On January 6 Michael Miller, formerly the Records Officer for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), became the head of the National Archives Records Management Program which among other responsibilities oversees the archiving of electronic records. In his six years at EPA, Miller revitalized the records management program and completely incorporated the management of electronic records into the agency's operation. Additionally, he built an effective communication network throughout the agency and with the National Archives for identifying, preserving and making available the historically significant records of the agency.

• Roger Kennedy Resigns -- On January 13 Roger Kennedy announced his resignation as Director of the National Park Service, a position he has held since 1993. His resignation will not take effect until the Senate confirms a successor.

• Historians and Archivists Seek Public Interest Standard for Unsealing Grand Jury Records — On February 3 the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the National Council on Public History, and the Society of American Archivists filed an amici brief in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to seek public interest consideration for unsealing 48 year old grand jury records. The amici brief supports Public Citizen's appeal on behalf of Bruce Craig, an historian and doctoral candidate at the American University, in the case *Bruce Craig v. United States of America* (No. 96-6264).

In 1996 Craig filed a petition for an order releasing historically significant grand jury records pertaining to a McCarthy era espionage investigation of Harry Dexter White, a high-ranking Treasury Department official accused of being a Communist spy. Specifically Craig is seeking access to the 79-page transcript of White's grand jury testimony that occurred five months before his death. Craig's petition showed that there is an overwhelming public interest, rooted in access for genuine historical research, in disclosure of the White grand jury transcript and little interest in maintaining its secrecy.

On August 4, 1996 the district court denied Craig's petition, finding that the public interest in this nearly 50 year old record is not sufficiently compelling to justify its unsealing. The district court recognized that the law permits a court to order disclosure in certain circumstances. But the court did not balance the public interest in disclosure against any interest in continued secrecy.

The amici brief focuses on the public's compelling interest in knowing its own history, in observing the operation of the criminal justice system, and in establishing a precedent in which the public's interest in historic grand jury records can justify unsealing those records. In challenging the district court's decision, the amici brief states that "the district court's error in this case was not necessarily in refusing to disclose the requested grand jury testimony, but instead in refusing to give weight to the public interest in that disclosure." The brief further emphasizes that, if a grand jury record may have historical significance, that does not create an automatic right to inspect that record. "Rather, the filing of a petition for access," the brief states, "simply triggers an individualized determination as to whether the document may be kept from the public view and requires the court to weigh carefully the competing interests in light of the relevant circumstances and the standards announced by the Supreme Court."

• Historians and Archivists Go to Court To Require IRS to Transfer Historical Administrative Files to the National Archives — On February 7, Tax Analysts, publisher of Tax Notes and sponsor of the Tax History Project, was joined by the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the Society of American Archivists in filing a complaint in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia to require the IRS to comply with the Federal Records Act and to direct the National Archives to enforce the Federal Records Act and its own regulations. This case — Number 1:97CV00260—has been assigned to Judge June L. Green. This court case evolved from the IRS's failure to respond in a substantive manner to an administrative petition filed with IRS in mid-1996.

Announcements

- The **Library of Congress National Digital Library Program**, working with the Library's Contracts and Logistic Services, has awarded to **Preservation Resources** the first of several major scanning contracts. This contract is for the production of digital images of selected collections from the Library's extensive holdings of 35mm microfilm. The microfilm of the historical collections, which will be scanned for the NDL Program, was produced between 1950 and 1994. The first collection to be scanned under this contract will be the Presidential Papers of George Washington from the Library's Manuscript Division. Preservation Resources, a division of the OCLC Online Computer Library Center, is a not-for-profit organization devoted to the reformatting or conversion of library and archival materials. Since 1985, it has completed preservation micro-filming projects for institutions throughout the country, filming approximately 200,000 volumes, largely for preservation projects supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities' Division of Preservation and Access.

- The **Institute of Museum Services (IMS)** has awarded **Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library** a Conservation Project Support grant of \$31,110. The funds will be designated to treat and reformat 8,420 drawings, photographs, negatives and trade catalogues from 12 collections in the library. Conservation Project Support provides matching funds for high priority conservation activities to help ensure the integrity of collections for the future. This year, grants totaling \$1,770,000 were awarded to 59 museums, selected from 263 applicants.

