



# PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

> Volume 19, Number 1

> Fall 1998

## WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER GRADUATION: RESULTS FOR THE NCPH SURVEY OF PUBLIC HISTORY ALUMNI

by Patricia Mooney-Melvin and Jerry L. Fousty, Loyola University Chicago

*Editor's Note: This is the second part of a survey completed in 1995-96 on alumni of public history programs. The first report appeared in the Spring 1998 issue of PHN.*

During the 1970s the increasing imbalance between the number of new Ph.D.s awarded in history and the availability of traditionally recognized positions forced historians to revisit the state of the profession. All the major historical organizations attempted to tackle this "crisis" and a number of reports appeared that explored different ways to think about the role of history in society and different venues for historians to practice their profession. History departments re-examined their curriculums and some departments opted to add new, "practical" courses to their slate of offerings or to reword more dramatically their curricular structure to introduce new types of training programs.

By the late 1970s "public history" entered the discipline's vocabulary. Most established professional organizations and many historians saw these new training programs as providing alternative careers. Other organizations and a number of those involved in these training programs spoke far less about alternative careers, arguing instead that they were educating professional historians who could utilize their knowledge and skills in the world around them. Locale was not the defining issue; training was. Training in public history was not just the means to satisfy unhappy historians who had failed to secure the desired academic job and who took an alternative, less desirable position in a history-related field. Public history advocates argued that many students wished to receive training in history in a context that did not limit them to academic life. Their goals were, instead, to work in a whole range of positions that combined applied skills with historical knowledge and understanding.

By the end of the 1980s a number of departments across the country had introduced public history programs into their curriculums and the number of graduates from these programs was growing. The profession talked about what these graduates did, where they most likely worked, what they wanted from professional organizations, and the level of success met in providing the right type of training for what were considered to be "public history positions."

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

**Michael Devine**, vice president of NCPH and director of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming, is teaching in the People's Republic of China during academic year 1998-99. Devine has been granted a leave of absence to serve as the Freeman Professor of American History and U.S. Foreign Policy at the Nanjing Center of the Johns Hopkins University Nitre School of Advanced International Studies. Rick Ewing, associate director of the American Heritage Center, will serve as acting director during Devine's absence.

**Rebecca Conard** is now a professor of public history at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Conard formerly directed the public history program at Wichita State University.

### Volume 19, Number 1 Fall 1998

A Quarterly Publication of the **National Council on Public History** in cooperation with the Department of History, Indiana University at Indianapolis.

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# NCPH SURVEY BACKGROUND

Not surprisingly, the National Council on Public History had been interested in these issues and discussed regularly the need for such a survey of public history graduates. At the spring 1995 NCPH board meeting, a number of related concerns raised the notion of a survey once again. There were numerous and varied concerns: (1) the seeming lack of unity among public historians who apply history in diverse ways and in a wide variety of venues; (2) the career paths of public historians, in general, and the path of women vis-à-vis those of men; (3) the efficacy of public history training programs; (4) the perceived imbalance between the number of men and the number of women seeking public history training; (5) the job market and salary trends; and (6) the role that NCPH could play in professional development. In addition, a small, informal survey conducted by *The Public Historian* suggested that marked differences in scholarly production—measured by race, gender, and geographical distribution—existed among those individuals submitting manuscripts to the journal. The editors' report to the board provided the catalyst for moving preexistent interest in the issue of what was happening in the field beyond discussion to a search for answers. The existence of a sizable number of graduates from public history programs provided an identifiable pool from which NCPH could derive comparable data.

During December 1995 and January 1996, 1,333 alumni of public history programs received a three-page questionnaire. About one-half of the surveys went directly to program graduates. The other half were sent to program directors for distribution. Unfortunately, this method failed to provide enough control over exactly how many surveys were sent out and thus resulted in our inability to have a count of how many men and women were in the pool of public history alumni. In the end, a total of 236 questionnaires (17%) returned in a shape suitable for inclusion

in the survey. The survey asked for the following information:

- gender;
- age;
- primary ethnicity/race;
- educational background: date, field, and institution where the respondent had earned his/her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees;
- career status, including job title;
- annual income;
- types of work products the respondent was expected to generate in his/her current position (e.g. technical reports, exhibits, grants and bid proposals, workshops, curriculum materials, scholarly books and articles, popular history articles, archival finding aids, and legal briefs);
- types of work products the respondent was encouraged to generate;
- types of work products actually generated in the past years;
- whether the respondent's employers provided incentives or resources to encourage scholarly or professional activities;
- kinds of incentives employers provided (e.g. travel and/or expense allowances, research expense accounts, research grants, reduction in workload to accommodate research, flexible schedules to accommodate research, public and/or professional meetings);
- organizational affiliations;
- NCPH workshops respondent attended;
- types of products and services that the respondent wanted NCPH to offer (e.g. summer institutes, annual meeting workshops, educational tours, and travel awards for annual meetings, workshops, or summer institutes);
- what the respondent considered to have been the most useful aspects of his/her public history training;
- what the respondent considered to have been the least useful aspects of his/her training.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE POPULATION

Who responded to the survey? Of the 236 respondents, 153 (65%) were female and 82 were male; one respondent did not identify his or her gender. Respondents ranged in age from 24 to

61, with a median age of 37. Women public history graduates were, in general, younger than their male counterparts. Not surprisingly, the racial and ethnic background of respondents reflected the general outlines of the historical profession.

We were interested in finding out something about the respondents' educational background. All who answered the survey possessed B.A. degrees, of which History represented the largest number. In descending order of frequency came majors in American Studies, English, Anthropology and Historic Preservation, Art History, and Public History. The category of "other" comprised a wide variety of majors including Agriculture, Communications, Film Studies, Home Economics, and Foreign Languages. Each represented no more than .4% of the entire number of respondents.

Our respondents received masters degrees between the years 1964 and 1996, most (77.3%) of which were conferred between 1985 and 1996. The fields represented included: Public History, Historic Administration (these represented the dominant fields of study), History, Applied History, Historical Resources Management and Historic Preservation, and Archives. The institutions appearing most frequently for study at the master's level were Eastern Illinois University, University of South Carolina, University of California Riverside, Middle Tennessee State University, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and University of San Diego.

Far fewer of the respondents held doctorates. A total of 21 (10%) possessed Ph.Ds, of which 9 were women and 2 were men. The doctorates were given between 1981 and 1996 in the fields of History, Art History, Public History, and jointly in History/Public History. Schools represented were the University of California Santa Barbara, Arizona State University, West Virginia University, and the University of Houston.

The survey asked respondents to select the classification that best described their current career status. "Staff" was the largest category

selected, although others included president/CEO, administrator/director, faculty, self-employed, and other. The respondents worked in public and private museums, public and private archival repositories, businesses, consulting firms, colleges or universities, high schools, government agencies, and as independent consultants.

We also asked the graduates to provide their current job title. A large number classified themselves as curators followed closely in number by administrators and archivists. The remainder of the respondents were spread across a variety of occupational headings, including directors, historians, historic preservationists, librarians, consultants, editors, educators, assistant directors, registrars, historic site managers, students, and planners. The correlation of the information by gender revealed that women held a greater range of professional positions than their male counterparts. Men were more likely to be directors, assistant directors, and historic site managers. They were clustered primarily in the categories of director, assistant director, curators, and administrators, and secondarily in preservation, history, and archives. Women, on the other hand, were clustered primarily in the curatorial positions, archives, administration, and directorships and secondarily in libraries, education, history, preservation, registrar, editorial, and consulting.

