Karamanski, Hordes, Storey Elected for '88

Theodore Karamanski has been elected Vice-chair of NCPH, Stanley Hordes is the new Treasurer, and Brit Storey continues as Secretary of the organization.

Karamanski succeeds Barbara Howe of West Virginia University, who automatically moves to the position of Chair, replacing Arnita Jones of History Associates, who becomes Past-chair.

Diane Britton of the University of Toledo received the largest number of votes among candidates for the Board of Directors. She automatically becomes a member of the Executive Committee along with the officers and fellow Board member Elliot Brownlee of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

The other new members of the Board of Directors are Pat Harahan of the Office of Air Force History, James Williams of the California History Center, Beth Luey of Arizona State University, Steven Lubar of the National Museum of American History, and Raymond Merritt of St. Cloud State University.

Jeffrey Stine, Principal Investigator of the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway History Project, and Gordon Olson, City Historian of Grand

The Land of Norumbega—

Maine Project Examines Era Of Exploration, Settlement

By Marcia Carlisle
Coordinator
The Land of Norumbega Project

The approaching Columbian Quincentenary has stimulated interest in the European exploration and mapping of America in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. "The Land of Norumbega: Maine in the Age of Exploration and Settlement" is a multi-disciplinary examination of the northern chapter of the exploration story—one long overshadowed by events to the south.

Scholars will document the landscape of life among the Amerindians prior to the arrival of the Europeans; the major European expeditions along the northeastern coast; and the legacy of the early contact and settlement periods as visualized in maps and texts of the time.

Portions of the northeast at times appeared on maps as "Norumbega." The precise spelling, boundaries and location of Norumbega changed from map to map and over time. By 1650, the sprawling regional "Norumbega" of Cornelius Wytfliet's map of 1597 had been reduced to a name for Maine's Penobscot River. By 1700, Norumbega had all but disappeared from maps of the new world.

While it was in fashion, Norumbega was a mystery, a land of enchantment. It served as an incentive to Europeans to continue exploration and settlement. In reality, it was a homeland to a variety of Indi-
Making Ourselves More Useful—
A Cooperative Approach to Equality In Cultural Resources Management

By Edwin A. Lyon
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

For some time historians have been working toward the goal of increased involvement in cultural resources management (CRM). Some successes have resulted but much remains to be accomplished if historians are to become equal partners with archaeologists in CRM.

One way historians can make progress in moving toward this goal is to become involved in cooperative projects with archaeologists. Demonstration by public historians that they are useful to archaeologists will accomplish more than attempting to force archaeologists to use historians in CRM by changing federal regulations.

One current area of great opportunity for cooperation with archaeologists is in archaeological projects to improve access to archaeological documentation (reports, field notes, photographs, maps, drawings, and other material).

As a public historian working as an archaeologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the New Orleans District, I have become increasingly aware of the serious documentation problems facing archaeologists and cultural resource managers. I first became aware of the problem when writing a dissertation on New Deal archaeology in the Southeast. The support of the New Deal for archaeology, especially prehistoric archaeology, allowed archaeologists to excavate many sites and generate large amounts of records.

This material, despite scattered projects to organize some collections, remains in disarray. The locations of records for some projects are unknown. Many collections are not well organized. There are few finding aids available. The rapid development of CRM in the 1970s has only increased the dimensions of the problem.

To begin work on this problem I organized a symposium on preservation of archaeological records at the 1986 Society for American Archaeology (SAA) meeting in New Orleans.

I came away from this meeting encouraged by the positive response of many archaeologists to the statement of a need to develop a program to cope with the problem of preservation of archaeological records.

As a result of this session and the activities of other archaeologists, the SAA appointed a History of Archaeology Committee to begin work on the problem of preservation of archaeological records.

The strategy of the committee has yet to be clearly stated beyond gaining funding for a survey of archaeological records. As a committee member I continue to urge development of a documentation strategy for archaeology to attack the entire range of archaeological documentation problems.

Related efforts are now underway to develop a solution to other aspects of the documentation problem, and coordination will be necessary to achieve a comprehensive solution.

A separate project of the National Park Service (NPS), the National Archaeological Database, is being developed to deal with the problem of CRM reports, also known as the gray literature.

There may be as many as two hundred thousand reports, many only brief letter reports, but thousands containing substantial amounts of historical and archaeological data.

This computerized database will eventually contain three components: a bibliography of CRM reports, a database of CRM projects, and a database of archaeological databases.

A related project is the development of a repository for CRM reports. The NPS, SAA, and Smithsonian Institution are investigating the feasibility of establishing a CRM report repository at the National Anthropological Archives of the Smithsonian Institution. There has been some discussion of microfilming the reports or making them available on CD-ROM.