- *The Archaeology of Shakespeare*, by Jean Wilson, has won the Archaeology Book of the Year Award in the **British Archaeological Awards**, announced at Cardiff, on 18th November 1996. The excavation of

the Rose Theatre, where many of Shakespeare's early plays were first performed, together with partial excavation of the Globe, led to an upsurge of interest in theatrical archaeology. In *The Archaeology of Shakespeare*, Jean Wilson draws together evidence from costume, tomb sculpture as well as dirt archaeology to show the contribution that archaeology can make to other subjects, including, in this case, the study of literature. The runner up was *The Jewellery of Roman Britain*, by Catherine Johns of the British Museum. This is not only a study of the interaction of the Classical and Celtic traditions, but is also a landmark publication in feminist archaeology, by one of the foremost writers in this subject

Awards, Internships, and Fellowships

- The **National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT)** announces its Spring Call for 1997 Preservation Technology and Training Grants in Historic Preservation. NCPTT is a National Park Service initiative to advance the practice of historic preservation in the fields of archeology, architecture, landscape architecture, materials conservation and interpretation. Grants will be awarded for environmental research studies, technology transfer, conference support, and publications support.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, pending the availability of funds. **Deadline is April 15, 1997.** For complete information, consult the 1997 PTTGrants Spring guidelines and requests for proposals, which provides instructions on how to prepare and submit applications. This information can be obtained by fax at (318)357-3214. Follow the recorded instructions to receive the 1997 PTTGrants Spring Call information by return fax. Information from the World Wide Web and gopher sites can be obtained at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/ncptt/> and

[gopher://gopher.ncptt.nps.gov](http://gopher.ncptt.nps.gov) respectively. For information via return e-mail, send an e-mail message to pttgrants@alpha.nps.gov, leaving the subject and message line empty. You will receive the guidelines automatically.

- **Historic Deerfield**, a museum of New England history and art, announces the 1997 Summer Fellowship Program in Early American History and Material Culture. Six to eight undergraduates from across the country will be chosen in April to spend nine weeks in Deerfield, Massachusetts, where they will discuss and research the documents and artifacts of early American history, and interpret Deerfield's history to the general public while studying other museums in New England and beyond. The 1997 program will run from Monday, June 16 to Saturday, August 16. The Summer Fellows participate in seminar sessions in a classroom setting, on walking tours, and in the museum houses themselves. Topics covered include American architecture, furniture, ceramics, silver, textiles, gravestone art, Native Americans in the Connecticut River Valley, the Puritan plain style sermon, the archaeological heritage of Deerfield, the Colonial Revival in New England. For application forms and further information, contact Dr. Kenneth Hafertepe, Director of Academic Programs, Historic Deerfield, Inc., Deerfield, MA 01342; phone: 413-774-5581; e-mail: hdacadem@external.umass.edu.

- The **Allegheny Heritage Development Corporation (AHDC)** is now accepting applications for its Summer Internship Program. Interns are placed throughout southwestern Pennsylvania to take on projects which encourage economic revitalization, build community and agency strength in heritage tourism and seek to improve the quality of life in the region. Graduate students receive a stipend of \$3000, undergraduates \$2000. Information and an application can be found at <http://>

www.sphpc.org/intern/intern.htm
or call (814) 696-9380.

• The **Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA)** is pleased to announce the continuing annual competition for the ALBA George Watt Memorial prizes for the best college student essays about the Spanish Civil War, the anti-fascist political or cultural struggles of the 1930s, or the lifetime histories and contributions of the Americans who fought in Spain from 1937-1938. Two prizes of \$500 each will be awarded each year — one to the best undergraduate paper and one to the best graduate student paper written on one or more of the above topics. Papers will be judged on the basis of originality, effectiveness of argument, and quality of writing. The paper must have been written to fulfill an undergraduate or graduate course or degree requirement. The deadline for receipt of essays is **April 1, 1997**. Essays written either during the year of submission or during the previous calendar year are eligible for the competition. Essays must be at least 5,000 words long to be considered for the prize. Applicants should submit five copies of their paper, typed, double-spaced, and with an SASE for return. Please mail entries to: Professor Fraser Ottanelli Department of History SOC 107 University of South Florida Tampa, FL 33620 The award winners will be announced each Spring.