With regards to salaries, differences existed as well in what employees received for their efforts. Overall, most of the respondents made less than \$35,000 per year. Sixty-five percent of the women responding made less than \$35,000, with 18.5% lower than \$15,000, and 22.6% between \$20,000 and \$25,000. Sixty-nine percent of the male respondents earned between \$25,000 and \$50,000. Only 5% of the men received less than \$15,000 and 6% made between \$20,000 and \$30,000 per year.

## PRODUCING ON THE JOB

Since we were interested in determining just what public history graduates were producing in the positions they held, the survey asked what public

historians were expected to do, encouraged to do, and actually did. In general, our respondents were expected to engage in public speaking, write research reports for internal use, write grants, prepare archival finding aids, develop workshops, write or edit a newsletter, produce technical reports, and prepare bid proposals.

Employers encouraged the respondents to perform a wider range of activities than they were actually expected to do. On the whole, respondents received encouragement to publish in scholarly journals, produce a book, and publish in trade or technical journals. They also were invited to give public talks, write grants, develop workshops, and prepare research reports for internal use.

What the respondents actually produced during the preceding five years differed somewhat from what they were both expected or encouraged to do. Not surprisingly, given what they were expected and encouraged to do, respondents noted that they participated in many of the activities listed above. They also published non-refereed articles and technical reports, edited articles and books, prepared exhibit catalogs, among other tasks.

Breaking down the information on publishing-related activities by gender, we noted that women who published at least one scholarly article within the previous five years outnumbered men slightly. Men, however, were more likely than women to produce non-refereed articles, technical reports, and bid proposals. Women were more involved in the preparation of archival finding aids, curriculum, grant proposals, and newsletters, and in giving public presentations.

What did employers provide to assist in the production of these items? According to our respondents, 137 (58%) reported that employers provided some type of incentives or resources to encourage scholarly or professional activities. Those employers offered a range of resources, including travel and/or expense allowances for professional meetings, and flexible work schedules to accommodate both speaking engagements and attendance at professional

meetings. Virtually none of the respondents' employers provided workload reduction to accommodate research, research grants, or publishing subsidies.

## CONCLUSIONS

Although the NCPH survey comprised a small population of only 236 respondents, some interesting trends appeared. The majority of respondents were young, female, and of Euroamerican ethnicity. History comprised the majority of undergraduate studies while Public History and Historic Administration dominated the fields of study for those with M.As. Even though far more respondents listed their career status as staff employees than as CEOs, a large number were directors, faculty, or self-employed historians. As would be expected, a majority of respondents worked in non-traditional settings, primarily museums, archives, and corporations. One particularly alarming trend suggested that history and history-related professions still possessed a "glass-ceiling" in the comparative salaries of women and men. Regardless of pay, it seemed that all workers actually produced work in ways that were different than expected or encouraged by their employers. Interestingly, women and men respondents produced and exhibited their work differently with women emphasizing to a larger degree public speaking and men focusing on publications.

It may be difficult to come to any clear-cut decision on the significance of this data. However, the data provides an interesting starting point in determining the breadth of Public History and its future direction as a field of study and employment. It is apparent that certain divisions still remain between women and men as well as among ethnic groups. Such a situation suggests that continued efforts to monitor and diversify the world of public history remain important goals to pursue.

*The authors wish to acknowledge Brian Coffey, graduate student assistant 1996-97, Department of History, Loyola University Chicago, for entering the data for this survey.*

# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM UPDATE:

## THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF HISTORY

by Patti Linn and Donna M. Neary

Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremén Landing is in its fourth year of operation on the banks of the Ohio River in Jefferson County, Kentucky. The museum's stated mission is to interpret 19th century farm life on the river. To date, the newly restored Farnsley-Moremén House, built circa 1837, has been the focus of interpretation for the 300-acre site. However, Riverside will reestablish the historic farm's direct connection to the Ohio by constructing a modern river boat landing, slated for completion in September, 1998. The landing will allow visitors to experience the river and its relationship to the old farm in a new way. Visitors will be able to board the *Spirit of Jefferson*, a replica paddle wheeler, just as residents and visitors to Riverside boarded steam vessels throughout the 19th century at the property.

During the same time frame, Riverside will move forward with its first outbuilding, a 19th century detached kitchen. The kitchen will be the first of several farm outbuildings identified for reconstruction in the coming years. Unlike the landing, this reconstruction will be an attempt to recreate the historic appearance and construction techniques of Riverside's 19th century kitchen.

The kitchen project began with an important collaboration with the Kentucky Archaeological Survey (KAS), a non-profit organization devoted to conducting public archaeology. The County hired KAS in 1995 to conduct a public dig during a special event called Archaeology Weekend. The public response to this opportunity to participate in an actual excavation was very favorable. Over the past three years, hundreds of individuals and families have worked alongside the archaeologists excavating the kitchen. They also have helped to screen, wash and sort the artifacts.

Visitors to the site will find that Riverside is very much a work-in-progress, and promises to remain so for years to come. Moreover, the staff and Board at Riverside view its "unfinished" quality as an advantage. The commitment to scholarly research, including the use of archaeological investigations, in determining the placement and reconstruction materials of "new buildings" continues to provide the foundation for all decisions regarding the site. Furthermore, the commitment to opening up the process of on-going research to the public is paying off in unexpected ways.

Archaeology has been expanded from its use as a research tool, to a crucial element of the site interpretation at Riverside. Moreover, the initial public-participation excavations, which led to the discovery of the detached kitchen, have also laid the groundwork for an exciting education program.

"Building Blocks of History" was initiated in the fall of 1997 following outstanding response to student field trips to Archaeology Weekend in 1996. The program provides fourth and fifth grade students, the target audience, an opportunity to engage in the same sort of questioning and hypothesizing in which the Riverside staff is currently engaged. Students are encouraged to conjecture about the artifacts and features uncovered during excavations.

In the program, students receive the tools and the encouragement to become public historians and interact in an interdisciplinary team exercise that includes archaeology, historic preservation, social and cultural history, and critical analysis of data. Program guides provide a chronology and context for each student.

In addition to digging, students who participate in the "Building Blocks" program take a tour of the Farnsley-Moremén House. Program Guides ask open-ended questions, such as, "Why do you think our house had a separate building for its kitchen?" to get the students thinking about the relationship between the kitchen and the extant main house. Furnishings, documents and photographs are high-

lighted on the tour. The students are asked to note the artifacts, and to offer ideas about what the artifacts reveal about the lives of the people who called Riverside home.

The final component of "Building Blocks" is a brick-making activity. Gabriel Farnsley, the builder of the main house, left behind an important artifact at Riverside when he etched his name into one of the bricks placed into the cornice of the historic house. Discovered during restoration, the brick has become a centerpiece of the permanent display in the Visitors Center. Students work quick-drying clay into small bricks with a "form" provided by the staff and are encouraged to "make their mark" at Riverside by etching their own names or messages into the bricks which they take home as vivid reminders of their day. Students are then asked to think about how knowledge of the past builds through the addition of information, just as the Farnsley-Moremén House was built brick by brick.

Teacher response to "Building Blocks" has been extraordinary. A single notice about the new program in the County school system teachers' newsletter yielded reservations to fill all available spaces during the fall of 1997, and a waiting list boasting 4,000 students. Riverside featured six weeks of the program during spring 1998, serving only a small percentage of the growing waiting list. Post-visit letters from students and teachers have included rave reviews of the program.

Riverside, supported primarily by County funds, is facing the challenge of becoming self-sufficient in the near future. The Board and staff are optimistic that programs like "Building Blocks," which charges five dollars per student (teachers and chaperones are not charged) have the potential to help provide financial support for the property. More attractive than just the revenue, "Building Blocks" addresses several components of the site. The program provides fun and meaningful educational experiences for students, and allows for ongoing archaeological investigations.