I suggest that public historians become involved in efforts to cope with the rapidly increasing documentation of archaeology and CRM. A cooperative effort with archaeologists would be one important demonstration that historians are useful in archaeological projects.

Once we crack the reluctance of archaeologists to admit that they cannot do it all by themselves in this area, they may be more receptive to other cooperative projects with historians.

R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc.

Howe Appointed to Parks Study Group

NCPH Chair Barbara Howe has been appointed to the National Parks and Conservation Association's new Committee on Research and Resource Management Policy in the National Park Service.

The committee, which was established with the support and cooperation of the NPS, will spend the next year evaluating and making recommendations on the role of science and resource management in the national park system. Its report is due in the Spring of 1989.

The study is the result of Park Service interest in what its research role should be and how best to use the parks as research resources.

The committee will have about fifteen members and will include both natural and cultural resources specialists. There will probably be a maximum of three historians. The Summer newsletter will contain additional information on the committee and its work. In the meantime, Howe invites anyone who would like to know more or to provide some input to contact her at the Department of History, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506, phone (304) 293-2421.
Secretariat and Newsletter Settle in at Northeastern

By Wayne Anderson
Executive Secretary and
Public History News Editor

It's always interesting, and hectic, learning a new job. It's even more interesting, and hectic, learning two new jobs at once. And it's still more interesting, and hectic, when you already had a job to start with.

Through the late fall and winter, each letter in every morning's stack of mail brought up several tough questions: What's this all about? What needs to be done about it? How can it be done? And finally, can I get away from the office before bedtime tonight, for a change?

But, of course, by the spring more and more of what were once problems are now routine, and best of all, in January I found Jo Madden, the half-time assistant that Northeastern is providing as part of its institutional support for the Council. Thanks to her enthusiastic help, I now get home in time for dinner—as often as not.

Jo is the mother of two teen-aged boys, operates a pushcart business—called Cat Country: Cat Collectibles for the Finicky—in Boston's Fanueil Hall Marketplace, and volunteers in the buddy program of the Boston AIDS Action Committee. As if that and NCPH didn't keep her busy enough, she is working on a B.S. in graphic design and visual communication at Northeastern in the evenings.

Usually Jo is in the NCPH office Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday afternoons. If only she were here the rest of the time! This issue of Public History News is a combined Winter-Spring one. With the change of editors and publication offices last October and November, it wasn't possible to get out the "Fall" issue until two days before Christmas, and the Winter issue was theoretically due out three weeks later. This combined issue was the only practical way to get back on schedule. I sincerely hope that it's worth the wait!

For the record, the copy-submission deadlines for the newsletter are June 1 for the Summer issue, September 1 for Fall, December 1 for Winter, and March 1 for Spring.

Every newsletter editor is always on the lookout for story ideas and for contributions, and your editor is no exception. Can you think of a subject that you'd like to know more about? Do you know examples of noteworthy work by public historians that other NCPH members would be interested in? Do you have an opinion about a public history issue that you'd like to share with the membership? Would you like to write for Public History News? Can you suggest someone else who would?

If the answer to any of those questions—or ones I didn't think to ask—is yes, please contact me and we'll go from there. The phone is (617) 437-2677, and the address is on the back page of this newsletter. Act now. June 1 will be here before you know it!
The annual meeting of NCPH was held in Denver on March 3-6. The final registration was 211, including a healthy number of students who travelled from as far away as Brigham Young University, Indianapolis, and Las Cruces, New Mexico. Attendance was strong at the 36 program sessions, the banquets, the wine reception, and the Denver Pub Crawl.

The participants enjoyed the historic Brown Palace Hotel, and there were many favorable comments on its suitability for this size professional meeting.

Those attending the dinner at The Fort Restaurant enjoyed the amusing talk given by proprietor Sam Arnold, and the return bus trip down the hairpin turns of the Lariat Trail on Lookout Mountain provided a spectacular view of the lights of Denver, with the added attraction of a full moon lighting the snowy landscape.

Many registrants attended the wine reception and enjoyed a social hour highlighted by the beautiful setting of the reading room of the Denver Public Library’s Western History Collection.

Chair Amita Jones followed the annual banquet with interesting and informed observations on the development of the public history movement and the issue of professional credentials for public historians.

In addition to the regular sessions, seven ad hoc sessions were scheduled at the meeting. The heaviest attendance among these was at a session on the existing public history curriculum in Colorado and the ways it could be improved.

As chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee for the meeting, I can report that the Council did not lose money on the meeting and may have actually made a modest amount for NCPH’s treasury.

**Council Seeks Site For 1991 Annual Meeting**

NCPH is looking for institutions, organizations, or individuals interested in hosting the 1991 annual meeting.

We need to know what services the host can provide in terms of such things as staff support, conference facilities, tour possibilities, and dollars. For information, contact NCPH Vice-chair Ted Karamanski, Department of History, Loyola University, 6525 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60626, phone (312) 508-2684.

