



NATIONAL COUNCIL  
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# Public History News

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Bulletin

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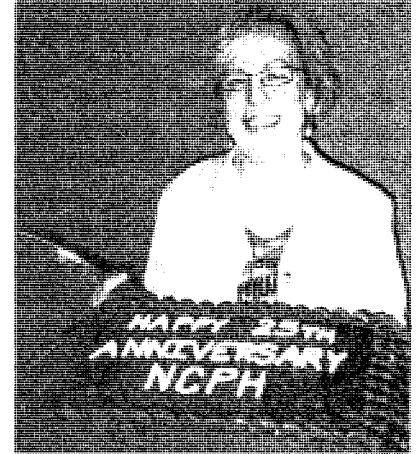
David G. Vanderstel,  
Executive Director

## NCPH ANNUAL MEETING IN KANSAS CITY A SUCCESS

Nearly 250 public historians gathered for 3 1/2 days of panels, roundtables, tours, and special events at the recent NCPH annual meeting in Kansas City. Hosted by the Truman Presidential Museum and Library, the annual meeting offered a variety of opportunities for public historians to discuss the latest in public history scholarship and practice.

Over thirty sessions addressed the theme "Defining Region: Public Historians and the Culture and Meaning of Region." A series of tours provided attendees with a sample of the cultural riches of Kansas City, including the 18th and Vine District where jazz once flourished, and the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site. Also on the agenda were several special events.

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President Sharon Babaian displays cake presented by the Local Arrangements Committee to commemorate NCPH's 25th Anniversary

## PUBLIC HISTORY IN SYDNEY

by Paul Ashton and Paula Hamilton

Public history is an elastic term which can mean different things to different groups, locally, nationally or internationally. For us as educators of public historians at the University of Technology, Sydney in Sydney, Australia, and editors of the journal *Public History Review*, we have tried to encourage a broad church where all kinds of histories and history-making are included. Strictly speaking, however, public history refers to trained historians who do not necessarily define themselves principally as history scholars and whose work takes them into a range of areas where historical skills are a vital component of communicating the work to the public. The lines, however, are not clear cut.

The main professional body for public historians is the Professional Historians Association of New South Wales (PHANSW), but there is also the New South Wales History Council, which has a mixture of academics and public historians elected to its governing body. Established in 1985, the PHANSW, as with associations in other states, is concerned to promote its members as professionals working in a variety of fields including government agencies and museums. (The PHANSW is based in Sydney as are most of its members.) At the same time the democratization of history has meant that history making can become an activity which everyone does. The PHANSW is faced with questions that test the definition of public history. Are, for example, filmmakers who make documentaries about the past public historians?

Leaving these questions aside, what do public historians do down under? In Sydney, public historians do much the same things as academics. Unless extremely privileged, they are invariably involved with both administration and workplace politics. Heritage practitioners often find themselves involved in debates over legitimate uses of history in heritage practice or in outright battles with bureaucrats or other professional, major projects can be as administratively demanding as running a history department. Some public historians also teach, which is a highly public form of historical work. A comprehensive cultural geography of public history practice in Sydney is yet to be written. But an outline is possible. Various areas of state and local government are employers but in Australia private enterprise is a much less important employer of historians than in the USA. A few major corporations

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# PUBLIC HISTORY IN SYDNEY

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in Sydney engage historians on a full-time basis. These positions are primarily located in archives and special historical collections or in property/heritage management services. The Australian Post office is one such employee. Pacific Power, which is responsible for electricity, has in the past employed an historian, though historians are often viewed as being interchangeable with archaeologists by these corporations.

Large private corporations only on occasion employ professional historians – as opposed to retirees or insiders—to undertake one-off projects. But this tends to be serendipity. Corporations and large government departments with property holdings that include heritage buildings—the State department of Health, with properties in Sydney such as Callan Park (a former lunatic asylum) and Gladesville Hospital, is a prime example of the latter—also employ historians to undertake heritage conservation reports. This is more than occasionally done as a result of responsibilities under the NSW Heritage Act or their enabling legislation rather than a passion for the past. The Heritage Office of NSW employs a small number of historians including Patricia Hale. Sharon Veale works as a historian in what was formerly the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and now part of the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation. Both of these agencies have duties flowing from their Acts which encourage them to appoint historians. Unlike the North American example, there is are no firms of historians in Sydney or New South Wales. Most public historians are freelancers.

While the heritage industry generates a large proportion of work for public historians in Sydney, and the state of NSW, those of us involved in training public historians have been drawn to more popular forms of history to diversity employment opportunities. Of all mainstream radio and television, only the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) can count historians on its staff. Michelle Rayner, executive producer of the ABC's history shows 'Hindsight' and 'Verbatim', is a graduate of the UTS graduate public history program. Budget cuts in recent years, however, clearly indicate that history on ABC radio will not be a growth industry. But this does mean that occasional freelance work may be available.

One freelance historian, Kate Evans, was engaged in research for the 'Timeframe' series on ABC television in the late 1990s. Opportunities for historians in TV and radio will ultimately depend upon the internal political economy of individual channels and station, the appeal of individual historians—conservative historian Professor Geoffrey Blainey who is now a freelance historian once had his own series during an era of heightened nationalism in the early 1970s—and the whim of management. In 2004, after having investigated various options for historical programs, the ABC launched 'Rewind' which was presented by historian Michael Cathcart. This program, however, had mixed responses. The Australian multicultural TV broadcaster SBS will screen its historically based 'reality'



The Coat Hanger: Sydney Harbor Bridge by Ross Barnett

program 'Colony' this year. There are also a few public historians who are film makers. Jeannine Baker, a UTS graduate, had her documentary on the flooded town Adaminaby screened on the ABC in 2003.

Local government is a significant employer of historians, but not in the field of heritage, though it has varying levels of input into a sizeable number of local and site specific studies commissioned by developers and others.

Nor does it generally recruit historians as permanent staff. There are, however,

notable exceptions. After directing the major Sydney City Council Sesquicentenary History Project from 1987, Shirley Fitzgerald, was appointed City Historian. This is in part a reflection of Australia's wealthiest municipal authority's admirable perception of itself as a leader in civic cultural life rather than a trend in public history in Sydney. Under Fitzgerald's leadership, and with the involvement of historians such as Chris Keating, Lisa Murray, Hilary Golder and Margo Beasley, the Sydney City Council has developed the largest and most impressive public history enterprise in the Country. The council has just embarked on an ambitious online Dictionary of Sydney. North Sydney Council has also developed an important public history profile. Initiated by ex-New Yorker Margaret Park, the Council has a publication series, a community history program and a historic house museum, Don Bank. Ian Hoskins is currently the Council historian.

Community history is another site for the practice of public history. Clubs – including ethnic and sporting bodies—professional association, private schools and charities also commission histories. Anniversaries often provide the impetus for such work. The broad range of fields in commissioned histories is also impressive. Apart from institutional and local history, work is being done in Aboriginal history, oral history, medical history—including a history of the Leichhardt women's health center—sports history—including Andrew Moore's history of the North Sydney football club—religious history, transport history, environmental history, planning history and urban history.

Perhaps the strongest growth area in recent years for public history has been in the field of Native Title where indigenous communities are obliged legally to demonstrate continuous connection to their land in order to succeed in a land claim. The practice and politics of work in Native Title claims is complex; it has been addressed in an article by David Ritter and N.A. Flanagan in *Public History Review* (volume 10).

In Australia, as in the USA and Canada, there is significant interest in pursuing a career in public history. And there are a range of possibilities which currently look more promising than traditional alternatives in history. For many future historians, the academy—offering training, pastoral care and some opportunities for employment—will be part of a network of organizations and institutions, such as the PHANSW and the NCPH, that sustain historical practice.

# DOCUMENTING ABRAHAM LINCOLN

by John A. Lupton

Over fifty years ago, the Abraham Lincoln Association published the *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, a nine-volume set of books that included all known letters and speeches by Abraham Lincoln.

Two supplements, published years later, added to that body of knowledge. While this publication is extremely useful for looking at letters by Lincoln, it lacks incoming correspondence. The Papers of Abraham Lincoln, a documentary editing project in Lincoln's hometown of Springfield, Illinois, is in the process of identifying, digitizing, and publishing—both comprehensively in electronic form and selectively in printed volumes—all documents written by or to Lincoln during his lifetime. The benefit to scholars and students of Lincoln will be enormous. For the first time, researchers will have access to all of Lincoln's correspondence freely available on the Internet and will be able to understand better the era of the Civil War, Lincoln's life, and the context of the times in which he lived.

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln is a project of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and is co-sponsored by the University of Illinois at Springfield. The core editorial staff of six is a seasoned group of historians with advanced degrees in history and years of documentary editing experience. All of them have extensive experience researching in court houses during the work for the Lincoln Legal Papers, the predecessor project of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, and this experience has well equipped them for research in manuscript repositories throughout the country.

In 2002, the project completed a national survey of 5,000 libraries and institutions to determine what repositories had letters that fall within the project's scope. Staff members have already visited and completed research at a number of major repositories, such as the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and the Illinois State Archives in Springfield, Illinois; the Chicago Historical Society; the John Hay Library at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island; and the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Many more remain. Editor and Project Director Daniel W. Stowell predicts that it will take a sizeable staff at least five years to do a complete search of the National Archives in Washington, DC.