► See Educational page 14

# HISTORY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST: THE GRAND RAPIDS EXAMPLE

by Gordon L. Olson

In the summer of 1996, the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Public Library commissioned a survey to determine which of its services community residents deemed most important. To no one's surprise, 89% of all respondents identified research and reference information the most important library service. The second most popular service, however, raised a few eyebrows: 81% of those surveyed said they valued the library's local history information.

The best explanation for this high interest in local history lies in the creation of the Grand Rapids Historical Commission in 1962, and its subsequent appointment of a full time city historian in 1978. The Historical Commission coordinates its activities with the Public Library; and the city historian is also head of the Library's Local History Department.

Initially established to update an 1891 history of the city, in addition, the Grand Rapids Historical Commission was charged to research, write and publish a history of the city, and to "establish a reference library and collection of source material." In 1969, the Commission produced *The Story of Grand Rapids*, and since that time, the commission has produced five other books, three videos, and created a revolving publishing fund with assets exceeding \$50,000.

After the success of its book, the Historical Commission might have faded from existence had it not been for the nation's Bicentennial and the co-incident 150th anniversary of the first European/American settlement in what is now Grand Rapids. After coordinating events for the yearlong celebration, the commission decided that local history was too important to be left only to commemorative celebrations, and with city funding and the endorsement of key officials, they appointed a full-time city historian. I was hired as the first historian in February 1978.

The city historian's position is a broad statement of the role history can play in a community's self-awareness. Work includes: collecting documentary materials related to all aspects of Grand Rapids history; advising city officials and providing background information for policy decisions; advising local schools about community history curriculum materials; providing public history programs and activities throughout the city; publishing popular and scholarly articles and books; and maintaining "general contact with public officials, the press, and citizens and other inquirers regarding the history of Grand Rapids and Kent County."

Projects undertaken thus far reflect a determination to work with many different groups in the community and to cultivate a high visibility and accessibility, while providing useful, accurate, objective information. One of the first undertakings was a series of three "Town Meetings" titled "Grand Rapids: Past, Present, Future," which I moderated. At the meetings panels that included local professionals—two historians, an archaeologist, the city planner, the school superintendent, business leaders, and elected city and county officials—presented their views on the past, present, and future directions of the city, and engaged in audience dialogue. A book of essays based on the speakers' comments was then published.

Anxious to follow up that success, the Historical Commission collaborated with the Grand Rapids Area Council for the Humanities to offer a one-day seminar titled "Business History Has A Future," to encourage businesses to preserve and use their history and direct them away from more superficial history promotions.

The Historical Commission also sought to work with community groups that had been by-passed in previous presentations of the community's past. One effort led to historic landmark designation for the building that houses the Grand Rapids Study Club, an African American women's literary and cultural organization. Subsequently, the club's records were deposited in the Grand Rapids Public Library and microfilmed. In 1996, we produced *Flashback! African American Trailblazers*, the first in a series of videos for use in local elementary schools. Each 10-12 minute production focuses on a

different group, time period, or theme in Grand Rapids history and is accompanied by materials and suggested activities for classroom use. I have also helped organize the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council, and arranged for the council to deposit manuscripts, photographs, and oral history recordings in the Public Library's Local History Department. Most recently, the Commission and library are involved in a joint project to collect and preserve oral histories, photographs, and records that tell the story of the estimated 3,000 Vietnamese who have moved to West Michigan in the past 25 years.

Perhaps the most important project undertaken was the creation of the City Archives and Records Center and the appointment of a city archivist/records manager. Undertaken with funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), and local sources, the project inventoried, appraised, and transferred city records from more than 30 locations to a central facility.

In the 1980s, the Historical Commission also directed attention to the significant collections of manuscripts, photographs, maps, and similar material in the historical collections of the Library and Museum. Once again combining federal and local funds, a two-year project processed over 300 cubic feet of historical materials and created a union catalog of historical materials in the Library and Museum collections.

By the late 1990s, the Grand Rapids Historical Commission looked back at a list of increasingly varied activities that were well received and supported by many different segments of the community. They vary from the activities of traditional history interests such as genealogy and historic preservation, to government and business research and policy analysis, and collecting and publication projects undertaken with Native American, African American, Hispanic, Vietnamese, and women's groups. Ongoing collecting and publishing activities, together with those generated by new audiences, define the work of the Grand Rapids Historical Commission as it seeks to make Grand Rapids' history the possession of all its residents.

*Gordon L. Olson is the City Historian of Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



by Dwight Pitcaithley

The National Council on Public History "aspires to make the public aware of the value, uses, and pleasures of history." Of all the charges in this organization's by-laws, this one seems to me the most important. Exploring the American past with the public is one of the most challenging, yet rewarding tasks that face us. As I see it, the task is complicated through the existence of not one, but two gaps in cultural understanding. The first is the often-recognized gap between what historians do, how they function in a democracy, and what the public thinks they do. This involves, in part, the common human capacity and need to embrace issues of heritage separate and distinct from historical reality (our good friend David Lowenthal has written extensively on this point). The second is generally less contentious, but no less serious and that is the gap between self-perceptions among public and academic historians, or more explicitly, the degree to which some academic historians profess no interest in, or obligation to, engage the public in a discussion of the past.

Public historians are often on the front lines of the public debate over the past and that debate is nowhere more heated than in the discussion of the American Civil War, its causes, and its meaning. Managers of Civil War battlefields have recognized this for some time and have avoided the issue of slavery as the underlying cause of secession by not dealing with causes at all or offering instead vague nostrums dealing with states rights, protection of the Southern way of life, or conflicting economies. Confronting the issue of slavery as a cause of the war is sure to prompt an immediate and emotional response from those who prefer to view the 1861-1865 conflagration through a noble and romantic lens. Virginia's Gov-

ernor James S. Gilmore, III found that out last spring when he issued the annual proclamation declaring April Confederate History Month. Pressured to respect the history of Virginia's African American citizens, Gilmore ventured where no previous governor had dared to tread. Following the obligatory praise of Southern generals and soldiers, Gilmore described the war as "tragic" and slavery as a "practice that deprived African-Americans of their God-given rights." This proved too much for R. Wayne Byrd, Sr., President of Virginia's Heritage Preservation Association who termed Gilmore's comments "an insult." Slavery, to Byrd, was neither a cause of the war, nor an abhorred practice and Gilmore should be condemned for not being a "proud Southerner!"

This public exchange between the Governor of Virginia and the Southern Heritage Association shows how perceptions of the past directly influence our conduct in the present and our expectations for the future. Museums and historic sites are places where the public should feel welcome to discuss and explore all aspects of the American past. When that exploration becomes heated, as it does often with Civil War subjects, historians should be motivated to engage the debate to the fullest. Unfortunately, quite the opposite often takes place. The more heated the exchange, the more likely academic historians are to retreat into their studies. And yet it is exactly at that moment that historians should engage the discussion. Our misperceptions about the past can be profound and often so compartmentalized that the threads that link the past to the present are regularly absent in these discussions. One thread, for example, runs from the Declaration of Independence, through slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Jim Crow era, institutionalized segregation, the Civil Rights era, to affirmative action and the present debate over its utility or appropriateness. (One is reminded here of Lyndon Johnson's eloquent 1965 plea for equity for black Americans when he argued, "You do not take a person who, for years, has been hobbled by chains and liberate him, bring him up to the starting line of

a race and then say, 'You are free to compete with all the others,' and still justly believe that you have been completely fair." Yet, seldom are these connections present during the public discussion about the past.

