Students’ Focus on Photo Blurs Boundaries

by Benjamin Filene
bpfilene@uncg.edu

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

To help these students see—feel—what makes public history distinctive, I settled on four teaching goals for the final project. I wanted them to
• work with community members;
• collaborate with each other;
• think of their work as public storytelling; and finally
• end up with a tangible public product for public audiences.

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

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

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

> continued on page 11

Mark Your Calendar!

The NCPH Annual Meeting in Louisville next spring takes full advantage of local landscape and cultural features of the host city and region. Rather than being concentrated on spring takes full advantage of local landscape and memory of the Underground Railroad, discussions exploring the history and outcomes will be available in the program of the 2008 NCPH Annual Meeting.

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

- The Falls of the Ohio Museum in southern Indiana, right across the river from Louisville, is home to the oldest Devonian Fossil beds in the world.
- The Historic Locust Grove tour on Saturday brings visitors to the final home of Louisville founder George Rogers Clark, the preeminent American military leader in the West during the American War for Independence. He was the elder brother of Jefferson County, Kentucky, native William Clark, co-leader with Meriwether Lewis of the Corps of Discovery. Observe a Revolutionary War reenactment on the far western frontier at this thriving plantation.
- Saturday sends participants to Bardstown to learn about fine spirit-making, where we are pleased to offer an exclusive tour of Heaven Hill Distillery and the Bourbon Heritage Center. The distillery will send the Heaven Hill shuttle to the Brown Hotel to ferry thirty-three lucky individuals to learn about fine spirit-making, where we are pleased to offer an exclusive tour of Heaven Hill Distillery and the Bourbon Heritage Center. The distillery will send the Heaven Hill shuttle to the Brown Hotel to ferry thirty-three lucky individuals to the center of bourbon production in the world.

Note: participants must be 21 years of age (with legal ID) to sample the spirits.

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

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

Public History and Civic Life

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

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

Experiments You Can Observe

Unifying and Dividing Communities through Historic Preservation

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

Facilitator: Carroll Van West is director of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University. Leslie Ouens is research coordinator at the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University.

Spurgeon King is a preservation and historic real estate consultant.

Finding Common Ground between Interpreters and Historians

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

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

There’s Still Time to Donate!

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

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

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

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

by Bill Byars
bill.byars@kent.edu

I happen to live in a community that currently is undertaking a good deal of infrastructure improvements, and hardly a day goes by that I do not encounter a sign informing me that the project slowing my travels about town represents my tax dollars at work. While passing through a construction zone and thinking about the need to prepare for NCPH, and it is fitting that we finally have a way to acknowledge the amount, is appreciated and meaningful to this organization.

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

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

Finally, the National Council of Public History, despite the implication of its name, is actually an international organization. Accordingly, our long range plan calls for cultivating an international membership that reflects the diverse community of history’s publics and practitioners. Toward this goal, endorsement earnings earmarked for enhancing an international presence at the annual meeting will bring Agrita Ozola, a Latvian public historian to Louisville. Ms. Ozola is director of the Tukums Museum and active in the European branch of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). These conference-related activities only partially represent the ways in which our endowment is making NCPH a better and stronger organization. We can indeed feel very good that we recently met our NEH challenge grant and began utilizing its earned income. Yet, the reality is that we must continue to increase the endowment and its earnings of NCPH is to have the future it deserves. So, when you are asked to invest in NCPH by making a contribution to the endowment, remember the good work mentioned above and give that request serious consideration.

FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

by Jake Dichtl
jodie@ncph.org

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

Now is a good time to learn more. The practice of public history appears to be flourishing, flowing into new venues and bumping up against other applied fields. Museums and academia embrace civic engagement, every few weeks another college or university begins offering courses or launches a program in public history (there now are more than 100 programs listed on the NCPH web site) up from about 60 only five years ago; and business is steady for the consultants with whom I have spoken. History itself is attracting a growing number of undergraduate majors (see related story page 10). But we need to learn more, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Much more. NCPH in the past has conducted surveys of public history programs and the membership, even undertaking an intensive self-assessment in 2004-2005. HPublic digitally provides snapshots of the field and probably an early warning system for changes that lie ahead. But what do we know about the larger trends in the field? Are salaries—across the many kinds of public history jobs—increasing? Are public historians satisfied with their jobs, their training, their membership association? Do most graduates of public history MA and PhD programs find the jobs they expected? How do many consultants work freelance or in firms, and has this number changed appreciably in the past ten years? Are old and new public history programs providing an education that public history employers find most desirable in its graduates? How many people are employed in public history, and how many were trained in history versus other disciplines?