Site proposals and expressions of interest should be submitted to Ted by September 1, 1988, for consideration by the NCPH Board of Directors at its Fall meeting.
1989 St. Louis Meeting to Focus on Society, War, Revolution, and Public History

By Patricia Mooney Melvin
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Now that our highly successful annual meeting in Denver has drawn to a close, it is time to put together our program for next year. Our 1989 meeting will be a joint one with the Organization of American Historians and will be held in St. Louis.

The general theme of the meeting will be "Consciousness and Society." In addition, a number of anniversaries—the 75th of the outbreak of World War I, the 50th of World War II, and the 25th of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution—will be commemorated in 1989, and we are interested in sessions that explore these events as well as the more general meaning of war in the twentieth century.

Since 1989 is the bicentennial of the French Revolution, we welcome proposals that look beyond the revolution's specific events to the larger question of revolution in American society.

And, last but not least, if we date the founding of the National Council on Public History from the 1979 Montecito meeting, NCPH will be ten years old in 1989. As a result, the 1989 annual meeting would be a perfect setting to review the evolution of public history.

Send all submissions to me, as program chair, at the Department of History, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, AR 72204, by June 1, 1988.

At the 1989 meeting NCPH will also be sponsoring workshops on litigation research, exhibit design and development, media production, local records, and corporate archives. Look for more details on these workshops in upcoming issues of Public History News.

To paraphrase the 1944 movie, Let's Meet in St. Louis!

Board Chooses San Diego for '90

The NCPH Board of Directors at its Denver meeting accepted an offer by the University of San Diego to host the Council's 1990 annual meeting.

The Site Selection Committee noted that the choice of St. Louis for 1989 made an East or West Coast location desireable for 1991, that NCPH has not met on the West Coast since 1984, that the area boasts one of the largest concentrations of public historians, and that San Diego will be a new community for an NCPH meeting.

Ray Brandes, Dean of the Graduate School at the University of San Diego, will chair the Local Arrangements Committee. He reported that San Diego will be an easy destination to reach via direct flights from across the country and noted that the city is an important tourist destination with a wide variety of hotel and conference facilities available for a meeting.

Brandes and Vice-chair Ted Karamanski, who chairs the Site Selection Committee, will prepare a detailed proposal for the Board.

Air Force Historians Consider State of Applied History

By Pat Harahan
Office of Air Force History

"Applied history is history put to use for a client or institution which helps them in dealing with a specific problem or issue."

With this definition, the panel on "The State of Applied History," began at the Air Force Historians Conference held at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Approximately 120 Air Force historians participated in the three day meeting held November 17-19.

Participating on the applied history panel were Arnita Jones, History Associates Inc.; Noel Stowe, Arizona State University; Robert Perry, The Rand Corporation; and Pat Harahan, Office of Air Force History.

Other panels—which attracted military and public historians working for the service from the Pacific, Europe, Alaska, Hawaii, and virtually every state in the continental United States—addressed "Recent Trends in Military History," "Recent Developments in Air Power History," and "Recent Developments in Space History."

Addressing the group from these panels were, for military history: Richard H. Kohn, Office of Air Force History; Edward M. Coffman, University of Wisconsin; Dominick Graham, Royal Military College of Canada; and Ronald H. Spector, US Navy Historical Center.

For air power history, the panel was Richard P. Hallion, Visiting Professor of History, U.S. Army War College; John H. Morrow, University of Tennessee at Knoxville; I.B. Holley, Duke University; and R. Frank Futrell, East Inc.

For space history, panelists were R. Cargill Hall, USAF Historical Research Center; Sylvia D. Fries, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; John F. Guilbert, Ohio State University; and Roger E. Bilsen, University of Houston at Clear Lake.
**BULLETIN**

Edited by MaryAnn Campbell
Northeastern University

• **JOBS/FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS**

  The Oregon Historical Society seeks an Executive Director with Ph.D. or Master's degree in history and strong professional credentials. Deadline: May 1, 1988. Letter of application, detailed resume, and current references to: Search Committee, Frederick Torg, Chmn., Oregon Historical Society, 1230 S.W. Park Ave., Portland, OR 97205.

  The Office of the National Archives, NARA, seeks qualified individuals for entry level staff positions. For information and necessary application forms: Thomas Brown, Office of the National Archives (NN-B), NARA, Washington, DC 20408; (202) 533-3089.

  The Office of Air Force History seeks historians to work within the federal civil service in general staff or research positions throughout the U.S. Write: Office of Air Force History, Hq USAF/CHO, Bldg 5681, Bolling AFB, Washington, DC 20032.

