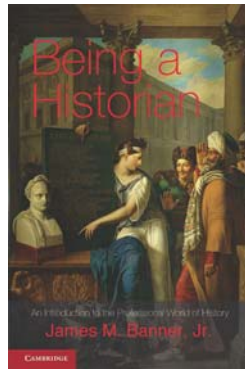


## Being a Historian

*James A. Banner is co-founder of the History News Service and a founder of the National History Center in Washington, D.C. Historian in Residence at American University, a former Guggenheim Fellow, and former member of the history department of Princeton University, Banner is the author of several books including his newest work, Being a Historian: An Introduction to the Professional World of History (Cambridge University Press, 2012), the source and subject of this interview by NCPH Executive Director John Dichtl.*

**Q:** Jim, thank you for talking with me about your new book. I am interested that you make the distinction between the single “discipline” of history and the many “professions” in which historians practice that discipline. Why is it necessary to differentiate “discipline” from “profession,” and where does public history fit?



A: It seems to me that the distinction stands on its own, for other disciplines as well as for history. The distinction is relevant to history in at least three ways. First, it opens up a new way of telling and understanding the discipline’s history—a history that has until recently been mis-told. Public history was part of the discipline from the start; but that history has had to be reconstructed in recent years after we lost that story’s thread. Second, it helps us bring all the professions and occupations in which history is practiced—academic, government, consulting, museums, national parks, and the like—into greater equality and balance of legitimacy, esteem,

**“Public history was part of the discipline from the start.”**

recognition, and reward. Third, it helps undergird and justify the better preparation of aspiring historians, so that all—all!—graduate students are prepared for—not just introduced to—the entire range of intellectual and occupational choices they have to make and see their professional responsibilities to inhere both in knowing, keeping up with, and applying the discipline’s intellectual developments and in being skilled at bringing this knowledge to bear on a wide variety of tasks: research, teaching, and all the elements of the large variety of history work that we know of as public history.

**Q:** I was intrigued by a statement of purpose in the Preface: “I examine here what practicing historians do, where they carry

*continued on page 8 →*

## A “Milepost” for Public History in Seattle Kevin Bartoy | bartoyk@wsdot.wa.gov

On December 1, 2011, the Washington State Department of Transportation’s (WSDOT) Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program opened Milepost 31, an information and history center, in Seattle’s Pioneer Square Historic District. As the first center of its kind for WSDOT, Milepost 31 is a unique outlet that puts the viaduct replacement work, particularly the State Route 99 Tunnel Project, in context with the rich and robust past of the Pioneer Square neighborhood. It serves as a model of going above and beyond the basic requirements of project mitigation.

WSDOT committed to developing a project information center as part of a Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement. The agreement states that the information center should draw visitors to Pioneer Square during viaduct replacement construction and educate them about the past, present and future of the neighborhood; serve as a resource to the public; and spotlight the unique historical, archaeological and engineering aspects of the SR 99 Tunnel Project, which will build the world’s largest diameter bored tunnel beneath the City of Seattle.

The center’s name, Milepost 31, refers to the milepost on SR 99 where the tunnel will begin to travel under Pioneer Square, and thus where the future will meet the past. Milepost 31’s exhibits are designed to establish the connection between the natural and cultural history of Seattle’s “engineered” landscape and the role that people have had in shaping the Pioneer Square neighborhood. WSDOT collaborated with the Burke Museum’s Waterlines Project; HistoryLink; the National Park Service’s Klondike National Historical Park; the Suquamish, Muckleshoot, Tulalip and Snoqualmie tribes; and The Alliance for Pioneer Square to design and develop content for the exhibits. The center occupies 2,270 square feet in a historic building and is designed to be ADA accessible.



*continued on page 7 →*



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The National Council on Public History inspires public engagement with the past and serves the needs of practitioners in putting history to work in the world by building community among historians, expanding professional skills and tools, fostering critical reflection on historical practice, and publicly advocating for history and historians.

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Robert Weyeneth  
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## The River is Rising

Each of our professional lives has its own rhythms, whether it's the seasonality of semesters, the deadlines for deliverables, or the ebb and flow of agency budgets. One of the constants for NCPH members is our annual meeting. It's invariably a time to take stock of the intellectual vibrancy of our field, and it's always an occasion to see long-time friends and meet new colleagues who are doing interesting and important work.

Our annual conference this year in Milwaukee was also a chance to recognize Marty Blatt for his many contributions to NCPH over the last four years, first as our vice-president and then as president. Much has happened on Marty's watch, and his legacy to NCPH is significant. NCPH is a flourishing and financially stable organization in a booming field with a bright future. Internally, NCPH has a fresh and imaginative long-range plan that will guide—and inspire—us over the next five years. Looking outward, we have established a new advocacy policy that will make us more nimble and effective in commenting on issues that affect both the profession and the place of history in public life. On-going discussions about the future of the journal create myriad opportunities to envision and re-envision. As significant as anything, NCPH has embraced two intersecting and transforming ways forward: new digital directions and a path to internationalizing the field.