I should hope that as this organization matures that we are able to do two things more effectively than we do today: engage the public more completely and consistently, and enlist an increasing number of our academic colleagues in the national educational program outside the classroom. In a penetrating critique of the historical profession, Douglass Greenberg, in a recent article in *Reviews in American History* (March 1998) argued that "The work of the public historian is not a lesser form of scholarship; it is a different form of scholarship." In his "'History is a Luxury': Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Disney, and (Public) History," Greenberg takes the profession to task for so withdrawing from the public discussion of the past that a separate organization (NCPH) had to be organized to function in the tradition of George Bancroft, Frederick Jackson Turner, and Richard Hofstadter. The entire notion of history being "private" (the opposite of public) is a strange notion indeed and yet that is where we are, argues Greenberg, as historians increasingly speak only to other historians, or more particularly to boards of tenure and promotion.

Dr. Greenberg's article incorporates what many of us have been discussing, lecturing, and writing about for years. What sets it apart from many of the other critiques of our profession, is its clarity in challenging our academic colleagues and establishing the spoils that are at stake. While not diminishing the importance of independent historical scholarship, he suggests that if we do not recognize the importance of reaching broad audiences, then the public will soon dismiss (to a greater extent than is presently the case) the work of professional historians, and history will soon be shaped "not only by Mickey Mouse but by Goofy as well."

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by David G. Vanderstel

**Public** (*adj.*) of, relating to, or affecting all the people or the whole area of a nation or state; (*n*) the people as a whole; a group of people having common interests or characteristics.

After becoming Executive Director of NCPH four years ago, I came to a realization that our organization had a natural affinity with the American Association for State and Local History. I contacted Terry Davis, my counterpart at AASLH, whom I had known during her years at the Indiana Humanities Council here in Indianapolis, and we agreed to establish a reciprocal exhibit policy. So, the week after Labor Day, I packed up the NCPH booth and flew to Sacramento to attend the annual meeting of AASLH.

Throughout the conference, I had the opportunity to mingle with fellow historians and professionals who served

diverse publics. Many were members of NCPH; others were not (and I strongly encouraged them to join up!). Whether they were members or not, we all shared a common purpose of preserving and interpreting the past and making it relevant to our respective audiences. Those with whom I spoke acknowledged that we as public historians had a significant impact on large numbers of people, whether we worked in the classroom, outdoors in national or state parks, at historic sites and museums, or in corporate archives.

While it was truly informative to learn about the activities of fellow professionals, it proved most refreshing to speak with students who were exploring the field of "history outside the classroom." Most of them described their own beliefs that historians for too long had ignored the public and, that given the public's appetite for history and heritage in its many forms, historians needed to be "more connected" with their audiences. As with the emergence of the "new social history" in the 1960s, the students viewed public historians as individuals who were concerned with the "grassroots of history," the ordinary people.

During a special evening event at Sutter's Fort Historic Site, I witnessed another example of true excitement and enthusiasm for public history. Volunteer docents, attired in 1840s dress and well versed in the history of the site and the period, skillfully shared their interpretation of the past to our group of history professionals. They spoke of outreach programs for school children, teachers' workshops, and other means of reaching their publics with the story of California's formative years. Most emphasized the importance of "rooting" our children in a stronger awareness of their history as a way of understanding and appreciating the meaning of family, community, and being American.

My visit to Sutter's Fort and my conversations with inquiring students reinforced my belief that public history is indeed alive and well and strengthened my resolve to promote the message of public history. May we all share the enthusiasm and commitment expressed by these students and volunteer docents for presenting and interpreting the past in clear, concise, and meaningful forms to our own respective publics.

## NCPH YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1997-1998

### INCOME

Membership	\$ 23,752.00
Sponsors	\$ 8,960.00
Publications	\$ 2,484.91
Conference	\$ 12,525.29 *
Royalties	\$ 2,529.91
Miscellaneous	\$ <u>1,226.74</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 51,478.62</b>

### EXPENSES

Administrative	\$ 14,378.89 **
Board Expenses	\$ 3,207.62
Publications	\$ 1,418.33
Public History News	\$ 7,364.58
Membership & Promotion	\$ 3,109.00 ***
Committees	\$ 5,652.18
Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 3,873.00
Awards	\$ 750.00
Endowment Fund	\$ <u>4,425.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 44,178.60</b>

\* Conference income includes receipts from the 1997 and 1998 annual meetings. Final proceeds from the 1998 meeting in Austin will appear in the 1998-1999 statement.

\*\* Administrative includes all printing and copying, accounting, insurance and legal expenses, office and computer supplies, and executive director expenses.

\*\*\* Membership & Promotion includes membership brochures, exhibit booth, and other promotional expenses.

**Total Endowment Funds (as of 30 June 1998): \$45,033.36**

# NCC WASHINGTON UPDATE



by Page Putnam Miller, Director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History <[pagem@capaccess.org](mailto:pagem@capaccess.org)>

*[Editor's Note: Excerpts of recent NCC Updates are provided to summarize the latest activities on Capitol Hill. A complete backfile of reports is maintained at <http://h-net.msu.edu/~ncc>]*

## • Deficiencies in Record Keeping Systems Noted in Report on Gulf War Illnesses.

On September 1, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs issued its final report on the committee's special investigation of the Gulf War illnesses. The report devoted a whole section to a discussion of the failure of the Departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs to collect information, retain records, and generate valid data analysis. The report stated: "Even with good intelligence, a high level of preparedness to face chemical or biological weapons threats, and effective program monitoring, the ability to fully address potential hazards to troop health depends on keeping and preserving accurate records." The report illustrated that good reports management and archival policies are not optional programs but are essential for agencies to operate efficiently and effectively

## • Legislation to make Congressional Research Service Reports Available on the Internet.

Prospects are dim for passage in this session of S. 1578 and H.R. 3131, bills to provide the public with access to the Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports and products on the Internet at no cost. Senator John McCain (R-AZ), a champion of the legislation, noted that CRS receives nearly \$65 million a year to provide information and detailed analysis to members of congress. The legislation would greatly increase the accessibility of CRS materials, which include Reports, Issue Briefs, and Authorization and Appropriations products.

## • Administration Registers Concerns about Copyright Legislation Dealing with Databases.

The Department of Commerce has raised concerns about the database copyright bill, S. 2291, which is officially titled "the Collections of Information Antipiracy Act." The purpose of the bill is to give legal protection to those who compile databases against exploiters who try to capitalize on others' work. Although the Administration notes that there should be legal remedies against "free-riders" who take databases gathered by others and reintroduce them into commerce as their own, the Administration identifies several potential problems with the proposed legislation: constitutional constraints on legislation of this type; the possibility that the bill would increase the costs of data use; the lack of a balancing mechanism that would take into consideration non-commercial research and educational uses; the use of vague terms such as "potential markets;" and the likelihood that the bill could have the unintended consequence of stifling the evolving market for digital information. The future of the database legislation is now closely intertwined with broader digital copyright legislation.

## • Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel Issues Report.

On August 26 the White House issued a press release on the two-year report of the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP), which was established by Executive Order 12958 to reassess the balance between open government and the need to maintain secrets vital to national security. Roslyn A. Mazer, the Justice Department representative who chairs the appeals panel, said that "reflexive use of old classification categories has been replaced by healthy skepticism." Since ISCAP began its work two years ago, it has considered appeals of 96 Executive Branch classification decisions. In 59 cases the entire document was declassified; in 22 cases part of the document was declassified; and in 15 cases the document remained classified. While these are encouraging developments, it is unclear to what extent these declassification decisions are establishing a precedent

of increased openness and are filtering down to the declassification units of the various agencies. Unfortunately it appears that many ISCAP decisions are having little impact on agencies' declassification practices.