  **The National Endowment for the Humanities** has announced new grants for elementary and secondary school teachers. Fellowship and Seminars, Rm. 316, NEH, Humanities is now accepting applications for Spring 1989 which will explore the theme of Revolution. Contact: Laura Tringone, Conference Coordinator, Hofstra Cultural Center, Hofstra Univ., Hempstead, Long Island, NY 11550; (516) 460-5541/5569.


  **The Tenth Annual North American Building Crafts, Box 1777, Windsor, VT 05089; (802) 674-6752.**

  **The Vermont Conference on Fire Safety and Historic Preservation** will be held in November, 1988. Papers invited. Contact: Preservation Institute for the Building Crafts, Box 1777, Windsor, VT 05089; (802) 674-6752.

  Preservation Alumni, Inc. invites one-page abstracts of papers for a symposium on "Preservation and the Quality of Life" to be held in January, 1989, at Columbia University. Information: Preservation Alumni, Inc., Preservation and the Quality of Life Symposium, Box 669, New York, NY 10027; (212) 985-0609.

  **Twayne Publisher's Oral History Series** invites recommendations, proposals,
and manuscripts appropriate to markets such as public libraries, universities, and college bookstores. Information: Donald A. Ritchie, Associate Historian, Historical Office, US Senate, Washington, DC 20510-7108; (202) 224-6816, or Anne M. Jones, Senior Editor, Twayne Publishers, 70 Lincoln St., Boston, MA 02111; (617) 423-3990.

The Oral History Review seeks to expand its file of potential book reviewers. Interested scholars write to: Linda Shopes, Book Review Editor, Oral History Review, American Studies Dept., Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore, MD 21228.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

The University of Calgary will offer a certificate in historic resource management. Contact: Faculty of Continuing Education, Certificate Programs, Univ. of Calgary, 2500 University Dr. NW, Calgary Alberta T2N 1N4; (403) 220-4719.

The Second Annual Preservation Field School in Charleston, SC will be held June 12-7, 1988. The three week course will serve as an on-site introduction to the preservation process. Information and applications: Dr. Michael C. Scardaville, Dir., Applied History Program, Dept. of History, Univ.of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208; (803) 777-7611 or 777-5195.


PUBLICATIONS
The Directory of Oral History Collections is now available. Edited by Allen Smith, it is a guide to nearly 500 collections in the U.S. including hours of operation and conditions of access, subject index, and interviewee index. Orynx Press.

The International Directory of American Studies Specialists lists name, address, and speciality and includes scholars from more than 50 countries. American Studies International, George Washington Univ. Washington, DC 20052. $5.

The Directory of Federal Historical Programs and Activities is a complete national guide to federal historical activities. American Historical Association, 400 A Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003. $6.

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House

them in the summer issue.

Our board meetings were quite successful in Denver. For one thing, we did not spend all of our time discussing issues related to our journal.

For another, we had no separate executive committee meeting—we have reached the point where the board is making the policy decisions, as it should be, and the executive committee will do the "mop up" work as needed. Several of our new board members were able to attend the meeting, and I hope they did not come away too overwhelmed by the job!

Projects underway are numerous. In addition to the committee reports listed elsewhere in this newsletter, the board voted to contract with Krieger Publishing Co. for two volumes: one on professional ethics edited by Ted Karamanski and one on corporate archives edited by Arniita Jones and Faith Cantelon. We expect that these volumes will include some official notification on the title page that they are being sponsored in some way by NCAPH, as both have grown out of long-standing interests of the organization.

Both contracts will involve a royalty split with the editors so that the majority of the royalties go to NCAPH; my royalties as acquisitions editor for Krieger will also, of course, go to NCAPH for these volumes. We already have a sales agreement with Krieger for the reprint of Report of the Committee on the Records of Government, and we urge you to indicate that you are a NCAPH member when you buy your copies of this publication so that we get an additional royalty fee.

To review future publications, we will have a committee that will look at our publishing outlets and items we may want to publish.

A draft of the new and revised "Guide to Careers for Students of History" is being circulated to board members old and new. Revisions should be back to me by the time you get this newsletter, and the manuscript is due at AHA on June 1. This will widen a wide range of careers and will be marketed with NCAPH's name on it, as well as AHA's.

Given the concerns expressed at our Denver meeting that the academic job market is opening up, thereby possibly leading advisors to ignore public history again, it is timely that we are working on this pamphlet. Copies of the pamphlet will be for sale through NCAPH and the AHA and will be advertised in our newsletter.

An "open meeting" Sunday morning at our conference produced a number of interesting ideas to explore further, and I would like to hear from any of you who want to help with these.

1) Arniita Jones' official address on Saturday raised the issue of credentialing for public historians, an issue that the California Committee for the Promotion of History has worked on for some time. Do we want to "do something" with this as an organization?