• The **Urban History Association** is conducting its eighth annual round of prize competitions for scholarly distinction. Categories are: best doctoral dissertation in urban history, without geographic restriction, completed during 1996; best book, North American urban history, published during 1996 (edited volumes ineligible); best book, non-North American urban history, published during 1995 or 1996 (edited volumes ineligible); and best journal article in urban history, without geographic restriction, published during 1996. Deadline for submissions is **June 15, 1997**. To obtain

further information about procedures for submissions, write to: Dr. John C. Schneider, Director of Foundation Relations, Tufts University, 108 Bromfield St., Medford, MA 02155, USA. Do not send any submissions to Dr. Schneider.

• The **State Historical Society of Iowa** announces a grant program for the 1997-1998 academic year that will support up to four research stipends of \$1,000 each for research and interpretive writing related to the history of Iowa and the Midwest. Preference will be given to applicants proposing to pursue previously neglected topics or new approaches to or interpretations of previously treated topics. Applications for the 1997-1998 awards must be postmarked by **April 15, 1997**. Request application guidelines or further information from: Research Grants, State Historical Society of Iowa, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, IA 52240-1806; phone (319)335-3931; email: mbergman@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu.

Call for Papers

The **American Journalism Historians Association (AJHA)** invites paper entries, panel proposals and abstracts of work in progress on any facet of media history, including electronic media and film, advertising and public relations for its annual conference October 16-17, 1997, Mobile Alabama. Among topic areas in which papers are invited is Southern Journalism. Research entries should be completed papers not exceeding 25 typewritten double-spaced pages, including references. Awards for outstanding research include: the Robert Lance Award for the best student paper; the William Snorgrass Award for the best research paper on minority journalism; the Best Research Paper; and awards for the top three research papers.

Panel proposals should include a brief description of the topic, the names of the moderator and participants, and a brief summary of each participant's presentation. Research in progress should be submitted in

abstract form (no more than 350 words, two copies) and should focus on significant research under way. For more information, contact or send materials to: Prof. Patrick S. Washburn, School of Journalism, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701; Panel Proposals to: Prof. Tracy Gottlieb, Department of Communication, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ 07079; Research in Progress to: Prof. Eugenia Palmegiano, History Department, St. Peter's College, Jersey City, NJ 07306 All submissions should be postmarked by **May 1, 1997**.

Conferences, Institutes, Seminars and Workshops

• In recognition of the 150th anniversary of Thomas A. Edison's birth, the **National Park Service, Organization of American Historians and New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance** are pleased to announce a three-day conference, "Interpreting Edison." This conference, which will be held June 25-27, 1997 at Rutgers University-Newark and the Edison National Historic Site, will examine the interpretation of Edison's life and work in academic scholarship, at museums and historic sites, and in the classroom. Representatives from five major US Edison-related sites will discuss their interpretative and museum management programs. There will also be a series of sessions designed to help teachers integrate Edison-related themes into the history curriculum. In the opening session, distinguished historians Ruth S. Cowan, David Nye, Thomas Schlereth, John M. Staudenmeier and Alan Trachtenberg will offer their insights on Edison's place in American history.

For more information about the conference, or registration details, contact: Leonard DeGraaf, Edison National Historic Site, Main Street and Lakeside Avenue, West Orange, New Jersey 07052 (201)-736-0550, ext. 22; e-mail: EDIS_Curatorial@nps.gov

• An international group of scholars will gather in Washington, D.C., on

Oct. 23-24, 1997 for a two-day symposium about the history, tradition and identity of Washington and Mexico City at the turn of the century. "Imaging the City of the Americas: Washington and Mexico City" will be held at the **Library of Congress** and the **Mexican Cultural Institute** in Washington. The symposium focuses on a period when these two cities emerged as major capitals.

The first session of the symposium will be held in the Mary Pickford Theater of the Library of Congress from 2 to 5:45 p.m. on Oct. 23 and will feature film clips, photographs, maps, and architectural drawings of both Washington and Mexico City, drawn from the Library's rich collection of more than 110 million items. That evening Mexican author Carlos Monsivais will deliver a keynote address at the Mexican Cultural Institute, which is located at 2829 16th Street, NW, in a stately historic mansion built in 1910. He will be introduced by Mexican Ambassador Jesus Silva Herzog. The symposium is free and open to the public, but advance reservation is required. To request a printed program or to reserve a seat for the symposium, call Ana Kurland in the Library's Hispanic Division at (202) 707-5400. Information about the symposium is also available on the Library's Web Site at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/hispanic>.