During a typical visit to a repository, project staff members obtain high-resolution color scans (in TIFF format) of letters and documents and add information concerning the documents into a relational database. When editors bring these digital images back to project offices in the Old State Capitol in Springfield, graduate assistants help with cropping, concatenating, and converting images to a smaller-sized format (DJVU). The TIFF images are stored for backup purposes, while the DJVU images will be used for delivery over the Internet. To date, the project has accumulated digital images of nearly 3,500 documents, totaling nearly 231 Gigabytes. Editors will transcribe documents in XML (extensible markup language) and make them available over the Internet. Researchers will be able to view and search the transcriptions, which will be linked to the scanned images. Compared with other nineteenth-

century figures, Lincoln's handwriting is quite legible. However, people unfamiliar with nineteenth-century handwriting may find it difficult. Having access to color images and transcriptions will help the researcher immensely in deciphering the handwriting of many individuals.

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While the decision to use color was somewhat controversial, the project has no regrets in providing the best possible images. For documentary editions, microfilm has long been the standard form of distributing original manuscript collections to a larger audience, but researchers need microfilm readers, and film can scratch easily. Recently, editing projects have published documentary collections on CDs or DVDs, but navigating among many discs can be tiresome. The ease of use of the Internet allows researchers to have access to all of the high-quality color images without shuffling discs. It also makes color an important and necessary feature, allowing researchers to see the

color and texture of the paper and the color of the ink, to read strike-throughs and insertions easier, and to distinguish bleed-through and spots from intentional punctuation.

In addition to the research of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, in 2000, the Lincoln Legal Papers published *The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln: Complete Documentary Edition* on three DVD-ROMs containing 91,000 documents relating to 5,700 cases and nonlitigation activities. The electronic edition gives researchers an opportunity to examine fully all of Lincoln's legal cases. The cases not only illuminate Lincoln's law practice but also provide an excellent window into the society of nineteenth-century Illinois, as its citizens went to court to resolve economic, political, and social problems and disputes. The project is nearing editorial completion of its second major publication, a four-volume book edition to be published in 2007 that will detail fifty of Lincoln's most important, interesting, and famous legal cases from his twenty-five year legal career. Readers who are interested in a particular type of case and want to research further can access the project's first publication, located in approximately 250 libraries throughout the country.

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln has considerable work ahead, but the timing of the project could not be better. The opening of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield this year, the sesquicentennial of the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 2008, the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth in 2009, and the sesquicentennial of the Civil War from 2011 to 2015 will result in an even greater interest in Lincoln's life. The work of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln will energize a new generation of Lincoln scholars and students just as the *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* did fifty years ago.

*John A. Lupton is the Assistant Director and an Assistant Editor with The Papers of Abraham Lincoln. He received his B.A. in history from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and his M.A. in public history from the University of Illinois at Springfield. He has been with the project since 1991. Lupton has written several articles and chapters and has given numerous public presentations on Lincoln's legal career and antebellum legal history.*

# NCPH 2005 ELECTION RESULTS

The NCPH Executive Offices is pleased to announce the results of the recent NCPH elections. New officers and board members took on their duties following the recent annual meeting in Kansas City.

**Robert Weible** is the new president of NCPH. Weible is the Director of Public History at The State Museum of Pennsylvania, a unit of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), and is responsible for developing and managing partnerships with professional organizations, historical societies, universities, and others to create and support public history programs for adult audiences. He also directs content management for ExplorePAhistory.com, an award-winning web site being developed in partnership with PBS and NPR affiliate WITE. The web site expands the audience for professionally written state and national history, promotes tourism, and provides teaching resources for K-12 teachers. As part of his responsibilities, Weible serves as Project Director for grants from the U.S. Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Weible had worked previously as Acting Director of the Pennsylvania State Archives, where he managed an operating budget of over \$2 million per year and a staff of more than 50. He served as Chief of the Division of History for PHMC from 1989 through 2003 and managed a staff of professional historians, librarians, and educators to provide research, writing, and programming for diverse public audiences. In this role, he oversaw the growth and modernization of Pennsylvania's historical marker program, one of the nation's oldest and one of the largest of its kind.

From 1979 through 1989, Weible was the Historian at Lowell National Historical Park in Massachusetts. He created and managed the annual Lowell Conference on Industrial History and built relationships between the National Park Service and professional historical groups across the country. He also participated in the drafting of the park's General Management Plan and the development of its major museum and interpretive facilities.

Over the years, Weible has been active in NCPH. He chaired the Nominating Committee in 1991-92, serving as a member from 1990-93; chaired the NCPH Program Committee in 1996 and served as a member of the 1998 and 2001 committees; and chaired the History in the National Parks Committee from 1998-2001. He was an elected member of the Nominating Committee for the Organization of American Historians from 1987-89, and in his career has served on various boards and committees for the American Historical Association, the American Association for State and Local History, the Mid-Atlantic American Studies Association, the Pennsylvania Historical Association, and others.

Weible has edited *The Continuing Revolution: A History of Lowell, Massachusetts*, *The Popular Perception of Industrial History* (with Francis R. Walsh), *The World of the Industrial Revolution: Comparative and International Aspects of Industrialization*, and other books. He has published articles and reviews in *The Public Historian*, *The Journal of American History*, *Pennsylvania History*, *Pennsylvania Heritage*, and elsewhere.

Weible holds a BA in History from Penn State University and an MA in History from the University of Rhode Island.

**Bill Bryans**, director of the Applied History program at Oklahoma State University, is the new NCPH Vice-President. Bryans has been a member of NCPH since 1988 and has been a witness and willing participant in its evolution over the last sixteen years. Bryans' direct contributions have included serving and chairing the curriculum and training committee; sitting on the program committee for the 1995 annual meeting; and appointment to a recent self-study team to assess NCPH's current status.

Bryans' public history career began in graduate school, working both in Colorado and Wyoming. Since 1988, Bryans has directed the Applied History program at Oklahoma State University. In that capacity, he has prepared historic preservation context documents, conducted preservation surveys, supervised the preparation of National Register nominations, and worked with numerous museums. According to Bryans, his greatest accomplishment has been directing over thirty students to completion of their degrees and seeing most of them launch their own careers as public historians.

Bryans writes of the National Council on Public History, "of all the professional organizations to which I belong, NCPH is the one in which I believe most fervently. The strength of NCPH, and frankly its challenge, rests in its status as an umbrella organization for all those practicing public history, whatever their specialized discipline and wherever they ply their craft. Individually, we tend to work in a wide range of professional environments. Yet, we have a common ground that centers on the professional practice, presentation and advocacy of history in the public realm. NCPH provides an essential foundation for this common ground. It also provides a much-needed collective voice for public history, especially within the discipline of history generally. By continuing to build a diverse and active membership, coupled with thoughtful and effective long-range planning, I believe NCPH can continue to serve these significant purposes, even as the field evolves and our organizational needs change."

The three Board of Directors position winners are Jon Hunner, Steve Lubar, and Ann McCleary.

**Jon Hunner** has been the director of the Public History Program at New Mexico State University since 1995. At NMSU, Hunner taught a wide variety of public history courses, helped place graduate students in internships and jobs, and worked nationally as well as internationally to promote public history. In 2001, he received a Senior Fulbright Fellowship to assist Växjö University in Sweden with developing a public history program, the first such program in the country. From Sweden, Hunner brought back Time Traveling, an innovative living history collaboration between museums and schools to make history come alive for students. He has also worked on preserving the heritage and history of the region by doing oral histories and conducting surveys of buildings and historic districts for the National Park Service and the N.M. Historic Preservation Division. In 2004, the N. M. Historic Preservation Division honored Hunner with a Heritage Preservation Award as the outstanding public historian in the state. An important component of each of his public history classes involves a project outside of the classroom. Building networks between the university and heritage groups, museums, and governmental agencies assists those organizations

in doing their own history while fostering a real world learning experience for his students. For the NCPH, Hunner served on the Curriculum and Training Committee and was chair for two years. During his term, he organized and facilitated a day-long retreat for public history educators during the conference in St. Louis. In 2004, Hunner co-chaired the program committee for the joint conference with the American Society of Environmental Historians in Victoria. As a member of the Board, Hunner would like to work on several areas: nurturing teachers and projects that use public history in elementary and secondary classrooms; increasing the internationalization of public history; and making sure that no public historian is left behind.

**Steve Lubar** is presently Director of the John Nicholas Brown Center and Professor in the Department of American Civilization at Brown University, moving to academia to set up a new public humanities program after more than twenty years as curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

At the NMAH, Lubar worked on exhibitions ranging from the American industrial revolution to World War II. His most recent job at the NMAH was as project director of the "America on the Move" exhibition. At the Smithsonian, Lubar tried to be thoughtful about the process of exhibition and collection. Among his public history writings are an article in *The Public Historian* about the 1984 "Smithsonian's America" exhibit in Tokyo (the article won the G. Wesley Johnson prize); an article on the curatorial thinking behind "America on the Move" in *Curator*; and a book on the history of collecting at the Smithsonian entitled, *Legacies: Collecting America's History at the Smithsonian*.