2) Ted Karamanski is interested in the idea of a summer institute on cultural resources management, to be held in Chicago in the summer of 1988, possibly modeled on an SAA archives workshop held each year at UCLA. What should be the scope and format of such a workshop?

3) Is it time to start an "oral history of the public history movement" project, perhaps using the 1989 OAHL as a chance to interview some of the senior scholars in the field who worked in World War II government history offices or served as policy advisors for the Brown v. Board Education case? Since we could claim the 1979 Montecito meeting as the birthplace of NCAPH, is it time to interview our "founding mothers and fathers" for our archives?

4) What should we do for and with secondary school teachers?

5) How can we recruit students to major in history and then go on for graduate work? Would a speakers bureau be effective?

6) Is there a need for a research handbook with "nuts and bolts" information on using repositories such as the National Archives and Library of Congress?

7) Is it possible to set up a contractors' "hot line" to get out information on RFPs quickly in some type of "on line" manner?

8) How can we best market NCAPH as an organization?

If you have ideas, comments, volunteer time, or funds, etc., for any of the above ideas, please let me know. There is no point in proceeding where there is no interest.

I am sure I can speak for Ted and Wayne in saying that we look forward to the year ahead and to advancing the cause of public history even further!

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Yes, I'm interested in the following projects for NCAPH:

☐ Credentialing public historians.
☐ CRM summer institute.
☐ Oral history of public history.
☐ Projects with high school teachers.
☐ Speakers bureau.
☐ Research handbook.
☐ Contractors' hotline.
☐ Marketing NCAPH.
☐ Reviewing publications.
☐ Reviewing publishing options.

Comments:

Name:
Position:
Address:
Phone:

Mail to: Barbara Howe, NCAP Chair
Department of History
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV 26506
Or call: (304) 293-2421
The Public Historian at Ten: A Staffer's Retrospective

By Shelley Booksan

The Public Historian will celebrate ten years of publication in Fall of 1988, a mark of longevity deserving of note. The journal has blossomed from an in-house publication to a national one. No longer begging for material, The Public Historian has become a preferred destination for quality copy.

Doubtless the journal’s success is attributable to multiple historical circumstances, here a few in rough chronological order: the vision of G. Wesley Johnson and Robert Kelley; the support of the Rockefeller Foundation and the University of California, Santa Barbara; a dedicated graduate student staff; the fortuitous hiring of Lindsey Reed as assistant editor; the inception, growth, and sponsorship of the National Council on Public History; the development of a national board of editors; and, overriding all, the compelling legitimacy of the public history enterprise.

In Fall 1978, the graduate students of the Public Historical Studies program at the University of California, Santa Barbara, under the editorship of G. Wesley Johnson and with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, proudly distributed, gratis, a few hundred of the 500-run first issue. UCSB history interns and UCSB history faculty, among others, contributed articles.

The UCSB faculty committee in charge of the public history program also served as the editorial committee. A UCSB history department appointee shot the cover photo. A publisher up the road printed the issue. Subsequent issues in that first volume also represented on-site, ad hoc effort, with the added complication of an absentee editor.

Such a provincial publication would not have attracted sustaining interest and participation nationwide had there been another outlet for public historians. But, in fact, there was none, although public historians turned out to be everywhere.

In his introductory editorial, Dr. Johnson posited that there were eight sectors of public history. His guess was an educated one, but since no forum existed until then to exchange information about the practice of history outside of an academic aegis, no one really knew what public history consisted of.

The graduate student staff of the journal knew we were pioneers in an important intellectual movement, and we purposefully asked all contributors to address the relationship of their research to the amorphous field. Some contributors balked at the request, preferring readers to infer whatever they might.

The staff, however, persisted in the belief that the journal’s main editorial role was to define our movement without confusing it. Insofar as today’s readers can both articulate what public history is and see its potential and vitality, the journal has been an editorial success.

In its tenth volume, The Public Historian, now a valued publication of the University of California Press, boasts nearly 1200 paid subscriptions. References to TPH articles regularly appear in other history journals as well as journals representing other disciplines, such as planning and geography. Indeed, evidence is mounting that people actually read The Public Historian. The staff is proud.

Here’s to the next ten years.

Gillam, Bernstein Win Johnson Article Award

The NCPH’s G. Wesley Johnson Award for the best article in The Public Historian in 1987 has gone to Richard Gillam and Barton J. Bernstein of Stanford University for “Doing Harm: The DES Tragedy and Modern American Medicine,” which appeared in the Winter issue.

The selection committee cited the article as “a work distinguished by its rigorous scholarship, exhaustive research, clear writing, and committed point of view...[which] contributes significantly to public history literature by demonstrating the usefulness of historical method and perspective when applied to contemporary public issues previously obscured by non-historical analysis.”

The citation adds that “the committee hopes that the article’s success will inspire the submission of more original research to The Public Historian.”