•Contingent on funding, the twenty-sixth annual **Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents** will be held June 16-21, 1997, in Madison, Wisconsin. Jointly sponsored by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the State Historical Society, and the University of Wisconsin, the Institute will provide detailed theoretical and practical instruction in documentary editing and publication. The 1997 faculty and their topics are: Michael Stevens (State Historical Society of Wisconsin), introduction to documentary editing; Diana Hadley (*Documentary Relations of the Southwest*), annotation;

Richard Leffler (*Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*), transcription; Beverly Wilson Palmer (*Thaddeus Stevens Correspondence*), selection and indexing; John P. Kaminski (*Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*), promoting and funding editions; Beth Luey (Arizona State University), publishing an edition; Michael Sperburg-McQueen (Text Encoding Initiative/Model Editions Project), electronic editions, Diana Hadley, Richard Leffler, and Beverly Wilson Palmer will serve as the resident advisors. Further information and application forms are available from the NHPRC, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408; phone (202) 501-5610; e-mail: nhprc@arch1.nara.gov. Application deadline is **March 15, 1997**.

•The **National Park Service** in association with the **USDA Forest Service** announces a workshop on Basic Photo Use Methods in Cultural Resource Management. The workshop deals with vertically acquired aerial photographs and with terrestrial photographs. Aerial photos constitute a vast historic database which has been only sporadically utilized and sadly under utilized. Basic photo use skills in photogrammetry, photointerpretation, orienteering, map update, and GIS are essential tools of resource professionals to utilize existing image data to synthesize and provide needed information effectively and efficiently. The workshop is planned for **April 14-18, 1997**. Due to limitations of space, participation in the workshop is limited to 30 individuals per session. Additional information on the workshop is available from Steven De Vore, Course Coordinator, at the National Park Service; 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Denver Co 80225-0287; phone (303) 969-2882; e-mail: steve_de_vore@nps.gov.

•The **National Park Service** in association with **San Juan College** announces a workshop on Low Altitude Large Scale Reconnaissance (LALSR). The workshop will include

both lectures on the theory and practice of LALSR and practical experience in the construction of the aircraft and flight training. Included in the workshop will be discussions of photo interpretation as it applies to LALSR photography, and the applications of LALSR to cultural resource management. The workshop is planned for **May 13-22, 1997**. An additional workshop may be held in August depending upon funding. Additional information on the workshop and housing arrangements is available from Dr. Rick Watson, Director, at the San Juan College Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems Laboratory, 4601 College Blvd. Farmington, NM and Steven De Vore, Course Coordinator at the National Park Service.

•The first annual Museum and Library Archives Institute, sponsored by the Emily Williston Memorial Library & Museum, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and the New England Museum Association, will be held at the Williston Northampton School, Easthampton, Massachusetts, on **June 20-21, 1997**. This Institute is directed toward those who have responsibility for museum and library records and special collections, but limited experience in archival methods and procedures. This year's curriculum includes such topics as appraising and scheduling, arrangement and description, architectural records, reference and access, copyright, automation, photographs, and the organization of special collections. For information, contact Theresa Rini Percy, Director, Emily Williston Memorial Library & Museum, 9 Park Street, Easthampton, Massachusetts. Telephone: (413) 527-1031; Fax (413) 527-3765.

Internet News

•**H-California** is an interdisciplinary e-mail discussion list sponsored by H-Net and the California Studies Association. The list, which is free and open to those with an interest in Californian History and Culture,

hopes to sponsor reviews of new books dealing with California topics, develop an exchange of course syllabi dealing with California subjects, develop a website for California studies, and serve as a channel of communication for the California Studies Association. Subscription is open to all who are interested in California Studies. The list is co-edited by Robert W. Cheney and Thomas Wellock, San Francisco State University; Denise Spooner, California State University, Northridge. Logs and more information about H-California can also be found at the H-California WWW site, located at <http://h-net.msu.edu/~cal>. You may subscribe to H-California by sending a message to listserv@h-net.msu.edu and type sub H-California. Include name, address, and institution.