At Brown, Lubar will direct a new Public Humanities Program that will offer an MA in Public Humanities and short courses for public humanities professionals. The program will have an exhibition space for student projects and experimental displays. Lubar will teach on museums and museum history and material culture studies.

As a member of the Board, Lubar will bring a diversity of experience and interest, combining practical, consulting, teaching and administrative experience with a strong interest in the theoretical foundations of our field. Lubar was previously a member a member of the Education and Professional Practice Committee, so he has a good sense of the issues that face the NCPH. Lubar hopes to help the NCPH bridge the gaps between theory, practice and education in public history, putting theory to use making theory and education more practical.

As a fellow at Historic Deerfield in 1975, **Anne McCleary** fell in love with public history. With budding interests in architecture and material culture, McCleary wanted to do it all: to work in historic preservation and museums and to teach. McCleary says she feels fortunate to have accomplished all of those goals.

After several internships and a brief stint as a costumed Pilgrim, McCleary began her career as an architectural historian for the Virginia SPHO for seven years, then helped develop and curate the new Museum of American Frontier Culture in Staunton, Virginia. About ten years ago, McCleary began teaching college. She came to the State University of West Georgia in 1997 to develop and direct a new public history program. All along the way, McCleary

has sought out opportunities to keep her feet wet in a wide range of public history projects. At West Georgia, McCleary created the Center for Public History, which engages in public history and community outreach programs, and began a Museum Studies program with the Atlanta History Center to indulge a passion in museum work.

As both a teacher and practitioner of public history, McCleary truly values the knowledge and friends she has gained from my involvement in NCPH. McCleary is particularly concerned that the organization continues the dialog regarding how to train public history students to prepare them for the challenges they will face in their careers. McCleary also believes that the NCPH needs to continue to reach out to a broad range of professionals in the field and to develop opportunities to learn from each other, share successes, and identify ways to be more effective in presenting history to the public.

**Mike Devine** was elected to the Nominating Committee. According to Devine, identifying the right mix of individuals to hold leadership positions in the NCPH requires a nominating committee comprised of members who have experience within the field of public history as well as a thorough knowledge of the NCPH, its mission and organizational structure. Devine's service with NCPH includes a term on the board of directors, chairmanship of the Advocacy Committee, membership on the long-range planning committee, and election to the NCPH Presidency (1998-2000). He also served as the chair of the local arrangements committee for the NCPH 2005 meeting in Kansas City and is the NCPH representative to the American Council of Learned Societies. Since completing his doctorate at Ohio State University in 1974, Devine has held public history positions in Ohio, Maryland, Illinois, and Wyoming; and has directed the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, MO since 2001. During his three decades in the administration of public history programs, Devine has enjoyed opportunities to teach at the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University and the University of Wyoming. In addition, he has twice been named a Senior Fulbright Lecturer, Argentina (1983) and Korea (1995); and has served as a consultant to the American Association of Museums, The African American Museums Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

# NCPH AWARD WINNERS

## NCPH New Professional Travel Award

Kris Woll

The band played everything from jazz standards to pop favorites, and they packed the house of the small piano bar in downtown Kansas City. Over French fries and Diet Cokes, we chatted with each other about our work and our interests in the field of public history. We occasionally had to shout over the drums and the applause, yet the conversation proved as delicious as the music and the food as we shared stories of projects, grants, collaborations, and research. That band plays in that same spot several times every week, but the four of us were in town only for a couple days, each of us swooping in from a different part of the country to attend the NCPH annual meeting. While we all had a previous connection to one other person at the table, several of us met each other for the first time at the poster session and reception earlier in the evening—and I'm so glad we did, as we found out we have much to share from our professional experience.

I tell this story not to distract from the many interesting panels I attended on topics ranging from building effective partnerships to memory and the production of identity in places like rural Minnesota (of particular interest since this is where I am from) or from the fantastic tours of historic sites like the neighborhood and museums of 18th & Vine. These content-related pieces of the conference were compelling, educational, and inspiring. Still, the best parts of the conference were the opportunities I had to connect with other professionals from across the country at the panels, on the tours, at the special events, and—as I noted above—even after the official conference program concluded for the day. As a “new professional,” it was wonderful to meet people who work on Teaching American History and NEH Institute projects, with museum education and new media initiatives, or in the field of public programs and university-community partnerships—all areas that I worked in first as a graduate student and now in the field. I'm grateful I had the opportunity to attend this year's conference, as it provided me with a chance to learn, to explore, to network, and of course to hear a great little band just blocks from the hotel.

## Historical Research Associates New Professional Travel Award

Jennifer Ross-Nazzari

When David Vanderstel told me that I received the Historical Research Associates (HRA) New Professional Award, I was elated. I had recently been named the Historian for the NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC), and I hoped to meet with other government historians at the annual meeting and learn more about their offices, programs, and duties. While in Kansas City, I spoke to several historians employed by the federal government, and I learned that our focus and size are similar to others. Currently, our office is composed of three team members: Rebecca Wright, the History Coordinator, Sandra Johnson, the Production Manager, and myself.

I am responsible for answering reference questions for NASA employees, federal contractors, and the public; I also direct the student-research historians who work for the JSC History Office, serve as an oral historian, and contribute to the office's publication and presentation efforts.

This year's theme of the National Council on Public History (NCPH) focused on how public historians gather, present, and retain regional history. Over the last few years, our office has gathered information for a presentation and a journal article on the impact of the Johnson Space Center during the Apollo Program; we are especially interested in community history and our research focuses on the community inside the Space Center and the communities and neighborhoods that formed outside the Center's gates. Because of our office's interest in gathering information about the region surrounding JSC, I was pleased that I could attend the 2005 conference. I attended many sessions, but two stand out: “Biscuits, Barbeque, and Hot Dogs? Using Foodways to Define the South” and “Preserving, Collecting, and Teaching the History of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.” Presenters in both sessions shared their experiences, challenges, and the lessons they learned as they gathered and shared regional history with local citizens.

While I enjoyed listening to the papers presented at the conference, I was happy to reconnect with few old friends including Jon Hunner who heads the Public History Program at New Mexico State University. During the fundraiser, I was finally able to meet Public Health Service Historian, Lexi Lord, who created the website Beyond Academe along with Julie Taddeo. The new professional's breakfast, the barbecue, and fundraiser were great places for me to connect with NCPH officers and members.

My thanks again to HRA, who funds this award. Without any financial assistance, I would have been unable to go to the conference. I enjoyed attending the annual meeting, and I look forward to working even closer with the NCPH and its members.

## NCPH Student Project Award

John Cristainsen, Rebekah Dobrasko, and Beth Wiedower—

University of South Carolina Public History Program

Article by Rebekah Dobrasko and Beth Wiedower

As part of the England Field School at the University of South Carolina, “Richmond Station History, Site Assessment, and Recommendations” gave us the opportunity to work with both a local government office and a non-profit organization which had competing visions for the preservation and rehabilitation of the historic railway station in North Yorkshire, England. This enabled us to take on the role of consultants for the project and allowed us to apply our knowledge and understanding of historic preservation to direct the outcome of the project. We researched and wrote a history of the station which focused on its role in England's military history, lead mining industry, and tourism industry. We also surveyed the landscape of the station and created maps and educational panels complete with historic photographs to assist in the interpretation of the passenger station and railway yard to future visitors. The project was a practical endeavor as evidenced by its implementation as a part of the larger rehabilitation of the Richmond Railway Station, which has received several grants to assist in the rehabilitation, including a large grant from the Heritage Lottery fund.

Beth Wiedower and Rebekah Dobrasko were able to attend the 2005 National Council on Public History conference in Kansas City, Missouri to accept the Student Project Award and present our

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# PUBLIC HISTORY INC. PARTNERS WITH LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA INCREASING HISTORICAL RECORD

by Fred Hosking

In January 2005, Public History Inc. entered into a multi-year arrangement with the Virtual Exhibitions and Partnership Section of Library and Archives Canada (LAC), located in Ottawa, Ontario. This first of three donations went towards the digitization of 100,000 images from the “Red and Black Series” of the Records of the Department of Indian Affairs. The Red and Black Series files have been heavily used for years by historians, genealogists and legal researchers across Canada, and form the backbone for most Aboriginal historical research. The Red and Black Series files

cover almost all aspects of the government administration of Aboriginal affairs in Canada between 1872 and 1964. In total, the files consist of nearly 400 microfilm reels and more than 350,000 images. Researchers wishing to use this material in its current state must contend with faded microfilm, and a limited number of microfilm readers. If they don't live in the National Capital Region, they must arrange for Inter-Library Loans (where possible), or make their way to Ottawa to review this material.

Enter Public History Inc. The firm was co-founded in 1995 by four historical researchers with backgrounds conducting Aboriginal research. In a small downtown Ottawa office, these historians went beyond their primary goal of obtaining sufficient work to pay the bills—they were determined to prove that “history” could be a viable business. While many family members and friends questioned the financial feasibility of such a venture, the group believed that there existed a niche market for the services of historians. Rather than approaching this venture simply as historians developing a business, they worked as business people providing historical research services. And they learned to do it well. While building their base of historical knowledge and experience, they were able to increase the number of staff, expand operations and develop the management infrastructure necessary to run a successful company.