The Milwaukee meeting was also a time for me to look back personally. I joined NCPH in 1988, a few years out of graduate school in a department that, despite its multiple strengths, had little regard for public history. Like many public historians, I had a “conversion experience” when discovering the field. Back in 1979, with a grad school friend, I organized a college course on the environmental history of the Mississippi River designed to move the classroom outdoors through a summer-long canoe expedition that paddled a thousand miles from the Minnesota headwaters to Mark Twain's Hannibal. I returned with lots of adventures, a bad back, and a passion for public history. Later, as a faculty member at the University of Hawaii, my interests in the built environment led me into historic preservation, and I found a unique intellectual satisfaction in applying academic expertise in consultant's reports that actually had a real-world impact. I joined NCPH in this period, just before leaving Honolulu to establish a consulting practice in British Columbia and Washington State. My first NCPH conference was Valley Forge in 1993, shortly after I joined the Applied History Program at the University of South Carolina.

Much has happened in our field over the twenty years I've been in South Carolina. For one thing, “public history” has largely displaced

“applied history” as the name for our collective enterprise. Beyond nomenclature, we can point to much good news just in terms of developments within the academy. Countless university colleagues have discovered public history. As a result, both the AHA and the OAH are making concerted efforts to embrace the field. The path-breaking report, *Tenure, Promotion, and the Publicly Engaged Academic Historian* (2010), received well-deserved attention as an important collaboration among NCPH, OAH, and AHA. The proliferation of public history programs has become a veritable flood. The Guide to Public History Programs on the NCPH website lists 142 institutions that offer some graduate training; 76 institutions have undergraduate programs with public history content. Forty-two states offer programs in the United States, and seven other countries are listed in the Guide: Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

Those of us who have done evangelical work to spread the gospel of public history will welcome this transformation in higher education. Already, though, we are hearing concerns about the burgeoning program numbers. Public history may help universities demonstrate civic engagement, a commitment to community service, or dedication to public humanities, but some wonder if there are too many programs, at least in the United States. Is the river rising too fast? Critics concede that public history may help students answer the question “What are you going to do with a history major?” but ask if there are jobs for graduates. Some blame the quality of public history education for the perceived crisis, while others maintain the problem is structural: for all the graduates placed in high-profile national institutions, public history employment remains largely dependent on jobs at the state and local levels, where the repercussions of the economic downturn continue to devastate budgets.

It's time to survey the terrain. Let's look at how public history is being taught and where graduates are really getting jobs. Let's learn who is teaching public history and whether they are practitioners with knowledge of the skills their students will need in public history employment. Let's look, too, at whether departments are giving their public history faculty the resources they need: staff support, release time, summer salary, 11-month appointments, dedicated budget lines, appropriate tenure and promotion guidelines. How are faculty generating their own external and internal funding? What can we learn from each other and how can we make the best case for public history in the academy going forward?



# 2012 Annual Meeting Photos from Milwaukee



Andreas Etges (third from right) for the International Federation for Public History and NCPH's John Dichtl greet a delegation of historians building a public history movement in China. From left: Wang Xu, Xiamen University, President of China's American History Association; Wang Xi, Indiana University Pennsylvania; Ren Donglai, Nanjing University and the John Hopkins-Nanjing University Center; and Liang Mao-Xin, Northeast Normal University.



Jo Blatti visits the poster presentation by Emily Oswald and Erik Ingmundson, "Interpreting W.E.B. Du Bois in the Town of His Birth."



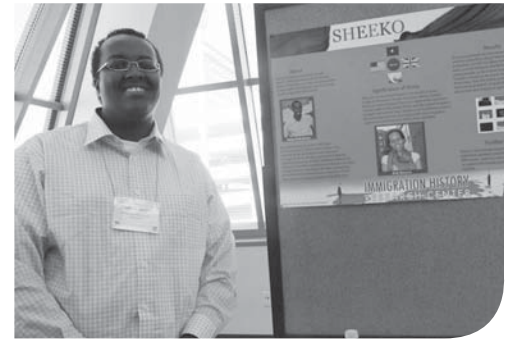
Tulips outside of the conference center.



Thanks to the Consultants Committee and key sponsors for making this year's gathering a success.



The technical experts who provided insight at the NCPH's first-ever Digital Drop-In: (Left to right) Tom Scheinfeldt, Tim Roberts, Mark Tebeau, Suzanne Fischer, Jordan Grant, Jack Dougherty, Trevor Owens, Sheila Brennan, Stephen Robertson, and Elena Razlogova.



Mustafa Jamale and his poster session display, "Sheeko: Archiving Immigrant Stories at the Immigration History Research Center."



Tables along the route from the hotel to the convention center, such as this one by the Ultimate History Project, provided historical sustenance between sessions.



Public History reception.