-Rapids, Michigan, were elected to the Nominating Committee.

Karamanski is an associate professor of history at Loyola University of Chicago. He is a specialist in North American frontier history and is the coordinator of Loyola’s Program in Public History and the director of the Mid-American Research Center, a public history consulting organization.

Hordes is a principal consultant in the historical consulting firm of HMS Associates and is based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Storey is on the Denver staff of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The NCPH is responsible to two constituencies: the historical profession and the public,” Karamanski noted in his ballot statement.

“Because public history is less a new field of history than it is an approach to the past, it is essential for the National Council to work with traditional professional organizations to expand the acceptance of applied history.”

“The public history approach is the best way to restore a sense of purpose to the historical profession and give the public a sense of history.”

“...and, therefore,” he concluded, “not only important for NCPH to continue to cooperate with other professional associations. It is necessary to initiate new programs, particularly in the area of secondary education.”

Karamanski will succeed Barbara Howe as Chair at the 1989 Annual Meeting.
History through the Grass Roots—
Texas Programs Use Local History
As a Teaching Tool

By David C. De Boe
Director of Educational Services
Texas State Historical Association

A historical exhibit on “David the Bubble Boy,” Lobelley, a student magazine of local history, dedicated to the varied uses of black wash pots in East Texas. A pre-Civil War brick building in historic Jefferson restored by high school students. A Texas Bingo Game. All of these are examples of exciting history projects produced by young Texas historians.

History has moved out of the classroom and out of the textbook in a number of Texas communities to become a living chronicle of those communities.

The teaching potential of local history was the premise upon which the noted Texas historian Walter Prescott Webb founded the Junior Historian movement. Since its origins in 1939, thousands of junior and senior high school students have used their textbook knowledge of Texas history to explore the history of their own communities.

Texas is one of a handful of states with an outstanding Junior Historian program. The others include Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Idaho, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.

Although each state’s program operates independently of the others, the directors of the various Junior Historian groups confer at least once a year to compare notes. At these meetings there is inevitably some good-natured rivalry about which state started first—Indiana or Texas.

The Texas State Historical Association (TSHA), which sponsors the program in Texas, has a sponsors’ handbook for the Junior Historian clubs. The handbook provides everything from a rationale for local history (to help students discover “a new type of history—a living history—where he or she lives and goes to school”) to a guide to organizing a temporary museum-artifact show.

The Association also publishes five times a year the Texas Historian, a journal exclusively for student publication. Recent titles reflect the variety of local research: “Rebecca Stuart Red: Fulfilling Educational Rights of Texas’ Young Women,” “Jay Gould’s Curse on Jefferson: A Nineteenth Century Legend Disproved,” and “T. V. Munson: The Texan Who Saved the Vineyards of France.”

From time to time the TSHA also sponsors special projects such as the “Adopt-A-Building” preservation program which we opened up to chapters during the Sesqui-centennial of the Texas Revolution. In 1986 participating chapters had an opportunity to "academically" adopt a building or other man-made landmark in their communities which had not been previously researched.

Through a ten-minute media presentation, displays, and outreach programs, Junior Historians spent an academic school year uncovering information about their site’s architectural and social history. In the process, students developed a new interest in the role buildings have played in the history of their communities.

They also increased preservation awareness in their own neighborhoods, and, in at least one instance, their extensive primary research on the site’s history produced a historical marker.

This kind of research helps students to discover their own communities and, often, to discover their own parents and grandparents.

One Mexican-American student discovered that his grandfather had ridden with Pancho Villa during the Mexican Revolution. Another student talked with a neighbor who "flew the air mail" before airlines carried passengers, and yet another discovered that her aunt had been a justice of the peace in a small West Texas town, providing the community with its only law and order during the early oil boom days.

In recent years, the Association has broadened its educational programs to include a strong teacher component as well.

Each June the TSHA and the history department at the University of Texas at Austin sponsor a two-week Institute of Texas Studies wherein a teacher can earn six hours of graduate-level credit. This inter-disciplinary course is designed to immerse the teacher in the totality of the Texas experience.

This June teachers will hear experts from the following fields: geology, botany, religion, music, art, folklore, and, of course, the history of Texas, Spain, and Mexico. Each lecturer will try to explain from his or her perspective why Texas is unique.

In August of each year the TSHA sponsors a workshop. This two-day event includes presentations by leaders who provide practical ways for teachers to enrich their classes by using local resources and community experiences.

Exploration are such topics as “Integrating Women into the Texas History Curriculum,” “Using Literature to Enrich the Teaching of Texas History,” and “Using Family Photographs to Document Historical Change.”

Something new that has just been added to our program is Insight—a newsletter for elementary and secondary social studies teachers. The goal of this latest endeavor is to encourage the integration of Texas’ heritage into the curriculum and to provide materials to accomplish that goal.