• **Uniquely New York**, an exhibit of photographs, documents, and maps from the New York State Archives, is now accessible via the World-Wide Web (www.sara.nysed.gov). The exhibit, organized into five broad themes, spans more than 300 years of New York history and provides a tantalizing glimpse into the kinds of records that are collected by the State Archives in Albany. "Uniquely New York is a step towards increasing public access to the wealth of records and information in the State Archives," explains V. Chapman Smith, New York State Archivist. "We hope that people will explore other aspects of our website -- search our online catalog, read our publications and generally get to us know us better."

In addition to mounting *Uniquely New York*, its first virtual exhibit, the State Archives is also working with the Thruway Authority and Sunoco to construct history exhibits in four travel plazas along the Thruway. One exhibit opened at the Guilderland Travel Plaza last June and another is scheduled to open in the Chittenango Travel Plaza in December.

The State Archives, part of the State Education Department, has the responsibility to identify, preserve and

makes available the archival records of New York State government. Located in the Cultural Education Center in Albany, its research room is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• The **Library of Congress** has increased the number of public access terminals in its reading rooms that provide free access to the Internet. In five reading rooms and the Computer Catalog Center, the Library now provides unlimited access to the Internet for all those permitted to do research in the Library. "I am very proud of this new, expanded service at the Library of Congress," said Associate Librarian for Library Services Winston Tabb. "We have been such a world leader in the development of digital library content that it is only appropriate for us to be expanding access to digital resources in our own library."

The Library has had a direct Internet connection for more than six years and has been providing Internet services for more than four years to researchers outside the institution. The services available include LC MARVEL, a Gopher service, LOCIS, the on-line Library of Congress Information System, and an anonymous FTP and several e-mail discussion groups. The website addresses for the Library of Congress are: LC MARVEL: gopher://marvel.loc.gov; LOCIS: telnet://locis.loc.gov or tn3270://locis.loc.gov; Anonymous FTP ftp://ftp.loc.gov. The services can also be reached through the main home page at <http://www.loc.gov/>.

• The **Library of Congress** has made available over the Internet electronic versions of 71 Country Studies in the highly regarded Army Area Handbook Series. These electronic books can be accessed at <http://www.lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>. The series is produced by the Library's Federal Research Division under an agreement with the Department of the Army. It consists of 109 titles and covers 15 sovereign states and 15 dependencies. A typical book in the series contains

five chapters describing and analyzing the history, society, economy, government and politics, and national security of its subject.

Positions Available

• The **National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution**, is planning to hire a curator for the museum's Armed Forces collection. The incumbent will develop exhibits, acquire new collections, manage the care and documentation of the collection, and perform research leading to both scholarly and popular publications and programs. The museum seeks a skilled public historian whose work has focused on 20th century military history. The successful applicant will have demonstrated the ability to develop innovative exhibitions and programs to portray military history and its relation to technology and the fabric of American society to a broad constituency. This is a Federal Civil Service position GS 13/14. To obtain a complete application package, call (202)287-3102, press 9, and request announcement #96C-2170. Applications must be postmarked or received by March 31, 1997. EEO/AA.

Publications

• The **Battle of Homestead Commemorative Site Committee** has published a 120 - page Report and Recommendations of an Interpretive Conference held at the site of the July 6, 1892 confrontation between workers and Pinkerton guards at the former Carnegie Steel Co., an event which was the forerunner to the "open shop" in the industry for almost half a century. The Committee seeks to establish a labor museum at the original pump house at the battle site, which was been restored since the mill was closed in 1986 and since demolished. Summary reports by 14 historians, preservation and labor studies experts, former steelworkers and writers are in the report, which includes 37 halftone and line

► *American Girls from page 6*

nine-year-old girl, we also need to be certain that the fabric of her dress and its construction, closures, and accessories are historically accurate for the time and place.

Occasionally my research is simply verifying a specific fact or commonly held belief. The questions I receive from our Customer Service department are often among the most interesting and intriguing; our readers are often the first to question our accuracy. Did the alphabet used by colonists in Williamsburg have a J and U? At other times the challenge involves making a complicated historical concept simple enough for a third grader to understand.