Elizabeth Morse and Jonathan Yang talking about their poster, "Love, Herbs, and Folklore at the Nation's Heirloom Garden," with Jim Gardner.



Speed networking.



Speed networking.

# → Committees on the Go

These updates give a sampling of what NCPH volunteers are doing for the organization. The committees encourage your input throughout the year. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please email the vice president or executive director. Contact information for officers and committee chairs and members is listed on the NCPH website at <http://ncph.org/cms/about/boards-and-committees/>.

## **NCPH Consultant's Committee**

Last year the committee welcomed news that committee member Bill Willingham was elected to the NCPH Board and was willing to fulfill a dual board-committee role. Last fall, committee members offered informed comments and advice on the draft NCPH Long Range Plan, which the organization adopted in 2012. The genesis of several Milwaukee conference working groups and sessions owe their origins to the committee's autumn-winter deliberations and its active membership: these included historians in legal affairs, pricing public history services, and historians evaluating historical roadways as preservation worthy. In advancing consultants' presence in social media, committee members have made their largest contribution. Building on Morgen Young's growing consultant's Twitter feed Adina Langer and Morgen teamed with the NCPH Digital Media Group (Cathy Stanton, chair/editor) to carve out a "Consultant's Corner" on the new NCPH blog, *History@Work*. The Consultants Committee also lent support for a digital desk in the "Public History Commons" in Milwaukee to help promote the new blog. An important task before the committee each year is sponsorship of the conference Consultant's Reception. For 2012, private public history enterprises contributed a record amount for the reception, which once again served as a gathering point for a diverse assemblage of historians active in the public history field.

## **Curriculum & Training Committee**

The Curriculum and Training Committee sponsored another successful Speed Networking session at the Annual Meeting, involving thirty established professionals who met with approximately fifty-five graduate students and new professionals. The committee continues to add to its "Recommended Readings for Public History Courses" introduced last year and posted on the NCPH website. This year, the committee is working on the topic of Historic Preservation. The committee is also completing its last installment of best practices documents: Introduction to Public History. Feedback

gained from this year's annual meeting Educators' Breakfast will be used to determine the topic of sessions and a workshop that the committee will sponsor at the 2013 conference. Discussion from the breakfast also will shape the committee's approach to conducting a survey of public history programs and updating the NCPH online *Guide to Public History Programs*.

## **New Professional and Graduate Student Committee**

The committee chairs created three subcommittees to focus efforts of reaching out to new members of the profession. The Meeting Subcommittee organized an informal and highly successful social outing at the Milwaukee Ale House on the first night of the annual meeting. The Needs Subcommittee is identifying and addressing specific issues which new professionals and graduate students face, such as networking with established professionals, finding opportunities for practical experience, and identifying and pursuing valuable job leads. Opportunities for networking at the annual meeting in Milwaukee and in Ottawa next

year include the Dine-Arounds, Speed Networking, and our mentoring program. The NCPH website already categorizes job and internship leads. The committee will help to promote these and other opportunities for obtaining practical experience on listservs and via social networking, news bulletins, the NCPH blog, and by highlighting the available information on the NCPH homepage. The Blog Subcommittee has been working with Laura Miller and Cathy Stanton to locate contributors and develop content for the new NCPH blog, *History@Work*.

## **Digital Media Group**

NCPH's digital presence continues to grow, particularly with the recent launch of the new multi-section, multi-author "*History@Work*" blog ([www.publichistorycommons.org](http://www.publichistorycommons.org)). Hosted at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media but owned and edited by NCPH, the new blog is designed to bring together many strands of professional conversation about public history. "*Off the Wall*" has now been absorbed into "*History@Work*" as a sub-section of the larger blog. The first run of "*Off the Wall*" (June 2010 to December 2011) has

## **Actions of the NCPH Board of Directors**

Between the Fall 2011 and the Spring 2012 board meetings, the board took the following action:

- Met on December 20, 2011, and voted to terminate NCPH's contract with the University of California Santa Barbara to house the editorial offices of *The Public Historian*.

On Thursday, April 19, 2012, the NCPH Board of Directors convened during the Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and took the following actions:

- Agreed to assist the newly formed International Federation for Public History in establishing mechanisms for handling membership dues.
- Directed the Finance Committee to report by the board's fall meeting 2012 on current best practices for conducting the audit and for providing fiscal oversight of a nonprofit.
- Voted to secure the trademark to NCPH's new blog, *History@Work*.
- Approved the Minutes of the Fall 2011 Board Meeting in Richmond, Virginia, as amended.
- Voted unanimously to adopt the new five-year Long Range Plan (2012-2017) as proposed by the Long Range Planning Committee and presented to the membership.
- Reviewed preliminary plans for the 2013 Annual Meeting in Ottawa, Canada.
- In preparation for the following day's (April 20) meeting with the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) Department of History to discuss the NCPH-UCSB disagreement over *The Public Historian*, the board revisited the recent history of the NCPH-UCSB relationship, discussed the possibility of creating a new journal with American University and the Smithsonian Institution, and considered other options. For an update on all the news related to the journal situation at the Annual Meeting, see: <http://publichistorycommons.org/update-on-the-journal/>