Each newsletter spotlights existing programs that can serve as models or resources for community studies. Each issue also contains a “how to” section highlighting a facet of community studies along with some suggested activities.

Past issues have focused on such things as using living history in the classroom, how to do a cemetery restoration and inventory, and architecture as a window to Texas history.

Further issues are planned around ethnic groups in Texas and how to use historical markers to enliven classroom teaching.

Through these activities, we hope students (and perhaps teachers, too) are learning that history is not just a record of "old folks and dead folks.” By studying their home communities we hope students will discover that they have a tangible relationship with the past.
National Archives Moves Forward on New Building

The National Archives and Records Administration is moving closer to a decision on the location for the building of a major new research and archives center. The leading site for the 1.7 million square foot building is a 37 acre plot on the University of Maryland campus at College Park.

On March 4 the subcommittee on finance and physical plant of the University of Maryland’s Board of Regents met to consider the proposal and indicated a willingness to donate the land but not release the title. Since the federal government has a policy of building only on land it officially owns, this matter was left unresolved.

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You, Too, Can Help Public History Causes In Washington!

Page Putnam Miller and the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History look out for our interests in Washington, but they can always use your help in promoting public history causes.

Can you spare a little time and energy to write or call key legislators? To organize fellow public historians? To share your excitement with your colleagues? To help in promoting public history causes?

If the answer is yes, please fill out the form below (or a copy) and mail it to Page Putnam Miller, NCC, 400 A St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, or call her at (202) 544-2422. Now!

Yes, I want to help promote the cause of public history in Washington! I can help by:

☐ writing letters
☐ making calls
☐ organizing colleagues
☐ testifying at hearings

My fields of expertise include:

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

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Legislative issues that particularly concern me include:

Name: _____________________
Address: _____________________
Phone: _____________________
Representative: _____________________
Senators: _____________________

Park Service’s collections are fair to poorly documented. Many parks, however, have never had adequate funding or staff for historical research and thus they have limited knowledge of the very resources the parks were established to commemorate.

Other FY’89 Budget Requests Also Inadequate

The National Archives is slated for a small increase from $116 million in FY’88 to $117.862 million in FY’89. While this budget includes new money for the Reagan Library, the opening of a significant part of the Vietnam records, and various special one-time administrative costs, the net result of this budget for the National Archives is level operational funds.

The Administration has once again recommended zero funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. And the President’s budget includes no funding for the National Trust for Historic Preservation nor the Historic Preservation Fund’s matching grants to the states.

Supporters of NHPRC and historic preservation will again have to go to congress to make the case for the funding of these important programs.

House Hearings Held on NHPRC Funding Bill

On February 17, the House subcommittee on Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture of the Government Operations Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3933, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission Amendments of 1988. H.R. 3933 authorizes appropriations at a level of $5 million for fiscal years 1989 and 1990, $8 million for FY 1991 and 1992, and $10 million for FY 1993. Thus the House bill differs in funding levels from S. 1856 which specifies $10 million for each of the next five years.

Representative Jack Brooks (D-TX), who introduced H.R. 3933, is joined in sponsoring legislation by Representative Glenn English (D-OK), the Chair of the Subcommittee, as well as the ranking minority members of the full committee and the Government Information Subcommittee, Congressmen Frank Horton (R-NY) and Al McCandless (R-CA).

Charles Bickford, testifying on behalf of the NCC, spoke of the far-reaching impact of NHPRC-supported publications and records projects. Since the inception of the grants program, Bickford noted, the NHPRC has provided leadership for a revolution in the publication of documentary sources and then, since 1974, a movement to preserve primary sources relating to our history and culture.

Supporters of NHPRC need to contact their Representatives and Senators to seek additional cosponsors for S. 1856 and H.R. 3933.

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My fields of expertise include:

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Legislative issues that particularly concern me include:

Name: _____________________
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Representative: _____________________
Senators: _____________________
an peoples, among them the Souriquois, Etchemin, Almouchiquois and Abenaki. Indians and Europeans met in an historic encounter of cultures, the complexity of which is still unfolding in scholarly literature today.

To better understand Norumbega in myth and reality, the Maine Humanities Council (MHC) is sponsoring "The Land of Norumbega: Maine in the Age of Exploration and Settlement." The project is made possible in part by an Exemplary Award Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This is the fourth such grant in five years the MHC has received.

The MHC initiated the two-year schedule of events by hosting a symposium on February 27 on "Norumbega and the New Geography." The day-long program featured speakers and workshops that raised issues about what geography is and what geographers do.

John Allen, Professor of Historical Geography at the University of Connecticut and John Stilgoe, Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, gave keynote addresses that set the stage for discussions about methodology and content which followed.