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

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

Tell Us What It’s Worth

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

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

As an initial step in this effort, we are compiling information on how history departments already are evaluating and rewarding public history activities. If your department does have hiring, promotion, tenure, or any other guidelines that address this issue, we would appreciate you sharing them with us. Electronic copies of any pertinent documents can be sent to mforres@oah.org; paper copies may be sent to Melanie Forrest, OAH, PO Box 5457, Bloomington IN 47407.
On Saturday, November 3, 2007, the NCPH Board of Directors convened at the John Nicholas Brown Center, Brown University, in Providence, RI, and took the following actions:

• Approved the Minutes of the Spring 2007 Board Meeting in Santa Fe, NM.

• Approved the description and guidelines for the new Consultant Archivist position. The policy describes the types of financial contributions the organization will accept and how it will handle them.

• Approved the Finance Committee recommendation to shift the organization’s fiscal year from a July 1–June 30 basis to a calendar year basis beginning January 1, 2009.

• Selected Portland, OR, as the site for the 2010 NCPH Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held jointly with the American Society for Environmental History, which already has chosen Portland for its 2010 annual conference.

• Approved the final description and guidelines for the new Graduate Student Travel Award (GSTA), which were submitted by the Student Project Award Committee. The GSTA will provide modest assistance with conference travel costs for graduate students who have a paper, poster, or other presentation accepted for inclusion in the program of the NCPH annual meeting. Five travel awards of $100 each will be given annually.

• Approved the description and guidelines for the new Consultant Archivist Award, which was submitted by the Consultants Committee. The award is a $500 prize intended to recognize professionals whose primary engagement with public history is through consulting or contract work within the past five years.

• Decided to schedule the next fall board meeting during the Oral History Association’s 2008 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, October 15–19, and to accept OHA President Charles Hardy’s invitation to propose a joint session for the OHA program.

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

• Board voted to increase funding for the C. Wiles Johnson Award for best article in The Public Historian to $500. NCPH will begin contributing $250 each year from its endowment earnings, and NCPH member Stan Horodys has offered to increase his annual contribution of $300 to $500.

• Board approved the final description and guidelines for the Outstanding Public History Project Award.

• Executive committee voted to send a letter to the Canadian National Archivist protesting the reduction in hours during which researchers at the Library and Archives Canada main building in Ottawa may use collections and consult with reference staff. [Note: effective November 26, 2007, the Library and Archives Canada reinstated some of the hours in question and announced that it would “obtain the advice of the new LAC Services Advisory Board (SAB), drawn from its client communities,” about restoring some of the hours during which services are provided by LAC staff.]

• Executive committee voted that NCPH sign on to an amicus curiae brief that JSTOR submitted on behalf of the National Geographic Society in the legal case Greenberg v. National Geographic Society (“Greenberg”), now before the Eleventh Circuit. According to the lawyer for JSTOR, “at stake in Greenberg is whether the copyright owner of a ‘collective work’ has the right to digitize the collective work in a format that retains its ‘look and feel’ without obtaining permission from the work’s underlying contributors. ‘Collective works’ are works such as periodicals and scholarly journals, in which a number of contributions, such as articles and photographs, constituting separate and independent works in themselves, are assembled into a collective whole.”

On September 24, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1664, a bill authorizing the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to make pass-through grants toward the establishment of a Woodrow Wilson presidential library in Staunton, VA, Wilson’s birthplace.

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

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

# Action of the NCPH Board of Directors

**Board of Directors**

Vice President

Martin Blatt, Boston National Historical Park

Board of Directors (three positions)

Robert Carner, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

Dew Harris, MidAmerica Arts Alliance

Michelle Bates Moore, National Museum of African American History and Culture

Joy Price, Wichita State University

John Sprinkle, Federal Preservation Institute

Cathy Starren, Tuba University and Vermont College of Union Institute & University

Nominating Committee (one position)

Sharon Babcock, Canada Science and Technology Museum

Jon Huner, New Mexico State University

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

**National Coalition for History Update**

**Library of Congress Materials Missing**

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

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

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

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

**New Director for Clinton Presidential Library**

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

**House Passes Wilson Presidential Library Bill**

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

A bachelor’s degree in history—that marker of future historians or simply avid consumers of history—has reached a 30-year high peak. According to a recent report by Robert B. Townsend, the American Historical Association’s assistant director for research and publications, the number of history degrees earned in 2004-2005, the English and 2003-2004, were in political science and government. For a full demographic and historical analysis of new history degrees, see Townsend’s article, “Undergraduate History Degrees Continue to Grow in Number,” in the November 2007 issue of Perspectives. It is available online at www.historians.org.