## • Loretta Neumann Heads American Heritage Rivers Initiative.

In August, Loretta Neumann became special assistant to the administrator of the Maritime Administration of the Department of Transportation and Director of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative. Early in her career, Neumann worked for the National Park Service and as a House staff person for the subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands. More information on the heritage initiative is available at [www.epa.gov/rivers](http://www.epa.gov/rivers)

## FEEL NO PAIN

Attention all NCPH members who receive honoraria or payment for speaking engagements or other extracurricular and freelance work!

Please consider donating those dollars to the NCPH Endowment Fund. I recently was offered payment for reviewing a manuscript, and I asked instead that the check be sent directly to the NCPH Endowment Fund. The endowment was thus enriched by several hundred dollars, and my pocket emptied not a bit. I challenge other NCPH members to do the same.

For more information on the Endowment, contact me at (415) 396-7904 or the NCPH Executive Offices.

Marianne Babal,  
Endowment Committee Chair



## CONSULTANTS' CORNER

The Consultants' Working Group (CWG) provides this column. The purpose of the CWG is to promote the interests of NCPH members who provide historical services as consultants or contractors. The CWG wishes to highlight professional accomplishments among contract historians, contract firms, and other independent researchers. Please forward news of finished projects, recent Request for Proposals, contract awards, contract report publications, ongoing oral history projects, or anything else that might be of interest to practicing historians. E-mail items to Jason Gart, chair, Consultants' Working Group at [gartjh@asu.edu](mailto:gartjh@asu.edu). Please be sure to include your full name and address.

- Contract historian **Darlene R.**

**Roth** received a book contract to prepare an illustrated history of the Atlanta region. The State Historic Preservation in Office also recently con-

tracted with Roth to provide a women's history context report, the first ever prepared at the state level.

- The Norman Rockwell Museum has hired **Christopher Clarke-Hazlett** to be a guest curator on an exhibit placing the work of Norman Rockwell and other *Post* illustrators in the context of America's increasingly commercial visual culture. The exhibit will be called "Before TV: American Culture, Illustration, and the *Saturday Evening Post*."

- New NCPH member **Barbara Mayer** is assisting the Benjamin Moore Paint Company in the organization of the company's archive. She is also writing a narrative history of their contribution to the American ready-mix paint industry.

- **History Associates Incorporated** in Maryland has recently released "Where the Fleet Begins," a centennial history of the Naval Surface Warfare

Center's Cardock Division written by History Associates co-founder Rodney Carlisle. History Associates is also writing a chronology and three-tiered time line for the fiftieth anniversary of the Council on Foundations and developing a records retention schedule for the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors.

- The Historical Society of Southern California has awarded **Tracy Smith** a Haynes Research Stipend. Tracy will conduct a social history of the Santa Ana Canyon in North Orange County from the 1850s through the present.

- **Dale Stirling**, an environmental historian with Interlox Inc., will update the "Environmental Liabilities Reading List, 1980-1995" to include the years 1996 to 1998. The bibliography will be published on CD-ROM in the spring of 1999.

## NCPH EXECUTIVE OFFICES WELCOMES NEW INTERN; BIDS FAREWELL TO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

In early August, Nicole Meyers, a new public history graduate student in the IUPUI History Department, began her internship in the NCPH Executive Offices. A native of Indianapolis, Nikki graduated in 1995 from Ball State University with a B.A. in secondary/ middle school education, majoring in social studies. She spent an academic year at the Yucai Middle School, Shenyang, People's Republic of China, serving as a US history

teacher and instructor in an English as a Second Language program. Nikki claims that she is a water-skiing aficionado. But, it is her most recent career as a bartender that has, as many of us here believe, provided her with a unique insight into a career in public history.

At the end of September, Tina Trettin, administrative assistant to the Executive Director, left to pursue her career as a professional indexer and to

return to school in pursuit of a library science degree. Tina had been with NCPH since August 1997. NCPH extends its thanks and appreciation to Tina for her dedication and hard work.

A search is currently underway to find a replacement for Tina. In the interim, the Executive Offices will be short staffed so we apologize in advance for any inconveniences or delays in responses.

### ON THE INTERNET

Stay in touch with the latest issues, job opportunities, and news from the field of public history by joining PUBLHIST, the public history listserv. To subscribe, send your request to: [listserv@iupui.edu](mailto:listserv@iupui.edu) with a message SUBSCRIBE PUBLHIST

For the latest information from NCPH,  
check out the NCPH website at



[www.iupui.edu/it/ncph/ncph.html](http://www.iupui.edu/it/ncph/ncph.html)

# BOOK NOTES

Compiled by **Douglass W. Dodd**, Assistant Review Editor, *The Public Historian*, and **Nicole Meyers**, NCPH Executive Offices.

• **Identifying American Furniture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, Colonial to Contemporary**, 3d. rev. ed., by Milo M. Naeve. (Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 1998, 112 pp., photographs, list for further reading, index; paperbound, \$14.95). AASLH and AltaMira Press have recently issued the third edition of Naeve's guidebook to American furniture styles. The book traces the evolution of American furniture from the original medieval and renaissance styles which accompanied the first colonists, through the classical and period revival styles of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, up to the styles of the modern and contemporary periods. Different forms of each style appear in black-and-white photographs, which are accompanied by descriptive and interpretive text. A rich bibliography points readers toward additional, more detailed sources. The volume is a useful aid for public historians in museums and historic houses, especially those with an interest in furniture, decorative arts, and material culture.

• **A History of the Southwest: The Land and Its People: The Land and Its People** by Thomas E. Sheridan. (Tucson, AZ: Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, 1998, 80 pp. photographs, maps, suggested readings, index; paperbound, \$10.95). Sheridan's history is a recent addition to the Southwest Parks and Monuments Association's fine series of readable and beautifully illustrated—yet scholarly—publications for a general audience interested in the scenery and history of the Desert Southwest region. The author brings the New Western history's interpretations of the Southwest to a broad readership. He focuses both on the process and the social, cultural, and political effects of incorporating the region and its Native American and Hispanic peoples into the United States. The environmental impacts of incorporation receive attention too as he examines the development of the region's extractive industries—mining, ranching, and water resources development. Sheridan highlights the role of

scientists, federal land management agencies, and tourists in shaping the region, and fits Old West mythology—like the "Shoot-out at the OK Corral"—into their proper historical contexts. *A History of the Southwest* is a model which historians interpreting history to the public will want to emulate.

• **Voyages of Discovery: Essays on the Lewis and Clark Expedition**, edited by James P. Ronda. (Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 1998; maps, photographs, drawings, notes, suggested readings, index; clothbound, \$45.00; paperbound, \$19.95). With the Lewis and Clark Expedition's bicentennial commemoration about five years away, the Corps of Discovery is the subject of a resurgence in public interest. Naturally, books, videos, and other historical products of varying quality will soon flood the market as the bicentennial approaches. But Ronda's anthology will help prepare public historians for the onslaught, making available in one volume some of the best previously published historical writing on Lewis and Clark, along with some useful primary sources. Articles and excerpts from Ronda, Don Jackson, John Allen, Bernard DeVoto, and Gary Moulton address the reasons for the expedition, the expedition's contribution to geographic knowledge, relations with the Indians, scientific achievements, and the expedition's aftermath. A final section assesses the public's enduring fascination with the explorers—a topic of interest to those historians interested in the issues of commemoration and public memory.

• **Engineer Memoirs: Lieutenant General Carroll H. Dunn**, Oral history interview by Paul K. Walker. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1998, xii + 146 pp., photographs, index; paperbound). Walker's oral history interview with Lt. Gen. Carroll H. Dunn is the latest in the "Engineer Memoirs" oral history series undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History. The series documents the lives and careers of prominent officers in the Corps of Engineers. Lt. Gen. Carroll's career began after his graduation from the University of Illinois in the 1930s, his service as a combat engineer in Europe during World War II, his

work in water resources development in the South, work in designing and constructing Distant Early Warning system and ballistic missile system facilities, service with the Military Assistance Command in Vietnam, and engineering work with the Defense Nuclear Agency. Carroll's career illustrates the wide variety of the Corps' mission and programs.