In the workshops, historians, anthropologists, archaeologists, philosophers and geographers explored the different ways various disciplines interpret geographic information and use maps as texts and tools. A series of teachers' programs in the coming year will expose a wider audience to the issues and perspectives raised there.

On December 2-3, 1988, the council will host an international conference on history, cartography and geography that will coincide with the opening of an exhibition of rare maps and atlases at the Portland Museum of Art. Many of the works in the exhibition will be from the L.M.C. Smith collection of maps and atlases recently donated to the University of Southern Maine.

Susan Danforth, Curator of Maps and Prints at the John Carter Brown Library of Brown University, will curate the show. Conference speakers now scheduled include David Quinn, Emeritus Professor of Modern History at the University of Liverpool; Professor David Woodward and Brian Harley of the History of Cartography Project at the University of Wisconsin; and James Axtell, Professor of History at the College of William and Mary.

Following these events, a slide presentation and a low-security exhibit will begin a twelve-site tour of the state.

The project enlists the cooperation and expertise of many scholars and cultural institutions in Maine and New England. For further information on the project write: The Land of Norumbega: Maine in the Age of Exploration and Settlement, The Maine Humanities Council, P.O. Box 7202, Portland, ME 04112.

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National Council on Public History Presents--

NCPH-Sponsored Publications On Public History

- **Report of the Committee on the Records of Government**
  A report proposing means by which governments at all levels can identify and preserve records of historical value. $14.50

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  A directory of courses taught, criteria for admission, degrees offered, areas of emphasis, internships, enrollment, and public history employment success at 80 history departments. Members: $7.50; Non-members: $9.00

- **Guide to Continuing Education for Public Historians**
  A directory of courses, seminars, workshops, and other training programs for working public historians offered by 59 institutions and organizations. Members: $5.50; Non-members: $7.00

- **Public History Syllabus Packet**
  A collection of syllabi used in 52 public history courses taught at 24 different institutions. Members: $8.00; Non-members: $9.00

To order: Send check or money order to:
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Organization _________________________
Department __________________________
Address ________________________________
City ___________________ State _____ Zip _____

(Make check payable to NCPH) NCPH member: Yes ☐ No ☐
The Council is pleased to announce that it has received enough listings to proceed with the publication of its directory of historical consultants.

The publication date had not been set at press time, but there will be an update in the next newsletter.

The deadline for submitting listings has been extended to June 1, and early entries may be updated until that time.

It should be noted that the nature of the computer system being used makes a full page the minimum-sized listing and that the fee for a listing includes the right to a reduced rate for an update in the next edition.

While production is in progress, a special committee will be exploring the question of what marketing strategy will give the director the broadest possible range of distribution beyond the federal agencies that are the most obvious targets.

The committee is scheduled to report June 1. In the meantime, comments and suggestions are invited.

The committee members appointed by the time this issue went to press are as follows:

Karen Smith, Salt River Project, Box 52025, Phoenix, AZ 85072, phone (602) 236-8705,

Stan Hordes, HMS Associates, Box 4543, Santa Fe, NM 87502, phone (505) 983-6564, and

Jim Williams, California History Center, DeAnza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014, phone (408) 996-4712.

-Anderson

try make contacts and discuss issues of mutual concern, and he hopes to continue that work this year with the Society of American Archeologists.

The Curriculum and Training Committee, chaired by Phil Scarpino, is in the process of determining the audience and purpose of an updated slide-tape explaining public history. The committee's tentative goal is to have a product ready to be shown at the 1989 annual meeting in St. Louis.

The Publications Committee, which has been chaired by Anna Nelson, is continuing its work on the directory of consultants. It will also be working on a marketing flyer for the careers booklet that Barb Howe is writing for joint distribution by NCPH and the AHA, and it will be formulating guidelines for NCPH endorsement of publications in the Krieger public history series.

The Nominating Committee, chaired last year by Marty Reuss, has recommended that NCPH follow the AASLH's procedure of asking potential candidates for summaries of their previous service to the Council and has suggested that the by-laws be changed to require that candidates' memberships be in good standing.

The By-laws Committee, headed by Wayne Rasmussen, recommended some limited changes, but the Board felt the need for a comprehensive review with an eye toward reducing the size of the Board and combining the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. The committee's report is due by August 1 for consideration at the fall Board meeting.

The Awards Committee, which Pat Harahan heads, has been considering the criteria for awarding a biennial prize of $500 offered by History Associates. The preliminary report recommended rewarding newer public historians who are having an impact on the profession. The committee is to make a final report at the fall Board meeting.

A general Marketing Committee was also created by the Board to take a comprehensive look at our products and services.

All our committees would be pleased to hear from any NCPH member who has ideas or suggestions. Until we are able to publish a complete list of committee chairs and ways to contact them, they can be reached in care of either Barb or me. We hope to hear from you.