Following the Spring 2012 board meeting, the board took the following action:

- Met on May 15, 2012, to discuss the resignation of Marty Blatt as Immediate Past President and elected Bill Bryans to fill the two-year term. The board also heard an update on the ongoing negotiations with UCSB on an interim agreement.



had more than 33,000 pageviews. H-Public has grown considerably over the past year, a 13% increase for a total of 2,077 subscribers. NCPH's social media presence also continues to expand, with 1,533 Facebook friends (a 29% increase) and 496 members of our LinkedIn group (a striking 50% increase). At the Milwaukee conference, the Digital Media Group sponsored three sessions: a second THATCamp NCPH on the Wednesday of the conference (with 70 participants registered), a "Lightning Talk" lunchtime session where speakers announced new digital projects in two-minute presentations (13 presentations and 60 attendees), and a "Digital Drop-In" offering brief consultation sessions with 10 knowledgeable digital historians on a range of topics.

### Development Committee

The Development Committee met with the Board of Directors during the annual conference in Milwaukee to discuss the next steps in building the endowment. Discussion centered on the Legacy Circle, which has been a principal accomplishment of the committee over the last few years. There was consensus that a consistent, low-keyed effort to add members to the circle should continue. Committee and board members also agreed that NCPH should strive to cultivate a culture of philanthropy among its membership, particularly with students and new members, encouraging a far greater portion of the

members to make even small (\$5-\$10) contributions each year. In the coming months the committee and board will find places where NCPH's new long range plan intersects with the goals of potential supporters (individuals, corporate, foundations, etc.), prepare a comprehensive development plan, and explore the availability and cost of retaining fundraising expertise to assist the Development Committee.

### Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee has worked with the Board of Directors to create a written advocacy policy which will guide NCPH's efforts to speak out on behalf of history, historians, historical institutions, and the public history profession. During the annual meeting in Milwaukee, the committee discussed avenues of keeping NCPH members informed—such as the new *History@Work* blog—about emerging issues and debates. One objective of the advocacy policy and NCPH's 2012-2017 Long Range Plan is to support open dialogue and informed discussion about history's relationship to contemporary debates. The committee, therefore, may identify an issue that is particularly pressing or being debated in the city where the annual meeting is being held and suggest to the Program Committee a plenary speaker to provide historical perspective on that issue, dedicate a session or track to historical perspectives on that issue,

and tie the service project to that issue in some way. In addition to using the annual meeting, the committee recommends that there be an ongoing segment of *The Public Historian* that historicizes a contemporary issue.

### 2013 Program Committee Meeting

Members of the program committee for next year's Ottawa conference are already hard at work. A streamlined system for proposing sessions and other events is on the NCPH website, and the Call for Proposals will be open through July 15. The Call for Posters will be issued in September. Some of the ideas discussed for sessions include a walking tour of the Ottawa River featuring experts from history, geology, archaeology, and other disciplines; a material culture equivalent of the unconference style THATCamp on digital history; a comparative Parks Canada and National Park Service session; climate change and historic sites; Ottawa as a planned city compared to Washington, D.C., as a planned city; an "Ignite" or "Lightning Talks" session with automatically advancing slides; a workshop on podcasting; and a comparative War of 1812 session. The International Federation for Public History will be using the meeting as their first annual conference, so this is an opportunity to have more comparative and international sessions.

## A "Milepost" for Public History in Seattle (cont. from page 1)

Visitors to Milepost 31 browse through four sections:

- "You Are Here" tells the story of the land upon which the visitor stands from the first-person perspective of several different historical figures.
- "Moving Land" examines how the natural forces of glaciers, earthquakes and volcanoes and cultural forces of regrades and landfills have transformed Seattle's landscape during the past 20,000 years.
- "Moving People" tracks transportation over time in Pioneer Square.
- "Moving Forward" explains the history of tunneling technology, tunneling in Seattle, and the SR 99 Tunnel Project.

From the perspective of a public historian, or public archaeologist in my case, the opening of Milepost 31 provided a remarkable opportunity to present almost ten years of historical and archaeological research that has been developed through the project's environmental process. This research would normally be shelved in environmental impact statements and Section 106 documents that a limited number of people would access. The center allowed for this research in the public interest to truly become interesting to the public. Milepost 31 allows many publics to learn more about Seattle's past, present and future and enhances the viability of this economically challenged historic district comprised of many locally-owned, small businesses.