Today, Public History Inc. is North America's largest historical research firm, with over 70 full-time employees based in its Ottawa and Winnipeg offices, and staff located in other major centers across Canada. The firm's main business lines still include Aboriginal land claim and Aboriginal litigation research, analysis and support, and they have added to these product lines trade litigation research, health product liability research, and policy research.

As Public History Inc. has grown, it has relied heavily on the services of archives throughout Canada and around the world. It has also come to recognize the importance of getting involved in efforts to improve the quality of archival services and the availability of the invaluable historical record.

As one might expect, the bulk of Public History Inc.'s research is conducted either at LAC or using LAC material, with the firm's researchers annually spending more than 35,000 person-hours working with LAC resources. At the same time, LAC is chronically underfunded and understaffed, which hinders equipment upgrades and limits accessibility to archival material for

researchers across the country. As one of the largest single users of LAC's services, Public History Inc. felt an obligation to assist them with some of their initiatives.

The first contribution came in 2002, when the firm purchased automated card readers for two of LAC's microfilm reader-printer machines. The readers allow researchers to copy historical documents more quickly and efficiently, facilitating the research process and, it is hoped, encouraging the public to take advantage of LAC's resources.

The January 2005 donation towards the digitization of the Department of Indian Affairs Red and Black Series files is just a continuation of Public History's ongoing commitment to working with LAC. All records deemed open under the Privacy Act will be scanned and linked to ArchiviaNet (LAC's online research consultation tool)—a process LAC expects will take approximately six to eight months. Additional Public History donations this year will go towards completing this project.

These records comprise only a tiny portion of LAC's government records holdings—the historical government textual materials alone run 121 km in length, and these holdings are growing at an average rate of 5.2 km per year. While the digitization of the Red and Black Series files will make that material easier to obtain, it will also afford researchers extra time to investigate less traditional sources for equally valuable information. Public History's researchers wait with anticipation to see what they will be able to find with that extra time.

*Fred Hosking is the President of Public History Inc.  
f.hosking@publichistory.ca  
www.publichistory.ca*

**Rather than approaching this venture  
simply as historians developing a business,  
they worked as business people providing  
historical research services.  
And they learned to do it well.**

# PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



by Robert Weible  
rweible@state.pa.us

Well, a little time has now passed since some of us stood at the corner of 18th and Vine in Kansas City, and, wherever I go, I still seem to be hearing Joe Turner's "Piney Brown Blues" or Wilbert Harrison's "Kansas City" in my head. Not a bad thing really. This year's conference was one of the truly good ones—and not just because of its musical score.

Kansas City proved to be a wonderful host city for NCPH this year: interesting, lively, and genuinely historic. Chances are we wouldn't have appreciated it as much if Mike Devine and the Local Arrangements Committee hadn't done such an outstanding job of turning the city into an absolutely integral part of the conference. Nor would the conference have been as memorable if Andy Ambrose and the Program Committee hadn't created such an attractive and substantive program: speakers were informed and enthused, and sessions addressed important, diverse, and relevant issues that attracted healthy and engaged audiences.

I recently realized that, as years fold into each other over time, we have come to distinguish one year from another according to the NCPH conference schedule. Really. NCPH conferences are uniquely memorable, and I think I may have missed only two or three meetings since I first started attending them. They have all been good, and lots of them stand out as exceptional: Victoria last year, Ottawa in 2001, Austin in 1998, Columbia in 1992, and so on, all the way back, in my case, to Chicago in 1982. (Ted Karamanski chaired the Program Committee that year, by the way. This was so long ago that he and I were both carrying combs at the time.) All in all, I agree with something Patrick O'Bannon once wrote in this column: NCPH conferences are distinguished by more than the substance of their programs or the attractiveness of their venues. Indeed, it's the "easy camaraderie" in which "we assemble as public historians to renew old acquaintances, recruit new colleagues, and discover new connections" that makes memories of each conference so lasting.

If we underplayed anything in Kansas City, it may have been the fact that this year was NCPH's 25th anniversary. Public historians, we've come to learn, rarely miss an opportunity to celebrate such occasions. No matter, we all know that NCPH has made significant strides in our first quarter century. Not only have we established the value of our annual conference, but we've also established our journal, *The Public Historian*, as one of the finest scholarly publications in, well, several countries. In fact, we've defined a new field of history and made it so honorable and legitimate that other, more established professional organizations have created public history committees, developed public history sessions for their annual conferences, and generally worked to keep up with us.

NCPH, of course, remains the one organization that brings the people who are teaching and studying public history together with practicing historians working as, among many other things, historic preservationists, museum curators, and archivists, so that we can all work more productively to raise the public's awareness of the "value, uses, and pleasures of history."

Anniversaries can be more than celebrations, of course. They provide opportunities for critical and honest self-examination and analysis. And while we may not have done a lot of introspection in Kansas City, several of us did conduct an official self assessment last summer as part of our long range planning effort. We concluded that, for all the reasons stated above, NCPH is in pretty good shape. We recognized further that the organization is financially stable, thanks to people like Marianne Babal, Harry Klinkhamer, Alan Newell, David Vanderstel, and to many, many others and to everyone who has contributed to the NCPH Endowment Fund. At the same time, however, the members of our self assessment group voiced serious concern that our membership numbers have begun to show signs of slacking off. A growing membership, we concluded, is critical to an organization's ability to satisfy its long term mission, and we all agreed that NCPH can not afford to maintain the momentum of our first twenty-five years by adopting a *status quo* approach to the future.

To address our concerns, the committee unanimously recommended that NCPH:

- 1) stabilize our governing structure by lengthening the terms of the president and vice-president from one to two years;
- 2) maintain and build upon our good relationship with our host institution, IUPUI
- 3) strengthen our Executive Office and Executive Director position.

In April, the NCPH Board of Directors unanimously approved these recommendations. Make no mistake about it: the change that we envision for the Executive Director position is a significant one. It turns an Administrative Officer into a Chief Executive Officer. This presents serious and difficult challenges for everyone. Nevertheless, with support from IUPUI School of Liberal Arts Dean Robert White and History Department chair Phil Scarpino, we recognized the need to conduct an international search to fill a re-described Executive Director position. I consequently appointed Vice President Bill Bryans to chair a search committee and report back to the Board with a recommendation at our fall meeting. Bill and his committee members are all highly qualified professionals who take their responsibilities seriously, and I know they will do a thorough, impartial, and skillful job of identifying the best person for the job.

NCPH committees are also hard at work contacting prospective new members and creating new membership benefits. Dee Harris and Amy Wilson, the relentlessly determined and capable co-chairs of our Membership Committee, will be formulating plans to add new members, particularly younger people and non-whites. It's no secret that, to date, NCPH has not met with much success



in attracting African Americans and Latinos to our membership roles. Jon Hunner, meanwhile, has accepted the chairmanship of our Outreach Committee and will be working to build bridges to other professional organizations and communities. Already, he has recruited Cathy Stanton as the new editor of our list-serve, H-PUBLIC. Cathy is exceptionally talented, and I am certain that she will make H-PUBLIC a more collegial and stimulating forum for discussion of important public history issues. And Donna Neary, chair of our Consultants' Committee, has expanded benefits for NCPH members working as independent consultants. She worked with Don Stevens and the National Park Service to locate and hire historians interested in assessing the significance of certain National Historic Landmark nominations.

The cooperative agreement between NCPH and NPS that enabled our two organizations to work so well together on this project represents one of many mutually beneficial developments that have taken shape during the past decade or so. As many of you know, we took a moment in Kansas City to honor the Chief Historian of the Park Service—and former NCPH President—Dwight Pitcaithley on the occasion of his retirement from NPS. Dwight is, of course, the person who did more than anyone else to create partnerships between the Park Service and, not just NCPH, but OAH and other professional organizations. Certainly, these partnerships benefit our organizations and our members, but more importantly, they benefit everyone by enhancing the public's appreciation of history through better preservation and interpretation in our national parks. While it's doubtful that Dwight can be replaced in kind, NCPH is working with Bruce Craig of the National Coalition for History, OAH, and others to encourage NPS to fill the Chief Historian position with a capable and qualified professional at the earliest possible date.

Another person who can't be replaced in kind, of course, is Sharon Babaian. I am truly indebted to Sharon for her leadership and friendship and for all she continues to teach me about NCPH and public history. Jim Gardner, uncharacteristically understated in Kansas City, suggested that Sharon would be a hard act to follow as President of NCPH. In fact, she will be an impossible act to follow. The good news is that Sharon will not be disappearing. She will, among other things, be taking over the chairmanship of the Long Range Planning Committee. And be assured that if the United States does not close the border with Canada, an uncertainty to be sure, Sharon will be in constant touch with Bill Bryans and me to keep NCPH on track throughout the coming year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite any advice, comments, suggestions, ideas, criticisms, and conversation that you might have. Drop me an e-mail at [rweible@state.pa.us](mailto:rweible@state.pa.us), and I'll do my best to get back to you promptly.