• **South Carolina's African American Confederate Pensioners 1923-1925** by Alexia Jones Helsley. (Columbia: South Carolina Archives, 1998; \$13.00 plus shipping from the South Carolina Archives and History Center, 8301 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC 29223.) This volume brings to light stories of some African Americans as told on their applications for Confederate pensions. In 1923 the South Carolina legislature approved "An Act to Provide for Pensions for certain faithful Negroes who were engaged in service of the State in the War Between the States." The state required each applicant to supply his name, address, and description of service, commanding officers and character references. Some applications include affidavits from witnesses confirming the applicant's service and testifying to good character. In most cases these pension applications, which are part of the state's archives at the South Carolina Archives and History Center, provide the only written documentation of an individual African American's service during the Civil War. They tell of hard work, loyalty, personal injury and heroism. Helsley abstracts more than three hundred pension applications filed between 1923 and 1925.

## Note From the Editor:

*Mark your calendars for*

*April 29-May 1, 1999*

*The 1999 NCPH Annual Meeting  
in Lowell, Massachusetts*

*Watch for upcoming news  
and information about  
program and registration.*

*For questions, contact the  
NCPH Executive Offices.*

# BULLETIN

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



• **Africans in America: America's Journey through Slavery**, a four-part documentary, airs on PBS stations Monday, October 19, 1998 through Thursday, October 22, 1998 from 8:00pm to 9:30pm EST (check local listings). The series, narrated by Angela Bassett, takes viewers on a journey through the birth of America—from Jamestown in 1607 to the start of the Civil War in 1861 and shows the dramatic impact of the struggle over slavery and freedom in shaping our country. **Africans in America** is part of the Television Race Initiative launched in September and which will continue through the year 2000.

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND INTERNSHIPS

• The New York State Archives and the Archives Partnership Trust announce the availability of 1999 awards for qualified applicants to pursue research using the vast resources of the New York State Archives. **The Larry J. Hackman Research Residency Program** is intended to support advanced work in New York State history, government or public policy. It also encourages public dissemination of research products. Applicants working on doctoral dissertations and those at the postdoctoral level are particularly encouraged to apply, but any proposal for advanced research will be considered. Projects involving alternative uses of archival records, such as background research for multimedia projects, exhibits, documentary films, and historical novels, are also eligible. The topic or area of study must draw, at least in part, on the holdings of the New York State Archives. Preferences will be given to projects: (1) that have applications to enduring public policy issues, particularly in New York State, (2) that rely on holdings that have been little used and

are not available electronically or on microfilm, and (3) that have a high probability of publication or other public dissemination. Award amounts are greater for in-depth research over substantial period of time but generally fall in the \$1,500 to \$2,000-a-month range. Applications must be received by **January 29, 1999**, decisions will be made by March 31, 1999. Application forms are available on-line: [Http://www.sara.nysed.gov](http://www.sara.nysed.gov) or contact Jill A. Rydberg, Archives Partnership Trust, Cultural Education Center, Suite 9C49, Albany, NY 12230, Phone: (518) 473-7058.

• **The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) and Heritage Preservation** announce a new joint award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections. This award will be presented annually to an organization that has been exemplary in the importance and priority it has given to conservation concerns, and in the commitment it has shown to the preservation and care of its cultural property. Nominees should meet the following selection criteria: (1) the nominee should be a not-for-profit organization of any size responsible for cultural property that may include collections, historic sites and structures. Cultural property is defined as material that may be artistic, historic, scientific, religious or social and is an invaluable and irreplaceable legacy that must be preserved for future generations. Collections can include fine arts, library and archival materials, natural history, natural science, musical instruments, textiles, technology, archaeology, ethnography and photography; (2) the nominator should provide evidence of the nominee's sustained commitment to the preservation and care of its collections through description of its conservation and preservation activities, special programs and involvement of conservation professionals in decision-making processes; (3) providing evidence of how the nominated organization has broadened its community's understanding of the goals of conservation and the importance of preserving cultural property through its conservation activities can strengthen an application. The

proposer can be any individual within or outside the organization. Any organization can act as its own propose. Additional letters of support are welcomed and visual documentation (i.e., color slides, black and white photographs) is encouraged. All nomination materials, including letters of support, must be postmarked by **November 15, 1998** and sent to the AIC office: AIC, 1717 K Street NW, Suite, Washington, DC 20006.

• **The DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Museum of Medical Research at the National Institutes of Health** invites applications for the Stetten Memorial Fellowship in the history of twentieth-century biomedical sciences and technology. The fellowship supports one year of postdoctoral work for a fellow in residence at the Museum. The successful applicant will describe a research project that will benefit from interaction with NIH in-house scientist conducting research in the general area of the fellow's interest. The Stetten Fellow will also have access to the collections at the National Library of Medicine, the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records administration, and other repositories in the Washington, D.C., area. The deadline for receipt of applications is **5:00 p.m. EST, 15 December 1998**. Information and applications may be obtained by writing to: Stetten Fellowship, DeWitt Stetten, Jr., Museum of Medical Research, Building 31 room 2B09 MSC 2092, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892-2092 or by downloading the application materials from the Museum's website: <http://www.nih.gov/od/museum/grants/>.

• **The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training** (NCPTT) is offering Preservation Technology and Training Grants (PTTGrants). NCPTT is a group of experts within the National Park Service whose work focuses on technical issues in preservation and conservation. NCPTT seeks to advance the art, craft, and science of historic preservation. The PTTGrants program supports work in archaeology, historic architecture, historic landscapes, objects and materials conservation, and interpretation. For the fiscal year of 1999 PTTGrants program,

proposals are requested in the following with project types: Type 1 Information management; Type 2 Training and education; Type 3 Applied/fundamental research; Type 4 Environmental effects of outdoor pollutants on cultural resources; Research and treatment development; Type 5 Technology transfer; Type 6 Analytical facility support, Type 7 Conference support, Type 8 Publications. Proposals must be postmarked **December 18, 1998 if sent by U.S. Mail.** Proposals must be received by **December 21, 1998 if sent by commercial delivery or hand-delivered.** For a proposal guide call NCPTT at (318) 357-6464 or e-mail: ncptt@ncptt.nps.gov.

• **The Vernacular Architecture Forum** is soliciting nominations for the Paul E. Buchanan Award, recognizing excellence in fieldwork, interpretation, and public service. Eligible categories include architectural recording projects, historic structure reports, preservation plans, exhibitions, restorations, cultural resource surveys, historic designations, computer or technologies applications, film or video presentations, and educational and interpretive programs. Projects completed during 1997 and 1998 are eligible. The winning entry will be announced at the 1999 VAF Conference to be held in Columbus, Georgia. The deadline for submission is **January 30, 1999.** For an application, write or call Travis McDonald, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, P.O. Box 419, Forest, VA 24551, (804) 525-1806.

• **The Society for History in the Federal Government** awards two prizes for outstanding articles on the history of the federal government: The James Madison Prize and The Charles Thomson Prize. The Society awards both prizes annually in the spring for articles published during the preceding calendar year. Entries should be sent by **November 1, 1998** to The Society for History in the Federal Government, Box 14139, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC, 20044. The judges consider the quality and thoroughness of research, the use of original and primary materials, the style, methodology, and value of the publication in furthering the understanding and history of the federal government. Authors, editors, members of

the Society, or anyone else who has knowledge of the eligible works may submit entries. Each entry should be submitted in triplicate with a letter that briefly states why the work should be considered. While entries from any author will be considered for the James Madison Prize, authors of works submitted for the Charles Thomson Prize should be either federal historians or work in some capacity for a federal history program. For articles to be published in November or December, the Society will accept copies in gallery form with the understanding that three copies of the published article will be sent no later than the first week in January.