Townsend reports that “history degrees now account for 2.18 percent of the baccalaureate degrees conferred.” This is a vast improvement over the situation 15-20 years ago when history dropped to about 1.5 percent. For comparison’s sake, 7.8 percent of BA degrees, in 2004-2005, were in the English, and 2003-2004, were in political science and government. For a full demographic and historical analysis of new history degrees, see Townsend’s article, “Undergraduate History Degrees Continue to Grow in Number,” in the November 2007 issue of Perspectives. It is available online at www.historians.org.

The Baldwin Museum’s homemade exhibits pay tribute to “Miss Rosetta” and celebrate African American teachers, historians, and heroes, as well as great inventors. The Million Man March. The displays will not win any design awards from AAM, but they have a voice and a look that I know my students and I could not improve. Yet Julius, despite my obvious lack of local connections, money, and staff, was open to a partnership. What can a museum do if they(void) this world to finding duplicates of Julius’s text? He would help him without duplicating his good work!

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

That became the challenge I posed to my ninth grade students: find these people, learn their life stories, and share them with a wider public. Julius embraced the idea; Edith and the High Point Museum agreed to let us open the exhibit for a month; it ran in their changing gallery, so that we would not disrupt Julius’s installations for a temporary show; the existing Baldwin school expressed interest in being able to display it. 

The exhibit was installed as a temporary home; UNCG’s History division gave me a small amount of money, and the university’s Office of Service Learning provided a little more through a Community-Based Research Grant.

People did not answer their phones; several people apparently did not have phones. Some had moved, some had died—sometimes after the tangles with the law, according to public records. The students, largely uninterested in talking to people outside their own bracket and racial and educational backgrounds, were getting apprehensive about meeting these people. And there was the issue of obtaining Julius’s text. He had written two drafts of the book, but neither did the class was getting along swimmingly, but a few students could not help but ask, Did I realize that a couple of students weren’t quite pulling their weight? Yes, they knew that public history depends on collaboration, but...they were going to get a grade right? I emphasized that class participation and collaboration were in themselves significant parts of their grades, and that students would get a chance to do peer evaluations at the end of the semester, but that people needed to stick together and that this period of uncertainty was in the form of an exhibit. The project was going to take off, I assured them. And I crossed my fingers.

But then it did begin to take off. A few people did call the students. The two of the daily newspaper, of the area and the Greensboro-based African American paper picked up the story of the UNCG students whose nutty professor had asked them to become historical sleuths. Two students and I attended a service at the Seventh-Adventist church and gathered several more names. More people began returning calls. The students who did the first interviews came back thrilled. The people were so nice, so eager to share; their lives had been so fascinating, difficult, inspiring, complicated. Other students gained confidence and began throwing themselves into the project, and stories began to emerge: the power of Baldwin’s Bible-based instruction; her liberal use of “the Sifts” to enforce dedication; her generosity in giving tuition for struggling families; her penchant for Redlitter meat substitute (Seventh-Adventist churchgoers�� organizational); the mixed results that separate brought to the neighborhood. The hours never did exactly even out, which continued to ruffle with some students, but for most, passion for the project seemed to be carrying them through. They mastered the PowerPoint presentation programs, the museum program we used to display exhibit cases, they supervised the output and mounting of panels by UNCG’s University Graphics office; they defined a way to play digital excerpts from oral interviews the group had conducted; and, all of us went to the museum for a whirlwind “conferences” of exhibit-installation. And suddenly it was opening night. In the end the students had identified 35 members of the Class of ’63 project demonstrated the power of the primary sources—the mysterious, unidentified photographs; the life stories waiting to be told; the voices that eventually emerged to tell their own tales. The press, our community contacts, and museumgoers responded to the thrill of historical discovery, of the past being reclaimed, of using fragments from the past to reconstruct a story for the present. The Class of ’63 project recapitulated in microcosm every historian’s process of brainstormed conception, feasible research, disputing uncertainty, lightbulb moments, and piecing together the story. The students sought to involve the public—community partners, newspaper readers, and museum audiences—in the messy but exhilarating process of unearthing and piecing together the story. The students became practicing historians on the public stage with partners at their side. As I had hoped, they felt like public historians, and, for the moment, the divide between academic and public history seemed bridgable after all.