Since the information center opened, approximately 1,665 people have stopped by to explore the space and ask questions about the SR 99 Tunnel Project. This seems to be a respectable number, given the size of the center, the opening in winter at the lull of tourist season, and the absence of marketing, which will be rolled out to coincide with spring

tourism. While most visitors provide positive comments, Milepost 31 has not been without its detractors. Early press coverage incorrectly identified the center as a "museum to a highway" and questioned the use of taxpayer funds for such an endeavor. At a time when budgets are being cut, some state legislators were also asking these questions. The Secretary of Transportation, Paula Hammond, appeared on local media programs to explain the complete story of Milepost 31, including its importance as a component of the agency's mitigation to avoid effects on historic resources. Since that time, the media coverage has been positive and those individuals who visit the center have agreed that it is anything but a "museum to a highway."

Those involved in the creation of Milepost 31 initially assumed that the design and fabrication of such a center in less than six months would be the greatest challenge. Although that was indeed a challenge, the most difficult obstacle has been educating a variety of audiences about federal and state mandates that require us to consider the effects of our projects on cultural resources. In so doing, we are finding ourselves trying to teach the lesson laid out in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that "the spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage." Over 40 years since this legislation was passed, we are finding that we have a long way to go to achieve its legislative intent.

*Kevin M. Bartoy is a cultural resources specialist for the Washington State Department of Transportation Environmental Services Office in Seattle and is the co-editor of Between Dirt and Discussion: Methods, Methodology, and Interpretation in Historical Archaeology (Springer, 2006).*

# Being a Historian (cont. from page 1)

out their work, how the changing world of historical practices affects the choices they make, and what aspiring historians especially might consider as they prepare to make those choices—matters that are rarely encountered formally in graduate schools.” As you go on to point out, public history programs do address these issues. Is the problem that too many history departments simply do not have public history programs, or is the problem larger than that?

A: The problem is a broad one. It helps immensely that aspiring historians’ preparation increasingly includes an introduction to public history along with the usual immersion in more purely intellectual matters. It’s encouraging that many departments have added and continue to add public historians to their faculties. But the separation (you might also call it the distinguishing or even the segregation) of public from more traditionally academic history continues largely, I think, because we don’t expect all members of each history faculty to be able to train their students both in the intellectual substance of the discipline and in the application of that substance to all types of media, all types and places of work, and all kinds of needs. The ideal that I hold in view is the end to the distinction between academic and public history. It’s probably too soon for that distinction to close and not yet justifiable. But I hope that that day eventually comes and that all historians call themselves “historians”—nothing more and nothing less.

**“Are public historians more morally motivated than other historians?”**

Q: What do you mean by the statement that history is a “moral discipline”? I’m glad to see you end the main section of Chapter 6, “History Outside the Academy,” by saying, “Clio’s art in any way practiced is at its foundation a public and civic art.” Are public historians more morally motivated than other historians?

A: What I mean by these two statements is that, as historians, we have the responsibility of relaying, understanding, and interpreting the past faithfully to the past and its inhabitants and of seeking to be as truthful and “objective” in doing so as well as we

can—for all the vexatious problems the idea of objectivity presents. We also have a responsibility to our students, readers, and viewers to help them understand that they, like we, also have a moral obligation to struggle to understand the past as the past actually was—again, to the degree that we can get close to that Rankian ideal of capturing the past wie es eigentlich gewesen war. But the weight of responsibility falls on us, all of us; and, no, I don’t believe that public historians are any more morally motivated than academic historians. Moral commitment is equally distributed but takes many forms. That said, we have every right—at least some of us—to study and write about the most esoteric historical subjects in the conviction that we’re making contributions to human knowledge. But especially in a diverse representative democracy, we also have an obligation to present at least some of our knowledge to our fellow citizens in ways that they can understand it, apply it to their own situations and predicaments, and gain thereby the understanding to join in governing their nation, states, and communities and creating a livable world. Historians can’t make that contribution if they’re shy of public exposure and fearful of being misunderstood.

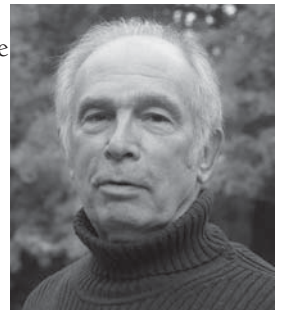
Q: In the concluding chapter you maintain that in contrast to life within the academy, no hierarchy, conventions, or set notions have “yet taken root in public history to inhibit individuals from being professionally venturesome and from being professionally themselves.” Are public historians by nature more adventurous?

A: I doubt it. Not at least “by nature.” But both the occupational calls on their knowledge and the professional responsibilities they have to apply their knowledge make them—or allow them—to be more venturesome than academics. After all, many academics are hugely venturesome intellectually; it’s just that they work within a set of institutions now fully mature in their structures, practices, rewards, and expectations. Public history is too young to have taken on the calcification of age. May it escape that arthritis!

Q: You write that the book is for “all historians,” and its nine chapters take a comprehensive look at the discipline. If you

had to assign one chapter to a graduate class, which would it be?