And finally, let me thank David Vanderstel and Dana Ward for another outstanding year of service, and let me offer our sincere thanks and congratulations to Bethany Natali. Bethany served NCPH capably this year as our graduate intern, and we all wish her a rich and fulfilling career.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PAST



Sharon Babaian  
[sbabaian@technomuses.ca](mailto:sbabaian@technomuses.ca)

When I began my term as President a little over a year ago, I knew I was in for an eventful year—and eventful it has most definitely been. It has also been very productive. As President, it was my decision to accept the mandate for change that the Long Range Planning Committee recommended. Fortunately, though, many others were prepared to help shoulder the burden that this decision imposed on all of us. The Executive Committee—Bob Weible, Amy Wilson, Harry Klinkhamer and Jim Gardner—worked tirelessly to see that our ambitious agenda was achieved. They also provided much sound advice, moral support and comic relief at critical moments. Our ad hoc Organizational Self-Assessment Committee—Bob Weible, Alan Newell, Bill Bryans, Jeff Brown, Donna Neary, Kim Hoagland and Don Stevens—moved quickly and decisively to craft an action plan for making the necessary changes to our administrative and leadership structures. The Board also responded to the challenge, working hard before and during our two crucial board meetings to fine tune and implement the plan. And we all relied heavily on David and Dana for crucial administrative support and input throughout the process. It hardly needs saying that their responsiveness and good record-keeping was essential to our success this past year as it is to our long term success as an organization.

I would also like to thank all of those people who helped to make the annual meeting in Kansas City such a memorable event. As NCPH has grown and diversified, conference organization has become a more complex and demanding job. Andy Ambrose and his program committee and Mike Devine, Ray Geselbracht and their team on Local Arrangements deserve our gratitude for volunteering to take on the conference. They also deserve our compliments for making it such a stimulating and enjoyable event. Thanks also to David, Dana and Bethany for their work on the program, on registration and on the many other little tasks that often go unnoticed but are essential to making the meeting run smoothly. Finally, I owe a rather large debt of gratitude to my employer the Canada Science and Technology Museum and to my immediate supervisor Geoff Rider, Director of the Collection and Research Division. They have been stalwart supporters of NCPH and of my involvement in the organization and have been very generous with my time over the past year. Without their support I would not have been able to fulfill the commitment I made last April to begin the process of re-organization and renewal.

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by David G. Vanderstel  
dvanders@ncph.org

It has been a Charles Kuralt-type of spring for me—on the road, traveling to meetings and conferences. In each case, I have had the opportunity to meet and speak with fellow public historians, teachers, and scholars from other disciplines. What I have discovered (and pleasantly so!) has been a common theme and awareness of the necessity for scholars—and particularly historians, in our case—to be more publicly aware and civically engaged. This is, of course, good news to our circle.

After attending our annual meeting in Kansas City and being reinvigorated about the state of public history, I traveled to Pittsburgh for the annual meeting of the National Council for History Education. Having helped to establish a state branch of NCHE in Indiana, I have always wanted to attend their annual meetings but have never been able to do so. This organization, which emerged from the Bradley Commission on History in the Schools in the late 1980s, is “dedicated to promoting the importance of history in school and society.” The conference brought together K-12 teachers, curriculum specialists, and academic and public historians (including NCPHERs Donna Neary and Bob Weible) to examine ways of improving the teaching of history. Keynote speakers included prize-winning author David McCullough and Fred Anderson of the University of Colorado (author of a new book on the French and Indian War), both of whom encouraged historians to step out of the academy and work closely with teachers to improve the teaching of history in our schools.

I then attended the spring meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies in Philadelphia. One interesting session focused on “The Humanities and Its Publics” and addressed the ways in which scholarship can be applied to inform the larger public and to shape public policy—things that we public historians have done for decades. Robert Weisbuch of the Woodrow Wilson National

Fellowship Foundation specifically called for scholars to “nurture their publics” and to be more engaged in explaining what they do and why it is relevant to the broader public. The highlight of the meeting, however, was the Charles Homer Haskins Lecture given by Gerda Lerner, professor of history emerita from the University of Wisconsin. In her talk about “a life of learning,” Lerner emphasized how history matters to all people. She drew upon her own life experiences – in Nazi-controlled Austria, in her work in grassroots political movements, and in her advocacy in the development of the women’s history movement – to illustrate the importance of involvement by historians and how advancing the humanities can enrich the lives of all people.

Recently, IUPUI, the host institution for NCPH, was recognized as one of the most civically conscious and engaged universities in the nation. Our Center for Service and Learning encourages all departments and faculty to bring the university and the community together through applied research and public conversations. I require my students to commit to ten hours of service-learning in the community as part of their course requirement. This provides them with hands-on learning experiences in community organizations (in this case, history institutions) and for the organizations to obtain some assistance with research, collections, or program development – sort of mini-internships. As a result, civic engagement brings the university and the community closer together and demonstrates the meaningful application of education and scholarship in the larger public.

I cite these examples to illustrate the interesting conversations that are occurring regarding the place of the scholar and the humanities in public life. There was a time when public historians could relate easily with Rodney Dangerfield because we could get little respect from our peers for our involvement with the public. Today, however, there is a greater awareness of the importance of “history outside the classroom” and the role of the scholar in the public square. It’s nice to know that we public historians were in the forefront of this new form of civic engagement long before the current flurry of activity. I hope that we will continue to be vigilant in our work with our many publics and to continue to emphasize, using the motto of NCHE, that “history matters” to the present and the future.

## New H-PUBLIC Moderator Named

NCPH is pleased to announce that **Cathy Stanton** will become the new moderator of the H-PUBLIC listserv later this summer. Stanton, a former arts administrator and free-lance writer, recently completed a Ph.D. in the Interdisciplinary Doctorate Program at Tufts University. Her dissertation, “The Lowell Experiment: Public History in a Postindustrial City,” drew on the fields of cultural anthropology, history, and museum and heritage studies; it is forthcoming as a book from the University of Massachusetts Press. During the 2004-2005 academic year she served as a lecturer in the Anthropology Department at Tufts University and the History Department at Suffolk University, as well as mentoring

interdisciplinary studies in the Vermont College Undergraduate program of Union Institute & University. Since 1998 she has also been a consultant to the National Park Service, where she has produced ethnographic studies of military reenactors and other groups at national parks. She lives in north central Massachusetts.

H-PUBLIC is intended to keep public historians apprised of the latest news in the field; encourage discussion on current issues and interpretations; exchange information; notify subscribers of job opportunities, conferences, and other avenues for professional development; assist students and others considering a career in public history; among others.

# NCH WASHINGTON UPDATE



by Bruce Craig, National Coalition for History  
rbcraig@historycoalition.org

## National Park Service Restructures Cultural Resources Functions

Following several months of conjecture, on 3 May 2005, **Jan Matthews**, Associate Director Cultural Resources for the National Park Service (NPS) announced a restructuring of her 14 divisions. According to the memo -- a copy of which is widely circulating in the historic preservation community -- the restructuring is designed "to promote more efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability."

What is characterized as merely an "adjustment" consolidates all the divisions' offices under three assistant associate directors who, such as the Deputy Associate Director and a Budget Officer, who will report to directly to Matthews. Among other changes, the action creates a separate Historic Preservation Grants Division "because of the high visibility and critical nature of our many preservation grant programs."

The most visible change is that Matthews is assuming the position of "Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places" just as former Associate Director Jerry Rogers had when he occupied the position (Rogers claims he assumed these duties only "because political level directed it"). The now former Keeper of the National Register, Carol Schull (whose 30 years experience makes her the single best informed person in the country on the National Register program), has been asked to head a new "Heritage Education Resources Services" office. She will be "responsible for promoting support through lesson plans, web sites and travel itineraries for all historic preservation programs."

According to NPS insiders, the reorganization was crafted with little if any input from line management. It places the National Historic Landmarks staff two levels removed from senior management. The Chief Curator position is now unconnected with the Museum Management division. And the Chief Historian position, occupied by the soon to retire historian Dwight Pitcaithley, now reports to the Assistant Associate Director for Park Cultural Resource Programs office that has been placed under former NPS Chief Historic Architect Randy Biallis, who is filling the position under a directed reassignment.

As in all reorganizations, a round-robin of offices and work stations now begins. Staff in Grade 14 and Grade 15 positions also can no longer work "flex time" schedules. According to Matthews, "adherence to this regular schedule and to core hours will increase productivity and improve our level of service to the public."

While the historic preservation community still is assessing the impact of the reorganization, here is what is generally believed. First, key personnel appear to have been placed in charge of operations they know little about. Second, by taking the title "Keeper of the National Register" for herself, Matthews is now two levels removed from the professional staff division that actually

does the day-to-day work. While the intent is probably to raise the title to the senior executive level thereby making it more visible and hence more effective, the action also has potential political ramifications. According to one informed source, "this lays open an appearance of intent to control or squelch from above the Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and private sector grassroots partnership the National Register has always been... the proof will be in [her] performance."