One of our biggest challenges is to maintain a sense of historical honesty and integrity while making a story that is enjoyable to children. Some aspects of history are brutal and harsh, but to ignore these things means we have failed to tell the whole story. In *Meet Kirsten*, her very best friend, Marta, dies of cholera. I still remember the tearful evening when my daughter and I read the story. But children and adults died of cholera in great numbers during the 19th century. It was a greatly feared disease that touched many lives. To ignore that fact distorts part of the story.

The majority of my time over the past year and a half has been focused on research for our newest character. This character, who makes her debut next fall, is a Hispanic girl set in the culturally diverse Southwest in 1824. Research for a new character generally takes between two and three years, and this character has been particularly challenging to research. Spanish Colonial New Mexico has not been heavily written about, especially in terms of the family and daily life that is so central to our needs. We have an advisory board composed of historians, archivists, literary scholars, and museum curators to aid in the development of this character. I have made numerous research trips hunting around in archival records and museum collections. Costume

research, needed for both doll products and book illustration, has been especially challenging; there are almost no extant collections from this early time, very little artwork, and of course no photographs. We have had to rely on written descriptions which may not always be in the exact historical moment we are discovering.

The exact research for this character has crossed the boundaries of many disciplines. In researching vegetation for book illustrations, I had to consult with botanists about what forms of vegetation were in the area 175 years ago. Research on the habits of goats, sheep, and burros took me in yet another direction. Artists, religious experts, and extension agents all have received curious calls from me over the past year.

Working on *The American Girls Collection* has given me the opportunity to encourage a belief I have long held -- that history is about all people, not just leaders and heroes. The collection also shows that girls are an important part of history - a point that is important as a feminist historian. The diversity of the research is always exciting. I get to work with a wide range of experts including academic historians, museum curators, and archivists. Sometimes the key to a research problem is finding that one person who has spent the better part of a career researching the one thing that I need to know about today. For us at *Pleasant Company*, public history starts young-- and, we hope, encourages a lifelong interest in the past.

Kathy Borkowski received her M.A. in American History and a Master's in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. A researcher for the Pleasant Company she previously worked as an archivist for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.



► *Regiment from page 7*

and presentational styles. In addition, the W.E.B. DuBois Institute at Harvard University is organizing a public forum to take place on Thursday evening, May 29, at Faneuil Hall. The forum will consist of a panel discussion of different paths to empowerment for African-Americans, reflecting on the historical examples of W.E.B. DuBois and of Booker T. Washington, who spoke at the dedication of the monument in 1897.

The Centennial activities will culminate in a parade of African-American Civil War reenactors and a public ceremony at the site of the monument on Saturday, May 31. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Director of the W.E.B. DuBois Institute, will be the featured speaker at the ceremony. Other dignitaries from the public and private sectors, including President Benjamin Payton of Tuskegee University (founded by Booker T. Washington) and Reverend Peter Gomes of Harvard University, will speak. In the days preceding the public ceremony there will be an encampment and series of activities involving Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment reenactors.

Through this Centennial celebration, Boston will honor the history and meaning of the Civil War's most famous African-American regiment and the monument that commemorates the heroic efforts of blacks and whites to end slavery and to strive for racial equality. The program we have developed is intended to bring a vital part of American history to the public. We welcome the active participation of historians, cultural resource specialists, and all of those in the historic preservation community interested in this program.

Martin Blatt is the Chief of Cultural Resources and Historian at the Boston National Historical Park. Erin Beatty is the Program Coordinator for Monument Centennial, Boston National Historical Park. For further information, contact Erin Beatty, Program Coordinator, at Boston National Historical Park, Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, MA 02129 or call (617)-242-5668.

► *Susan B Anthony from page 5*

Mary Anthony died a year later in 1907, the house passed out of the family and into private hands

There was no memorial where people could experience Susan B. Anthony's incredible story. In 1945, however, a group of dedicated Rochester women raised the money to purchase 17 Madison Street and establish Susan B. Anthony's home as a museum.