### **CALLS FOR PAPERS/ PROPOSALS**

• The **Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM)** is now accepting proposals for its 1999 annual conference. Proposals may include lecture sessions, panel discussions, workshops, etc., and may deal with any aspect of the western movement in America or Missouri's position as a nexus for the movement of ideas, goods and people between the East and the West. Possible topics include the influence of various cultural groups, the westward trails, the impact of changes in transportation and other technologies, western exploration, the frontier military, the Mexican, Civil and Indian Wars, trade, and the movement and availability of goods. Proposals may also deal with traditional ALHFAM topics such as agriculture, livestock, trades, domestic activities, and museum issues, as well as the changes the museum field is facing and the challenge of reaching new audiences and cultural groups. For more information contact the Conference Program Chair: Dr. Richard Forry, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, c/o Watkins Mill State Historic Site, 26600 Park RD N, Lawson, MO 64062.

• The **Vermont Historical Society** invites proposals for a conference on antebellum Vermont (1820-50) to be held August 2-3, 1999, in Montpelier, Vermont. Papers relating to Vermont's political, economic, cultural, and social history between 1820 and 1850 are re-

quested. A certificate and \$200 will be offered to the best paper presented by a senior-level or graduate student. Participants will have the opportunity to have their papers published in a special issue of *Vermont History*. Applicants should submit proposals of 500 words in length or less and include a one-page curriculum vitae. **Deadline is January 15, 1999.** Contact: Vermont Historical Society, 109 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05609-0901.

• The **Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA)** and **Boston University's American and New England Studies Program** announce the second annual Graduate Student Conference, "There's No Place Like Home": Public and Private Life in America's Places," scheduled for April 9-10, 1999. This interdisciplinary conference will provide a forum for analyzing notions of the public and private, and discussing how they differ between regions. Submissions from graduate students are encouraged; topics may include American studies, literature, historic preservation, decorative arts, cultural geography, popular culture, and other related disciplines. Send a one-page, single-spaced abstract and a one-page curriculum vitae, postmarked by **December 1, 1998** to: SPNEA-BU Graduate Student Conference Coordinator, American Studies Program, Boston University, 226 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215; phone (617) 353-9916; fax (617) 353-2556; email: HtmlResAnchor@bu.edu

• The **New England American Studies Association** will sponsor its Spring 1999 conference, "Erasures, Evasions, and Absences: Contestation for Control of the Public Record, Past and Present," at Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts, May 15-16, 1999. The 1999 NEASA Conference will focus on contestations and contradictions in the making of a public record. Papers and panel proposals may address any aspect of this broad topic, but are particularly interested in those with a New England focus. Some specific issues we hope to see addressed include: the erasure of deindustrialization in the recreation of New England's industrial past; the invisibility of underemployment in a "boom" economy of full employment;

disemployment, "outsourcing," and the degradation of work; military base closures, hospital shutdowns, and prison; among other topics. Proposals of not more than 250 words and a one-page c.v. must be received by **January 4, 1999**. Send to the NEASA president: Nicholas Bromell, English Department, Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01002; email: nbromell@english.umass.edu; phone: (413) 545-2973.

## CONFERENCES, INSTITUTES, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS

• **The McFaddin -Ward House Museum Conference** will be held November 5-7, 1998 in Beaumont, Texas. The theme this year will be *Historic House Museums: Issues & Options II*. The registration deadline is October 29 and is limited. For more information, please contact the Conference Coordinator at (409) 832-1906, TTY (409) 833-7844, or info@mcfaddin-ward.org.

• **Gendered Landscapes: An Interdisciplinary Exploration of Past Place and Space**. May 29-June 1, 1999 at the Nittany Lion Inn, Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania. The goal of the first Gendered Landscapes conference is to convene scholars who study and are inspired by issues of gender and landscape history. This unique conference offers an opportunity for participants to establish new standards for communication across disciplinary and cultural boundaries. The conference theme allows for a broadly based, widely interpreted discussion regarding cultural meanings of the spaces in which we have lived and worked. For complete details and up-to-date information please visit the web site at: <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/GenderedLandscapes/>

• **SOLINET, Inc.**, the Southeastern Library Network, announces its Fall 1998 preservation workshop schedule. "Disaster Preparedness And Recovery", is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, from 9 am to 4 p.m. at Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY. "Is Magnetism Here To Stay? The Management Of Magnetic Media Collection" is scheduled for Thursday, November 19 from 8:30am to 3:30pm at the William

Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, Atlanta, GA. Cost per session is \$95 for SOLINET members (\$85 early bird, \$120 late registration), \$135 non-members (\$125 early bird, \$160 late registration). Any institution located in the host state qualifies for the member rate. For more information or to register, contact Andrew Jones at 800-999-8558 or [andrew\\_jones@solinet.net](mailto:andrew_jones@solinet.net).

• **The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation** will present "The Soul of the Matter: Interpreting Religion at Museums and Historic Sites", March 14-17, 1999. From 1607 to 1999, the American experiment consistently has had a strong religious dimension. Family, government, education, community and national life have all been shaped in important ways by religious movements, leaders, institutions, and ideas. For both rationalists and enthusiasts, belief systems have been the warp and weft of every society. Understanding the role of religion is essential to teaching history. The conference will include pre-conference tours of historic churches in the Tidewater area, first person vignettes, workshops, panel discussions, lecture sessions with noted scholars, and special tours of the historic area. For additional information, contact: Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg Institute, P.O. Box 1776, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1776; (800) 603-0948; FAX (757) 565-8630; email: [tengle@cwf.org](mailto:tengle@cwf.org)

• **The 6th Biennial Conference of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine** will hold its conference in Sydney, Australia on July 7-10, 1999. The conference theme will be "Individuals and Institutions in the History of Medicine". Members of the Society and other interested persons are invited to submit papers for the Program Committee's consideration. Presentations on the five themes of the conference will be given priority, however papers on any aspect of the history of health, medicine and society are welcome and will be considered. The five themes of the conference are: Health, Medicine and Society at the turn of the century, Medical History-from the viewpoint of the historian and health professional, medicine and Cultures, Art, Artifacts, and Instruments, and Public History and the History of Medi-

cine. For further information contact 6th Biennial Conference of the Australian Society of the History of Medicine, Inc., c/-IMS Pty.Ltd, Locked Bag Q4002, QVB Post Office NSW 1230, Sydney, Australia, fax: +61 2 9290 2244, telephone: +61 2 9290 3366, e-mail: [hom@icms.com.au](mailto:hom@icms.com.au).

## EXHIBITS AND MUSEUMS

• **Rancho Camulos And The Home Of Ramona**, Ventura City Hall, Ventura, California. The exhibition explores the connection between the history of the Rancho Camulos, the historic del Valle family adobe in eastern Ventura County, and Helen Hunt Jackson's novel *Ramona*, an epic romance set in 19th century California. Jackson visited the adobe in 1882, and the novel's "Moreno Ranch" as well as many of its details, appear to be based on her observations at Camulos. When it was published in 1884, *Ramona* became an instant sensation, and created tremendous interest in California's Hispanic past, especially among the tourists who took advantage of the new railroads to visit the state. Rancho Camulos, a stop on the rail line, was dubbed the "Home of Ramona" and was a must-see attraction for devotees of the novel. Purchased by the Rubel family in 1924, the adobe sustained extensive damage in the Northridge earthquake of 1994. It is currently undergoing restoration, and will open to the public as the Rancho Camulos Museum. For more information, visit on-line at [www.vcmha.org](http://www.vcmha.org).