A: It would be that final chapter, “Being Oneself as Historian.” The worst thing that can befall all adults is to pursue lines of work for which they’re not fitted, which they don’t enjoy, and which don’t conform to their dispositions, gifts, and personalities. As soon as we start graduate study, the ideal we face is that of the academic professor. It’s a noble ideal. And who besides professors are to teach us? But for some and increasingly many historians, that ideal isn’t for them; for many, the application of their knowledge outside the classroom is a more exciting prospect. However, because of the sociology of academic preparation, they’re quickly acculturated to the academic ideal. That, too, is a noble ideal. But since it’s not for everyone, all graduate students ought to work hard to stay free of all the pressures to conform to that ideal and to make reasoned choices about their careers as historians. When that happens, our discipline, its practitioners, and our fellow citizens are enriched beyond measure.



Wes and Marian Johnson and their son Ben visited the IUPUI campus on May 22, 2012, to talk with an archivist about donating Wes’s papers from the early years of *The Public Historian* and NCPH. Wes was the journal’s founding editor and NCPH’s first chairman (president). The NCPH records, 1977–2002, are housed in the IUPUI University Library’s Ruth Lilly Special Collections & Archives.





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## Semi-Annual Report

### Overview and Annual Meeting

Many of us in NCPH have been focused during the past several months on the debate about the future of our journal, *The Public Historian*. It's a discussion that might have stalled other communities but seems to have energized ours. Over the winter and spring the NCPH membership expanded, committees were productive, *TPH* put out strong issues, NCPH adopted an exciting new strategic plan, continued to help internationalize the field, launched a vital new blog, and collectively we made an annual spring conference that's still being covered online a month later (See AAM's *Center for the Future of Museums*, 5/17, and the NTHP's *PreservationNation*, 5/8.) Public historians only made up about a quarter to a third of those in attendance at the joint OAH/NCPH meeting in Milwaukee, but it felt predominantly like a public history event, with a strong infusion of digital history to boot. The *History News Network* reported that we several hundred public historians monopolized the blog coverage and the more than 8,900 tweets directed at "#OAH2012" and "#NCPH2012" during the conference of 2,200 people.

### Membership and Finances

Membership in NCPH at the time of the conference was 1,193 members, up from 1,180 in April 2011 and 1,025 in April 2010. NCPH ended fiscal 2011 with a healthy operating budget surplus of \$23,000. Total revenues were \$217,174 and expenses were \$193,815. The final results of the 2011 Annual Meeting in Pensacola meeting turned out better than the executive office had anticipated, and, expecting the worse, we worked hard to reduce other expenses over the summer and fall of 2011. Meanwhile, membership dues and other revenue remained steady. The organization's reserve fund, NCPH's unrestricted endowment, as of May 15, exceeds \$464,000 in Vanguard accounts, along with \$21,330 cash in our endowment savings account, for a grand total of approximately \$485,000.

### Development

Increasing NCPH's capacity to fund its annual awards program as well as new initiatives from the Long Range Plan will be the focus of a concerted development effort in the coming year. Annual fundraising for 2011 was \$10,270. In 2010 (our 30th anniversary year) contributions to NCPH were \$11,425, and in 2009 they were \$6,350. Approximately \$3,300 of the \$10,270 raised in 2011 was contributed by donors who intended to create a permanent fund for the G. Wesley Johnson Award for best article in *The Public Historian*. The amount is shy of the \$12,500 required to establish a permanent fund, however, so the Development Committee and Finance Committee will be exploring options with the individuals who made the contributions over the past year. The Development Committee

also will be throwing itself into the fight in the coming year and will be preparing a comprehensive development plan aimed at vastly increasing participation. To complement the Legacy Circle planned giving program which began in 2010, and in preparation of turning to foundations and other sources of external support, the Development Committee is aiming to cultivate a culture of giving internally, across the membership, focusing especially on graduate students and newer members of the profession.

### History@Work Blog and Other Digital Matters

Cathy Stanton, the NCPH Digital Media Editor, led the effort to create a new blog, *History@Work*, which is a "critical forum for a blend of scholarly, professional, and civic discourse arising from the practice of presenting history in public." I am grateful to her and to the team of blog editors she has organized. Special thanks also to Tom Scheinfeldt and the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media for hosting the blog on their servers and providing crucial technical support for the project. Meanwhile, H-Public, also under Cathy Stanton's care, keeps growing, as does NCPH's presence on Facebook.

### NCPH Staff

Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) generously hosts the NCPH executive office and provides significant support for staff positions. Currently these include two full-time positions (executive director and program director) and two half-time positions (membership assistant and a ten-month IUPUI graduate intern/assistant). In fulfillment of one of the new provisions in its 2010-2015 agreement with NCPH, the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts (SLA) will be helping the organization increase the half-time membership position to full-time this summer. I am grateful to the IUPUI History Department Chair Bob Barrows and SLA Dean Bill Blomquist and look forward to working with them on new collaborative projects that serve NCPH's and the field's interests.