These quiet caretakers took on the overwhelming task of restoring this tangible piece of Anthony's legacy. They relentlessly searched for and recovered many of her belongings, returning them to their rightful home. Friends and relatives donated items such as a quilt made by Anthony; her alligator satchel; and her personal inkwell. At the urging of fellow suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt, supporters of the movement sent photographs and other items to Rochester to help create a shrine to one of their heroes. As Catt said,

"Nothing but good ever came out of this Anthony House. Carry on the tradition." Through sheer force of will, the women, all volunteers, carried the house into the 1990s. It was not until 1992 that the board of trustees decided to hire an executive director.

That move signaled a new era for the House. It was a critical step toward properly caring for the treasure nestled on Madison Street. The director's immediate task was finding the money to support a professional staff, especially a curator who would determine the extent of the collection, begin initial stabilization of artifacts, and assess future needs of their holdings. Barnum hopes to have the funds available to begin cataloging the collection later this year.

With the rescue and expansion project scheduled to be well underway by 1998, the House will serve as a centerpiece of the celebrations surrounding the 150th anniversary of

the first Women's Rights Convention in nearby Seneca Falls. Susan B. Anthony's life passion was the struggle for women's rights. Barnum points out, "Her life was such a struggle that it just doesn't seem right that preserving her story should be a struggle too."

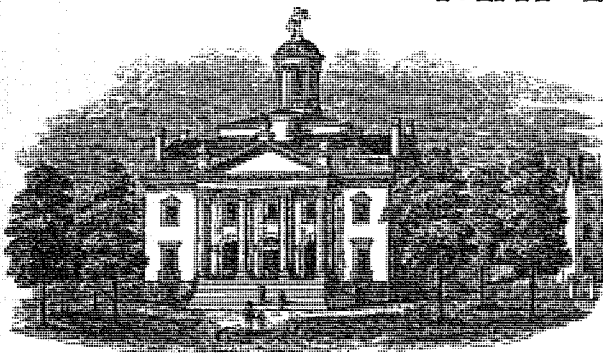
"Failure is impossible," Anthony proclaimed in her last speech before her death. That is a motto the rescuers of her home have adopted. She also said, in 1896, that "our battle has just reached the place where it can win, and if we do our work in the spirit of those who have gone before, it will soon be over." Guided by the spirit of Susan B. Anthony the battle to rescue her legacy will soon be won.

For more information, contact: The Susan B. Anthony House 17 Madison Street, Rochester, New York 14608.

Mary Kay Glazer is Director of Public Relations for the Susan B. Anthony House.

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MAY 1-4, 1997



East View of the Capitol at Albany

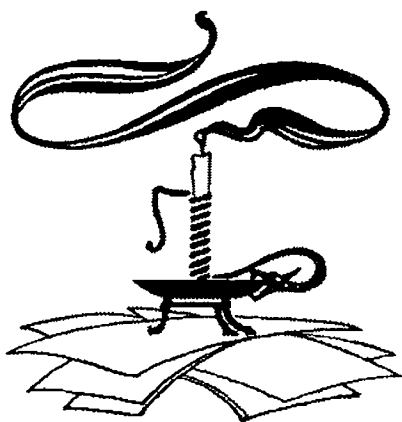


State and City Halls, Albany

cut reproductions, many from the 1890s.

Copies of the report are available for \$6.50 prepaid. Requests should be sent to the Committee at Battle of Homestead Commemorative Site Committee, PO Box 11421, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Fax 1-412-784-8801.

• A 90th anniversary edition of Dr. Frederick A. Cook's **Top of the Continent** is being published by AlpenBooks. In 1903 Dr. Cook was the first to circumnavigate the highest peak in North America, Mount McKinley, a feat which was not repeated for 75 years. In 1906 he led a second expedition to McKinley and announced that he and Edward Barril had ascended the east ridge and reached the summit in September. Three years later, Cook returned from the Arctic and announced that he had reached the North Pole in April of 1908. Cook's claim to the McKinley Climb had not been challenged until the great North Pole Controversy, and is thus entwined in the annals of bitter contention in the history of exploration and discovery. This 90th Anniversary Edition includes an interpretive analysis of Cook's expedition by the leader of the 1994 party which followed his route. It also contains a transcription of the Cook and Barril 1906 diaries with an historical account. For more information, contact: AlpenBooks, 3516 South Rd. C-1, Mukilteo, WA 98275; e-mail: alpenbooks@aol.com



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