## Speaker Names Remini House Historian

On 28 April 2005, House Speaker **Dennis Hastert** (R-IL) filled the decade vacant post of "Historian of the House of Representatives" and announced the appointment of University of Illinois at Chicago historian Robert V. Remini to serve in that position. In making the announcement, Hastert stated that Professor Remini's "commitment to documenting the American experience will serve our great institution and the American people well."

Remini holds positions as Professor of History Emeritus and a Professor of Research Emeritus at the University of Illinois at Chicago and serves as University Historian. He is also the Distinguished Visiting Scholar in American History at the John W. Kluge Center of the Library of Congress, where, since 1999, he has been working on his Congressionally ordered (P.L.106-99) tome--a history of the House of Representatives. Remini is currently revising and polishing his 600-page draft that is expected to be published in the spring of 2006.

Historians had been quietly working to see that the position was modeled after the Senate Historian Richard Baker's in terms of duties, responsibilities, and term of office (Baker, as a career historian has been in his position since 1975 and has served twelve different Majority Leaders). However, it did not turn out that way -- Remini's position is a "term" appointment, made by the Speaker, and therefore, in theory, is a partisan appointment. Unlike Baker, Remini, for example, could be replaced should the Republicans lose control of the House. At that time, a new Majority Leader could either re-appoint the current historian or select another individual. Remini, however, is devoted to keeping the position strictly non-partisan; he plans a courtesy visit to Democratic leaders in the near future. He told the NCH, "As long as I am historian, it will be non-partisan, just like Richard Baker's Senate office."

Inside sources report that Speaker Hastert originally wanted the historian position to be merely "honorific" -- modeled roughly after the Library of Congress Poet Laureate position. Hastert also apparently was not impressed with the candidates advanced by the Clerk's office. He wanted the first House historian in over a decade to be a person of stature within the historical community and Remini clearly filled the bill. According to Remini, "I was never a candidate...all of a sudden, out of the blue they asked me to do it."

> continued on page 12

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

**Martin Melosi**, Distinguished University Professor of History at the University of Houston, has been named recipient of the Esther Farfel Award for 2005. The award is the highest accolade bestowed on a faculty member by the university, in recognition of overall career excellence in research, teaching, and service.

After twenty-nine years with the National Park Service and ten as Chief Historian, **Dwight Pitcaithley** will retire effective 1 July 2005. Pitcaithley will move back to New Mexico where he will teach part-time at New Mexico State University. He has served NCPH in many capacities over the years - on program committees, on the endowment committee, and as president (1997-1998).

## FROM NCH WASHINGTON UPDATE > continued from page

Exactly what the relationship will be between the House Clerk's Office of History and Preservation and Remini's has yet to be entirely ironed out. After his appointment was announced, Remini immediately laid out an ambitious agenda for his new office that complements (not duplicates) the services that the Clerk's Office of History and Preservation provides. His office will gather oral histories from current and former members, start a lecture series for freshman members, and, somewhat like the Clerk's operation, provide reference services for members. With upcoming opening of the Capitol Visitor Center, his office will play an important role in developing exhibits and telling the story of the capitol to the visiting public. The new House historian's goal is to see that history is not only recorded "but that it serves as a tool for the lower chamber."

### Humanities Alliance Gets New Executive Director

The National Humanities Alliance, a coalition of more than eighty nonprofit organizations, has named **Jessica Jones Irons** as its new Executive Director. She succeeds John Hammer,

who retired in December, 2004, after seventeen years in the position. Irons has served in a variety of capacities at the alliance, including Assistant Director and most recently Interim Executive Director.

Irons earned a B.A. in English and American Literature and Language from Harvard University in 1994, where she also worked in the Harvard University Library Office of Information Technology. Since joining the Alliance in 1999, Irons has worked to strengthen the infrastructure for communications and advocacy on behalf of the humanities through development of the alliance's grassroots network and on-line advocacy tools. She has advocated on national and federal issues on behalf of the alliance membership, represented the organization to Congress and the Executive Branch, and coordinated with other associations and task forces to advance the organization's objectives in areas of common concern. Irons is responsible for launching Humanities Advocacy Day in 2000, an annual event bringing faculty, students, administrators and others to Washington to communicate the importance of the humanities to lawmakers.

## NCPH ANNUAL MEETING IN KANSAS CITY A SUCCESS > continued from page one

President Sharon Babaian delivered a stimulating address entitled, "A Larger Reading of the Human Past." The Saturday evening banquet featured recognition of NCPH award winners and an address by well-known presidential historian and television commentator Michael Beschloss.

Of particular note was Friday evening's fundraiser party held at the new Kansas City Public Library. The event marked the 25th anniversary of NCPH's incorporation, proceeds from which went to the NEH Challenge Grant campaign. The evening also included recognition of NPS chief historian Dwight Pitcaithley who will retire this summer.

Many thanks go to the Program Committee, chaired by Andy Ambrose, and the Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Mike Devine, for all of the hard work in putting together a

successful annual meeting. Special thanks also goes to Eli Paul of the Liberty Memorial who contributed several volunteers to the event.

The next NCPH annual meeting will be 19-22 April 2006 in Washington, DC, held jointly with the Organization of American Historians. Watch for program and registration details later in 2005.



NCPH Board member Marianne Babel present NPS chief historian Dwight Pitcaithley with a token of NCPH's appreciation on the occasion of his retirement from NPS.

## NCPH AWARD WINNERS > continued from page six

project in the poster session. In addition to attending sessions on heritage tourism, material culture, and a film screening of public history projects, we both appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk with many public historians in various fields

throughout the nation. The conference gave us a chance to broaden our knowledge of the application of public history and learn about exciting public history projects occurring across the nation. We are honored to receive the Student Project Award and to have the chance to attend the 2005 conference.

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

- Stephanie Alford  
Sunnyvale, CA
- Susan Beattie  
Des Peres, MO
- Mary Beveridge  
Kansas City, MO
- Megan Black  
San Marcos, TX
- Jaime Bradley  
Sykesville, MD
- Brandee Bruce  
Antelope, CA
- Meta Bunse  
Davis, CA
- Amy Canfield  
Pullman, WA
- Ryan Casey  
Milwaukee, WI
- Lynne Scott Cochrane  
Ganville, OH
- Corrie Cook  
Indianapolis, IN
- Karen Cox  
Charlotte, NC
- Adrianna Davies  
Edmonton, AL
- Rob Dehart  
Pegram, TN
- Marie Donaghay  
Upper Darby, PA
- Andy Doyle  
Roche Hill, SC
- Kristina Dunn  
Columbia, SC
- Linda Endersby  
Columbia, MO
- Melissa English-Rias  
Atlanta, GA
- Suzanne Etherington  
Cortland, NY
- Sharon Fawcett  
College Park, MD
- Susan Flader  
Columbia, MO
- Jason Foster  
Lafayette, LA
- Dennis Geffert  
North Royalton, OH
- Nancy Germano  
Indianapolis, IN
- Eileen Grace  
Springfield, IL
- Elva Gray  
Parker, CO
- Ninette Gyorody  
Keswick, Ontario
- H. Heckler  
Washington, DC
- Dean Herrin  
Frederick, MD
- Kathryn Higdon  
Pierre, SD
- Steven Hoskins  
Old Hickory, TN
- Mara Cohen Ioannides,  
Springfield, MO
- Lisa Jacobson  
Santa Barbara, CA
- Kimberly Johnston-Dodds,  
Sacramento, CA
- Janna Jones  
Las Cruces, NM
- Katie Jones  
Sterling, VA
- Lynn Josse  
St. Louis, MO
- John Kiplinger  
Ann Arbor, MI
- John F. Kennedy Space Center  
NASA Orlando, FL
- M. Lee  
Stafford, VA
- Rachel Leibowitz  
Champaign, IL
- Patti Linn  
Louisville, KY
- K. Tsianina Lomawaima  
Tucson, AZ
- Alecia Long  
Atlanta, GA
- Alexandra Lord  
Rockville, MD
- David Lowenthal  
Berkeley, CA
- Wendy Lower  
Baltimore, MD
- Ray Luce  
Atlanta, GA
- Joshua Lupkin  
St. Louis, MO
- Elizabeth Meszaros  
Raleigh, NC
- Nancy McIlvaney  
St. Louis, MO
- Tom McKinney  
Missouri City, TX
- Carol Martin  
Independence, MO
- Gale Martin-Hansgen,  
Marion, OH
- Tiffany Mayerhofer,  
Silver Springs, MD
- Laura Milsk,  
Edwardsville, IL
- Gene Mueller,  
Texarkana, TX
- Matthew Nelson  
Eau Claire, WI
- Eli Paul  
Kansas City, MO
- Alicia Pearia  
Tallahassee, FL
- Jonathan Pearson  
Durham, Great  
Britain
- Christina Pimentel,  
Mississauga, Ontario
- Linna Place  
Kansas City, MO
- Michael Powell,  
Frederick, MD
- Lisa Prince  
Sacramento, CA
- Leslie Przybylek  
Kansas City, MO
- Public History Inc.  
Ottawa, Ontario
- Sandy Ramos  
Ottawa, Ontario
- Janice Rich  
Wichita, KS
- Genevieve Robinson  
Kansas City, MO
- Sally Robinson,  
Whitehorse, Yukon
- Tracy Robinson  
Alexandria, VA
- Harry Rubenstein,  
Cheverly, MD
- Jennifer Rudolph  
Sacramento, CA
- Joseph Ryan  
Valdosta, GA
- St. Vincent College  
Latrobe, PA
- Robert Sandoval  
Durham, NC
- Nancy Scott  
Hutchinson, KS
- Martin Segger, Victoria  
British Columbia
- Kent Sieg  
Alexandria, VA
- Shannon Silva  
Austin, TX
- Mark Snell  
Shepherdstown, WV
- Neva Jean Specht  
Boone, NC
- State Library of South  
Australia  
Adelaide, South Australia  
AUSTRALIA
- Marla Sterling-Griffin  
Yucaipa, CA
- Universidad de Colima  
Colima MEXICO
- University of Central Florida  
Orlando, FL
- Patti Van Tuyl  
McLean, VA
- Kurt Wahlgren  
Bowling Green, OH
- J. Samuel Walker  
University Park, MD
- Thomas Weyant  
Holidaysburg, PA
- Martina Will de Chaparro  
Denton, TX
- Barbara Winters  
Victoria, British Columbia
- John Wolford  
St. Louis, MO