### Readers' Survey and the Journal

Following the many discussions about *The Public Historian*, NCPH President Bob Weyeneth, Vice President Patrick Moore, and I are hammering out details of an interim agreement with the University of California at Santa Barbara History Department. As reported elsewhere after the Milwaukee annual meeting, NCPH and UCSB decided to establish an interim two-year agreement, through December 2014, during which we will explore various options for the future of editing and housing the journal. This may include continuing the partnership between NCPH and UCSB, adding additional institutions to the partnership, or going separate ways in a prepared and amicable transition. This summer the NCPH executive office and a task force on the journal will conduct a readers' survey of the journal, H-Public, the *History@Work* blog, and this newsletter. We are keen to learn how members and non-members are using these various publications, how to reach broader audiences, and what the productive spaces in between and amongst these digital and print publications might be. We hope to hear from you.

# Congratulations 2012 Award Winners!

The full listing of awards for 2012 is at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org).



Award recipients after the 2012 Awards Breakfast and Presidential Address.

The vitality of the public history field and the inroads it is making in the larger historical discipline were evident during our 2012 Annual Meeting, a joint conference with the Organization of American Historians. More than 2,200 historians participated. Capping the five-day meeting in Milwaukee was the NCPH Awards Program which recognized excellence in a variety of public history formats.

## Robert Kelley Memorial Award

**Lindsey Reed**, University of California at Santa Barbara

Lindsey Reed is widely recognized by public historians as a major contributor to the intellectual vigor and diversity of the field. As the long-time managing editor of *The Public Historian*, she has directed every aspect of publication, and, as every author, special editor, reviewer, editorial board member, and editorial staff colleague will attest, Lindsey Reed has managed all of this with vision and the highest of standards, leaving an indelible mark on our profession.

## Excellence in Consulting Award Individual Award Winner

**Morgen Young**, Alder, LLC, Independent Historian, Portland, Oregon

Her work on the Diversity Story Wall at the Oregon Health and Science University is an outstanding example of historical research and writing prepared for an institutional client.

## Group Award Winner

**William Green, Heather Jones, and Kimberly Nagle**, S&ME, Inc., Columbia, SC  
Their interpretive exhibits and brochures have stimulated interest in the history and prehistory of the Carolina midlands and have heightened appreciation of the role that private corporations play in protecting such resources.

## Honorable Mention

**John Durel and Anita Durel**, Durel Consulting Partners, Baltimore, MD

## G. Wesley Johnson Award First Place

“Visions and Reality: Reconsidering the Creation and Development of Lowell’s National Park, 1966—1992,” *The Public Historian*, Vol. 33, No. 2.

**Robert Weible**, State Historian of New York and Chief Curator of the New York State Museum

A thorough and engaging analysis of what the shifting notions of historic preservation have meant to varied stakeholders in Lowell, and how these competing and evolving definitions have affected the interpretation, marketing, and development of the post-industrial Lowell as a center for heritage tourism.

## Second Place

“Interpreting Uncomfortable History at the Scott Joplin State Historic Site in St. Louis, Missouri,” *The Public Historian*, Vol. 33, No. 2.

**Valerie Altizer and Timothy Baumann**, Indiana University’s Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, **Andrew Hurley**, University of Missouri-St. Louis, and **Victoria Love**, Missouri State Parks

An innovative use of retrospective oral history interviews, supplemented by archaeology, archival sources, and a review of scholarly literature, this article provides a particularly thoughtful discussion of a sensitive topic and integrates an excellent analysis of urban history issues.

## Student Project Award

“Flashback: Community Life through the Lens of Mack Munn, 1940-1960”

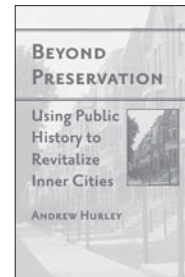
**Erica Hague and Jennifer Clark Scott**, University of North Carolina-Wilmington  
The strength of “Flashback,” a photographic collection documenting rural African American life, is its community connections—it includes some twenty oral histories and close collaborative work with a local historical society—and its wide reach and innovative design.

## Honorable Mention

“New Birth of Freedom: Civil War to Civil Rights in California”

**Michelle Antenesse and Bethany Girod**, California State University, Fullerton

## NCPH Book Award



*Beyond Preservation: Using Public History to Revitalize Inner Cities* (Temple University Press, 2010).

**Andrew Hurley**, University of Missouri—St. Louis

This book describes specific projects in St. Louis and provides a roadmap

for working in urban communities where overlapping categories of race, ethnicity, and class exert powerful influence on matters of public memory. Hurley tackles difficult issues, such as gentrification and the conflict of academic authority and community demands, but does so in a way that provides concrete strategies for professional historians.



Katherine Stinson, the fourth woman to earn a pilot’s license in the U.S., is the subject of one of the “Texas Women’s History Moments” radio/web biographies. Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and the Library of Congress.