Robert B. Townsend is professor of history at UNCG. Benjamin F. J. Firestone is director of public history at UNC Greensboro.

Welcome New Members

The Baldwin Museum and Art Center, Inc., in conjunction with the High Point Museum, NC, will host the exhibit “Miss Rosetta.”

The Baldwin Museum and Art Center, Inc., in conjunction with the High Point Museum, NC, will host the Exhibit "Miss Rosetta." The exhibit celebrates the student at the High Point Museum, NC. Courtesy of High Point Museum.
The T. R. Fehrenbach Book Award for original research on Texas history. To be eligible, a book must have been published during the contest year in an edition of no fewer than 200 copies. <http://www.rtc.state.tx.us/awards/rsdrf.html> Deadline is December 31, 2007.

News and Notes: For weekly updated information on jobs, internships, awards, conferences, and calls for papers, please visit www.ncpsh.org.

CALLS FOR PAPERS, ARTICLES, PROPOSALS, AND PRESENTATIONS


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

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


The Lemelson Center for the Study of invention and Innovation at MIT is accepting applications for its 2008 Lemelson Postdoctoral Fellowship. The Lemelson Center supports a diverse range of PhDs in science and engineering, with a particular emphasis on innovation and entrepreneurial thinking. <http://www.lemelson/lemelson/internships.html> Deadline is January 7, 2008.


CONFERENCE AND LECTURE SERIES


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

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

Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, WY, is seeking candidates for a Collections Handler for the Paul Dyk collection of Plains Indian artifacts, art work, and related material. Candidate should have at least a bachelor’s degree in Museum Studies or a related discipline, such as anthropology, history or art history, and at least one year of collections related work experience. Send cover letter, resume, and salary requirements via email to msellers@ubalt.edu. No phone calls please.

The New England Historical Commission offers a Foundation Director. Candidates should have a graduate degree in history or museum studies, significant experience as an administrator, and the proven ability to lead and inspire others. Send a letter of interest and resume to Prof. M.N.S. Sellers, Executive Trustee of the Nicholas Newlin Foundation, Center for International and Comparative Law, 1420 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201 or by email to mnelser@ubalt.edu.
RELEASE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has announced it will open for the first time all of the individual Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) of Army, Army Air Corps, Army Air Forces, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard military personnel who served and were discharged, retired or died while in the service, prior to 1946. Collectively, these files comprise more than six million records. This is the second step in the progressive opening of the entire paper and microfiche OMPF collection of over 57 million individual files. Additional military personnel records will be made available to the public each year through 2007 until the entire collection is opened. To view an original record, individuals may visit the NPRC Archival Research Room in St. Louis, MO. Research room hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Central Time Tuesday through Friday. Visitors are strongly encouraged to call ahead (314-801-0850) to make reservations.

WORLD DIGITAL LIBRARY AGREEMENT

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

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

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

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

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL SERIES

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

Roosevelt’s New Deal, 75 Years Later

In 2008 the nation will commemorate the 75th anniversary of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the start of his New Deal programs. The National New Deal Preservation Association (NNDPA), a non-profit organization that works to identify, document, and preserve the legacy of the New Deal, is spearheading the commemoration to be held between March 2008 and March 2009. To date, organizations and agencies in more than a dozen states have planned events and activities.

Included in the activities is a New Deal symposium to be held at the Library of Congress’s American Folk Life Center in Washington, DC, on March 14, 2008. The following day, a documentary film fest, developed by the National Archives, will premiere in the nation’s capital and then be available for travel around the country. An exhibit entitled, “One Hundred Days... That Saved America” opens March 4 at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, NY. On the same day, a new FDR museum will open in Chicopee, MA. A photo exhibit, “This Great Nation Will Endure: Photographs of the Great Depression,” will travel throughout the year to the various regional NARA offices. On April 4-6, 2008, a symposium on Native American New Deal artists will be held in Santa Fe, NM, at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture.

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

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

For more information on the New Deal 75th Anniversary or to find out how you can become involved, contact NNDPA at <newdeal@cybermesa.com>, call 505-471-3985, or write to P.O. Box 602, Santa Fe, NM 87504. A list of all activities planned to date can be found on our web site at www.newdeal75.org. NNDPA can provide a list of speakers of New Deal events. Another New Deal anniversary web site is www.nedead75.org. Both web sites will be updated as new activities are identified.

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