# Index Project for *The Public Historian*

by Tory Swim and Paul Sandul, California State University Sacramento

Validating what is already commonly known to the public history community, we (graduate students Tory Swim and Paul Sandul) discovered recently at the annual conference for NCPH in Kansas City, Missouri that all the talk of community, cooperation, collaboration, and helping hands was not just a line or anecdote our professors used to convince us to join the Public History Program or even excessive hype used by those in leadership roles to promote the field. While presenting a poster project for *The Public Historian* (TPH) we discovered that, indeed, the community that exists and sustains the field of public history is real and alive. As we attended the conference and met others in the field, we were gratified by our decision to study public history.

We attended the conference to unveil the TPH index project which began in the summer of 2004. Students from UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) and California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), under the direction of TPH managing editor Lindsey Reed, wrote abstracts for articles and review essays in TPH, with the goal of creating a searchable index that would eventually be posted online. Paul Sandul, a PhD candidate in the joint CSUS-UCSB Public History Program, began the project that summer by abstracting articles for the first three volumes. Tory Swim, a second-year graduate student in the CSUS Public History Program, completed the project in April of 2005, writing abstracts for volumes 10 through 18. In between, Susan Flack, David Lemon, Ron Parsons, and Annie Rapaport all worked on the project.

The TPH index is a searchable index of abstracts and publication information for all of the articles and review essays TPH has published in its twenty-seven year history. It will serve as an invaluable tool for researchers by facilitating access to essential research and case studies that addresses the broad substantive and theoretical issues in the field. Topics range from preservation technology, history and memory, cultural resources management, and corporate history to the interpretation of history in museums and historic sites. In our work we came across many classic articles of interest to all students and NCPH members. The index provides a quick way for members to search for articles that are applicable to their studies or interests.

The final product is the culmination of hundreds of hours spent by the students in writing abstracts for all of the articles and review essays published to date in the journal. Sometimes as few as four articles appeared in an issue—a rare blessing to the student, we must say—and at other times a sizeable twelve articles appeared—

leading to coffee (or sugar for Tory) nights! Although the magnitude of the project taxed many of us at times, this index project served as a perfect immersion opportunity into the field of public history. Through this project we gained command of a large portion of the historiography of the field. We learned about past controversies, such as the differing opinions over the proposed theme park Disney's America, which we may have not learned of otherwise because they occurred before our formal education began. Somewhat to our surprise, this experience showed us that many of the issues raised in the late 1980s and early 1990s are still pertinent today and are not merely subjects our professors love to torture us with. Additionally, we not only saw changes in subjects covered within TPH, but we also saw how the format and content of TPH progressed, such as the inclusion of oral histories in the Pioneers of Public History section or toward the addition of gray literature. Not only did writing abstracts help us gain an understanding of the field, where it has been, and with what it has historically been concerned, but it also familiarized us with many NCPH members through the reading of their articles. At the conference we had the pleasure to meet many of the authors of articles we abstracted, and although we sometimes feared that they would disapprove of our abstracts, no one ever did (Paul, however, was always ready to deny he was the true abstractor and flee the room just in case!).

It is anticipated that the index will be posted on the NCPH website in early summer 2005. The TPH index is currently in the format of a Word document and can be searched by using the "Find" tool. After Selecting "Edit" from the toolbar, users can click on "Find" and enter a key term, author name, or article title, and they will be taken to each relevant article. The Word version of the index, however, only represents a preliminary model. At some point in the future, conversion to a database format may be desirable.

The index project was a wonderful opportunity and experience, but attending the conference in Kansas City was equally rewarding. Themes of community, identity, and the need to help colleagues and students run throughout many of the articles we abstracted, and we discovered that the authors did not misspeak or misrepresent the true nature of the public history field. Indeed, as we attended the conference to present the TPH index project, we talked with librarians, archivists, professors, curators, and students from all over the country. At each event, with every conversation, we not only heard the word "community" spoken aloud for everyone to hear, but we partook of it for the first time and, as evidenced by this small article, were given opportunities to participate and succeed.



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 Robert Weible, The State Museum of Pennsylvania, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, [rweible@state.pa.us](mailto:rweible@state.pa.us); or David G. Vanderstel, NCPH Executive Director, Cavanaugh 327,

IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140; (317) 274-2716; E-mail: [neph@iupui.edu](mailto:neph@iupui.edu).

For change of address, write UC Press, 2000 Center St., Suite 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223.

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

## AWARDS, GRANTS AND INTERNSHIPS

### **James J. Hill Library Small Research Grants**

The James J. Hill Library will award a number of grants up to \$2,000 to support research in the James J. Hill, Louis W. Hill, and Reed/Hype papers. The James J. Hill Papers (1856-1916) are an extensive and rich source for studies of transportation, politics, finance, Native American relations, art collecting, philanthropy, urbanization, immigration, and economic development in the Upper Midwest, Pacific Northwest, and Western Canada. The Louis W. Hill Papers (1886-1948) document similar subjects, as well as his involvement in the development of Minnesota's iron mining industry and the development of Glacier National Park and the related tourist industry. Additionally, they detail social and cultural activities from the Gilded Age through World War II. The Reed/Hype Papers (1853-1960) document the business activities, family, and social lives of four generations, beginning with Samuel Reed, a civil engineer who was best known for his work during construction of the Union Pacific Railroad in the 1860s. Subsequent activities included farming, flour milling, and mining, as well as important service in the Red Cross in Europe in World War I. The deadline for applications is 1 November 2005. For more information contact W. Thomas White, Curator, James J. Hill Library, 80 West Fourth Street, St. Paul, MN 55102, or click on [http://www.jjhill.org/History/manuscript\\_program.html](http://www.jjhill.org/History/manuscript_program.html). Telephone: (651) 265-5441; E-mail: [twhite@jjhill.org](mailto:twhite@jjhill.org).

## CALLS FOR PAPERS, ARTICLES, PROPOSALS AND PRESENTATIONS

**The Oral History Association** at Dickinson College has established a task force to investigate the role of oral history in the professional evaluation of our academic colleagues for whom the practice is a major part of their work. The association is particularly interested in the ways in which oral history practice is weighed in decisions dealing with hiring, retention, promotion and tenure, if, indeed, that work is considered as part of those processes. In what ways are publications based upon oral history considered when assessing the publication record of colleagues, or in teaching or public service or the other aspects of faculty standing? At this stage the association is interested in gathering any formal reports or statements of established policies that mention oral history as a factor in hiring, retention, promotion or tenure decisions of departments or academic institutions, as well as anecdotal evidence. They plan to use this information to construct a more detailed and reflective survey of the profession. The association is most interested in hearing from those who have developed an oral history practice, which they have submitted as a part of their dossiers, or from those who have served on various committees evaluating colleagues on the basis of their work in oral history. Please send responses to: Ronald Grele, 90 Morningside Dr. #3A, New York, NY 10027. Email: [RJG5@Columbia.edu](mailto:RJG5@Columbia.edu).

**The Southern Association for Women Historians** invites proposals for the Seventh Southern Conference on Women's History, to be held 8-11 June 2006, on the campus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. The conference provides a stimulating and congenial forum for the discussion of all aspects of women's history. Its program seeks to reflect the best in recent scholarship, especially by young scholars and graduate students. The program also wishes to reflect the diversity of women's historical experiences and to explore the histories of

women from a wide range of racial, class, and ethnic backgrounds. Proposals in Public History are especially welcome. The Program Committee solicits proposals for complete panels and individual papers, as well as media presentations and roundtable sessions. Proposals for panels or sessions should include two copies each of the following: a) a cover sheet available on the web, b) a one page summary of the panel or session as a whole, c) a one page proposal for each paper or presentation, and d) a brief curriculum vitae for each participant. Individual paper proposals should include two copies each of the following: a) a cover sheet available on the web, b) a one page proposal, and c) a brief curriculum vitae. Those interested in chairing a session or commenting on one are also invited to send a c.v. to the Program Committee. All materials should be mailed to Professor Elna C. Green, Chair, SAWH Program Committee, Department of History, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2200. Email submissions are not accepted. Email inquiries may be directed to [egreen@fsu.edu](mailto:egreen@fsu.edu). The deadline for receipt of all materials is 1 August 2005.