## Outstanding Public History Project Award

“Texas Women’s History Moments,” **Nancy Baker Jones, Cynthia J. Beeman, Melissa Hield, and Teresa Paloma Acosta**, The Ruthe Winegarten Memorial Foundation, Austin, Texas

“Texas Women’s History Moments” is a series of thirty-one ninety-second radio biographies describing the lives of a wide-ranging selection of Texas women in various time periods, regions of the state, areas of influence and achievement, and ethnic backgrounds. NCPH commends the project, now housed on a website ([www.womenintexashistory.org](http://www.womenintexashistory.org)), for its strong research, broad public audience, and impressive evidence of public impact.

## Honorable Mention

*Out in Chicago*, Chicago History Museum

# Congratulations 2012 Award Winners!

## New Professional Travel Awards

### Historical Research Associates, Inc. New Professional Travel Award

**Lauren Brincat**, Program Coordinator at Museum of the City of New York

### NCPH New Professional Travel Award

**Julia Brock**, University of California Santa Barbara

## Graduate Student Travel Awards

**Kate Freedman**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

**Jordan Grant**, American University

**Jee-Yeon (Jay) Kim**, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

**Evan Medley**, Arizona State University

**Maggie Schreiner**, New York University

*Congratulations 2012 award recipients and thank you award selection committees!*

## HRA New Professional Travel Award Winner

### Lauren Brincat

I would like to sincerely thank NCPH and Historical Research Associates, Inc. for granting me the opportunity to attend this year's joint annual meeting with OAH in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. My first trip to the Midwest allowed me the opportunity to reflect upon my work as an emerging public historian.

For the past two years, as an F.A.O. Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow, I have been the Program Development Coordinator in the Museum of the City of New York's education department, the Frederick A.O. Schwarz Children's Center. My role includes the research, development, implementation, and teaching of school programs for the 30,000 school children who come through the museum's doors each year. These programs take place in both the classrooms and exhibitions, utilizing the museum's collections to empower students to draw their own conclusions about New York City's past.

Attending the NCPH conference in April gave me the wonderful chance to acquaint myself with the larger public history community, as well as to better understand current trends in the field. I attended sessions that ranged from topics concerning the future of history museums to the training of public history professionals. I walked away with a greater understanding of two of the conference's biggest themes: civic engagement and digital history.



I interpret history every day for the education of the public, and will now thoughtfully consider the role of the public historian as a facilitator between a wider audience and the past. The NCPH conference caused me to quickly realize that public history can involve much more than sharing historical knowledge for the consumption of the public. During the session *Public History as Civic Engagement: Place-Based Learning as Both an Opportunity and a Problem for History Education*, Patricia Mooney-Melvin of Loyola University, Chicago mentioned something that stuck with me. She spoke of history as a tool for problem-solving in a community and utilizing it as a method for addressing contemporary social issues. History can have the unique ability to alter peoples' conceptions of a neighborhood, prompt them to take more stock in a community, and ultimately incite them to become agents for change. I was struck with this idea, and as I thought more about the work MCNY does with our surrounding neighborhood, I realized that this is something I have been a part of all along.

Digital history was another large conversation that caught my attention. As a lover of historical objects and the use of artifacts to engage individuals about the past, I have not been innately drawn to the incorporation of technology and digital media. Nevertheless, the conference allowed me to recognize its value in a world experiencing an explosion of social media and mobile technology. Digital history can be an exciting tool for broadening an institution's reach and for reimagining the past in new ways. Most of all, the NCPH conference introduced me to different methods for utilizing digital technology, the various resources available, all while instilling within me a strong desire to learn how to use them.

As I prepare for graduate school as a Lois F. McNeil Fellow in the *Winterthur Program in American Material Culture*, the NCPH conference will allow me to establish a clearer understanding of the training and tools necessary for those in the public history field, as well as how I can utilize my training in material culture to aid me as a public historian. I immensely enjoyed my first national conference not only as a learning opportunity, but also for the chance to network with others in the field and to reconnect with old colleagues and classmates.



# Public History News

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## 2013 NCPH Call for Proposals

Ottawa, Ontario  
April 17-20

Canada's capital is an ideal place to consider our theme for 2013, **"Knowing your Public(s)—The Significance of Audiences in Public History."** Ottawa is the national center of the museum, archival, and heritage community, and its historical and cultural attractions draw 5 million national and international tourists annually. Ottawa's two universities have strong connections to public and applied history. The federal government employs many history practitioners and creates a market for private consultants.

We welcome submissions from all areas of the public history field, including museums, archives, teaching, heritage management, tourism, public policy, digital history, consulting, litigation-based research, and public service.

Details about the proposal process, as well as a list of suggested subthemes for the conference, are listed at [www.ncph.org](http://www.ncph.org).

**Proposals are due by July 15, 2012.**