## CONFERENCES AND LECTURE SERIES

### **"The Atomic Bomb and American Society"**

The Center for the Study of War and Society and the Department of History, University of Tennessee will be hosting a conference entitled "The Atomic Bomb and American Society" 15-17 July 2005 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The conference will mark the 60th anniversary of the detonation of the first atomic bomb. Panels will examine the political, economic, social, and cultural impact of nuclear weapons on American society. Dr. Paul S. Boyer of the University of Wisconsin will deliver the keynote address on Friday 15 July and David Rosenberg of the U.S. Naval War College will deliver the keynote address on Saturday 16 July. For more information please contact Cynthia Tinker at: Phone: (865) 974-0128; E-mail: [ctinker@utk.edu](mailto:ctinker@utk.edu).

## CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING SITE PROPOSALS

### **The National Council on Public History seeks site proposals for its annual meetings beginning in the year 2007.**

Proposals should include the following information:

- A statement of why the site is appropriate for the NCPH annual meeting.
- Information regarding support from local individuals, institutions, and agencies that could work together to plan a successful conference. Letters of intent would strengthen the proposal.
- Potential arrangements for meeting facilities, hotels, and transportation, with approximate costs.
- Proposed dates for the meeting, generally between 15 March and 1 May.
- Any other details that might strengthen the proposal.

Since the NCPH Board of Directors considers proposals at its spring and fall meetings, a representative or representatives of the host institution(s) should plan to present and discuss the site proposal.

For more information, contact the NCPH Executive Offices at 317.274.2716 or by email: [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu)

Send completed proposals to:  
NCPH Executive Offices - IUPUI  
425 University Boulevard -  
Cavanaugh 327  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5140

## INTERNET

### **UNLV Libraries launches digital exhibit on Howard Hughes the aviator.**

The UNLV Libraries announces the launching of a new online exhibit entitled "Welcome Home Howard, or whatever became of the daring aviator?" The exhibit draws from the Howard Hughes collections housed in the UNLV Libraries Special Collections, particularly from the files of Hughes PR director Dick Hannah. The exhibit focuses on Hughes the Aviator popularized in the current Hollywood film by Martin Scorsese. The exhibit also draws on unique unpublished documentation and interviews with Hughes. The digital exhibit is available at <http://www.library.unlv.edu/hughes/>. This exhibit can also be accessed from the UNLV Libraries Digital Collections and Exhibits web page at <http://www.library.unlv.edu/exhibits/index.html>, or from the UNLV Libraries Web and Digitization Services web page at <http://www.library.unlv.edu/wds/index.html>. For further information, please contact Dr. Peter Michel, Director, UNLV Libraries Special Collections, at [pmichel@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:pmichel@ccmail.nevada.edu) or Dr. Brad Eden, Head, UNLV Libraries Web and Digitization Services, at [beden@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:beden@ccmail.nevada.edu)

### **Antiquities Act Centennial**

The National Park Service (NPS) has announced the creation of a web site celebrating the upcoming centennial of the Antiquities Act (1906-2006). The site includes a great deal of information about the legislation, maps of national monuments, archaeological accomplishments, and continuing preservation activities. Tap into the site at: <http://www.cr.nps.gov/aad/SITES/Antiquities/index.htm>

### **Northwest Digital Archives**

Explore an online database of more than 2,200 guides to primary source collections on numerous topics in Northwest United States history, including: Arts and Humanities, Business, Industry and Labor, City and Town Life, Colleges and Universities, Environment and Natural Resources, Ethnic Groups, Government and Politics, Home and Family, Native Americans, Pioneers, Religion and Missionaries, and Sexuality. Northwest Digital Archives is an online searchable database of guides to primary sources at thirteen research institutions in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The Northwest Digital Archives was established in 2002 with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historic Publications and Records Commission. Visit the website at: <http://nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu>.

### **Electronic Encyclopedia of Chicago Website Launch**

On 11 May the Chicago Historical Society, in partnership with the Newberry Library and Northwestern University, launched the Electronic Encyclopedia of Chicago. The site offers a free, unlimited, user-friendly, no-password-required access to Chicago's vast history via photographs, interpretive essays, art, music, maps, and documents. The new online resource not only offers fast and easily-found answers to student topics and bar bets, but will allow more in-depth exploration of such topics as Chicago neighborhoods, the Burnham Plan, labor history, ethnic groups, and Chicagoans' relationship to water. A link to the Encyclopedia will be featured on the CHS homepage, <http://www.chicagohistory.org>.



## **JOBS AND POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

### **Research Historian**

The National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF) is the pre-eminent national institution dedicated to celebrating, inspiring and fostering invention and creativity. The NIHF's longest running activity is the recognition of the world's most important inventors by highlighting their major contributions to quality of life and economic growth. The annual selection and induction of Hall of Fame inventors is the nation's premiere event focusing attention on these remarkable people. The Research Historian will play an integral

role in the annual selection process as it relates to the identification and expansion of the pool of inductee candidates, conducting research pertinent to inductee candidates. In this capacity, the Research Historian will be responsible for expanding the NIHF's access to outside resources such as contacts at technical, scientific and historical organizations, allowing the NIHF to utilize additional primary and recommended secondary research sources. The Research Historian will thus assist in expanding the organization's research capabilities related not just to inductee candidates, but also current inductees and invention in general. She/he will also work within the organization to assimilate and structure acquired research. She/he will work closely with the Director of Inventor

Programs in the formation and maintenance of a research advisory committee that will serve to provide expert counsel on matters pertaining to selection, inductee candidate research and identifying outside resources. She/he will also work with the Director of Inventor Programs to elevate to national visibility the NIHF's content expertise and its inventor recognition programs through outreach efforts. Visit NIHF's website at <http://www.invent.org>. No relocation assistance. For consideration, submit your cover letter, resume, professional references, and salary requirements to: Attn: HR Department, National Inventors Hall of Fame, Inc., 221 South Broadway Street, Akron, OH 44308-1505; Fax: 330.849.6957; E-mail: [jwoodside@invent.org](mailto:jwoodside@invent.org)

## **National Council for History Education National Conference 2006**

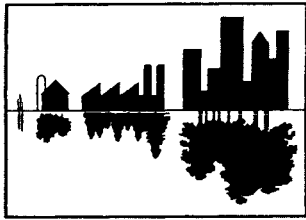
31 March - 1 April 2006  
Austin, Texas

The National Council for History Education has selected Austin, Texas, and the site of the 2006 conference, with our collaborating partner, the Texas Education Agency. The theme of the conference is The Americas in World History. Among the general session speakers will be H.W. Brands, Dickson Allen Anderson Centennial Professor, Department of History, University of Texas, and David J. Weber, the Robert and Nancy Dedman Professor of History and Director of the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University.

NCHE invites proposals for concurrent sessions, panels, roundtables, and workshops for the 2006 program. The Program Committee encourages proposals that emphasize historical content and successful classroom approaches in the key areas of history that relate to the conference theme.

**Proposals must be submitted to NCHE, 26915 Westwood Road, Suite B-2, Weslake, Ohio 44145 by 15 October 2005.**

For more details and the full call for proposals, visit the NCHE web page at:  
<http://www.history.org/nche/>



# ASEH

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

2006 ASEH Annual Conference  
Joint meeting with Forest History Society  
St. Paul, Minnesota, March 29-April 2, 2006  
"Rivers Run Through Them:  
Landscapes in Environmental History"

## The American Society for Environmental History

Founded in 1977 to promote research, teaching, and publication in the field of environmental history, ASEH welcomes members from all disciplines, professions and walks of life who share an interest in past environments and the roles human beings have played in them.



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- Special rates at the society's conferences
- Optional participation in the ASEH Internet discussion group
- A special rate for joint membership in the Forest History Society (FHS), with additional benefits, including use of the FHS library and archives at Durham headquarters, and bibliographic and archival reference and referral services

A membership in ASEH connects you to the community of scholars working in the field of environmental history.

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- Individual membership, \$50
- Students (with photocopy of current I.D.), \$20
- Joint membership in both FHS and ASEH, \$70
- Joint student membership (with photocopy of current I.D.), \$27.50
- Library Membership, \$100

For more information on becoming a member, see our website or contact: American Society for Environmental History  
701 William Vickers Avenue, Durham, NC 27701 • Phone 919.682.9319

# www.aseh.net

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**YES, I will contribute to the NCPH Endowment Fund.** All contributions to the endowment go towards the NEH Challenge Grant fund. NEH funds will be invested in the NCPH endowment to produce income to support the organization's public history activities, including the awards program, professional development opportunities, the Executive Offices, and other initiatives currently in development.

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Please bill my credit card  VISA  MasterCard  American Express

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*Required for credit card donations*

Contributions to the NCPH Endowment Fund are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.  
**Return this form to:**  
NCPH Endowment Fund  
327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI  
425 University Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140

**Questions?** Please feel free to contact the NCPH Executive Offices at 317-274-2716.



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*Thank You For Your Support*

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# Public History News

## National Council on Public History

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