• **The Johnstown Flood Museum** has installed a new multi-media exhibition titled *The Johnstown Flood in 3-D: Victorian Virtual Reality*. Given the popularity of stereo photography by the 1880s and the popular interest in the flood devastated city, Johnstown saw as many as 200 photographers travel to record the flood damage. The exhibit focuses on the photographic record of the disaster as preserved in the museum's collection of original stereoviews. The images are combined with excerpts from survivors' stories. For more information, contact Richard Burket, Executive Director, Johnstown Area Heritage Association, (814) 539-1889, <http://www.ctcnet.net/jaha>.

• The former U.S. Lighthouse Service Depot on Staten Island, New York was selected as the home of the new **National Lighthouse Center and Museum**. Selection of the Staten Island capped a lengthy planning and site selection process that started with the formation of the National Lighthouse Center and Museum Steering Committee in March 1997. Staten Island was one of six finalists. Others included Mackinaw City, Michigan; Point Judith, Rhode Island; Hull, Massachusetts; Rockland, Maine; and New London, Connecticut. The Museum will serve as both an exhibit center telling the rich and colorful story of America's lighthouses, and as an archive, research and workshop center for the largely volunteer lighthouse preservation movement.

## INTERNET NEWS

• **The Library of Congress National Digital Library Program**, in conjunction with the Library's Manuscript Division, announces the second web release of the George Washington Papers. The first release in February 1997 included Series 2, forty-one letterbooks, dating from 1774-1799. This second release, also incorporating Series 2, includes Series 3, Varick transcripts, Continental Army Papers, 1775-1783, and Series 5, Financial Papers, 1750-1796. This second release of the Washington Papers includes a time line covering Washington's life and a set of essays about the Washington Papers. The website can be contacted at <http://memeory.loc.gov/ammem/gwtml/gwhome.html>

• Murray State University is now making [The Kentucky Civil War Sites Association](http://campus.murraystate.edu/academic/faculty/Bill.Mulligan/Clarionla.html) newsletter available on line at: <http://campus.murraystate.edu/academic/faculty/Bill.Mulligan/Clarionla.html>.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

• **Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.**, a nationally recognized engineering and consulting firm is recruiting a Senior Archaeologist (Principal Investigator) to work out of either Greenbelt, MD or Fairfax, VA offices. The successful candidate will have a Masters degree in archaeology or anthropology and 10+ years archaeological experience, 3+

years experience with pipeline surveys in the Midwest and/or Mid Atlantic regions desired. Proven ability to complete assignments within budget and schedule requirements. Must have excellent written and oral communication skills. To apply, send resume via e-mail to: [awilkinson@G-and-O.com](mailto:awilkinson@G-and-O.com) or fax to (301)220-1897 or mail to: 9001 Edmonston Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770, Attn.: Anne Wilkinson, GJS. For additional information on the company, visit the website at: [www.G-and-O.com](http://www.G-and-O.com). eoe/aa m/f/h/v

• **Indiana Historical Society (IHS)** is seeking candidates for the full-time position of Managing Editor in its Publications Division. Founded in 1830 and located in Indianapolis, IHS is a private, independent, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, and promoting Indiana's history. The Managing Editor is in charge of acquisition, content, design, production, budgets, and schedules for the quarterly illustrated magazine *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*. In addition, this position is part of a management team headed by the Director of Publications that establishes plans and policies for the Publications Division. The Managing Editor also works on other publication projects as assigned, and supervises an editor and editorial assistant. A complete job description is available upon request. Candidates should have knowledge of American history; English and conventions of style, print production, and documentary editing techniques, as well as computers, word processing, and electronic publishing. Candidates should also be familiar with public relations, marketing, and distribution, and must be able to set and meet deadlines, cultivate potential authors and seek articles proactively, and communicate effectively. A master's degree in History, English, or American Studies is preferable. Knowledge of magazine distribution, marketing and supervision as well as experience in editing and as an author is also preferred. The salary range for this position starts in the low \$40's; pay offered will be commensurate with experience and skills. IHS offers an excellent benefits package, including health, dental, life and LTD insurance; pension

with TIAA-CREF, tax-deferred annuities, employee assistance program, and flexible benefits. Generous paid time-off. Parking is provided in a nearby garage for a one-time fee of \$11.00. Day care is available nearby. To apply send a letter of application, resume, and the names, current addresses and telephone numbers of three professional references to: Susan P. Brown, Human Resources Director, Indiana Historical Society, 315 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-3299. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled; IHS seeks to fill the position as soon as possible. The IHS is an equal opportunity employer.

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► *Educational continued from pg.4*

The success of the "Building Blocks of History" program and its potential for growth provide further encouragement to the Board and staff at Riverside. Further, the success of the program sends an important message to historic sites everywhere. Visitors like showing that it is not only pristine, white gloved settings that appeal to them. Some actually prefer to get their hands dirty!

*Patti Linn is Site Manager for Riverside, The Farnsley-Moremeyn Landing. Donna M. Neary is the Administrator for Jefferson County Historic Preservation and Archives in Louisville, Kentucky.*

[*Editor's Note: We encourage other sites and institutions to report on their own successful public and educational programs.*]

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► *President's continued from pg.6*

With the boom in heritage tourism and the public's recognized need to embrace a benign past, there will always be a troubled intersection between scholarship and nostalgia. Yet, the public has demonstrated a seemingly unquenchable capacity for historical knowledge and, in many instances, its willing acceptance of revisionist interpretations of the past. The more the historical profession recognizes its responsibility to participate in this lively and important discussion, the more informed a republic we will have—the more we will have met our obligation to "make the public aware of the value, uses, and pleasures of history."

# NCPH STUDENT PROJECT PUBLIC HISTORY AWARD

The National Council on Public History invites nominations for the NCPH Student Project Award. The goal of the award is to recognize and reward the contribution of student projects to the field of public history and to encourage student participation in NCPH.

## Eligibility

### Eligible projects will meet the following criteria:

1. Projects that are the work of one or more full-time students pursuing Masters or Doctorate degrees and that were completed within the two academic years preceding the submission deadline.
2. Projects undertaken primarily as part of academic course work that also became recognized contributions to public history outside of the classroom. (Examples: a classroom assignment in exhibit design that was accepted by a local museum or business for public display; an oral history project accepted into an established oral history collection; an historic preservation context study accepted by the state historic preservation office as a working document.)
3. The academic institution or faculty member sponsoring the nomination is a member of NCPH.

## Award

The winning project will receive a \$500 travel award to enable one or more students from the project to register for and attend the NCPH annual meeting in Lowell, Massachusetts, April 29-May 1, 1999. *Public History News* will publish a short article in the summer issue 1999 submitted by the winning student or students about their project and conference experience.

## Procedures and Submission Requirements

### Candidates should submit the following:

1. A two-page written description of the project prepared by the student or students, which lists the project participants and describes the methodology employed. Please include no more than three examples of supporting materials (photos, videotapes, audiotapes, booklets, or pamphlets). If the project is a written document, include a copy. Please submit three copies of all written material. Materials will not be returned.
2. A letter from the faculty member who initially directed the project. The letter should be submitted directly to the selection committee and explain the faculty member's role in the project, the project's relevance to the student(s) course work, any classroom guidelines for the project, his/her evaluation of the project and its contribution as a piece of public history. The faculty member must also verify the applicant's status as a full-time student at the time the project was undertaken.
3. A letter from the agency, historical society, archive, or other organization which accepted the project as a useful piece of public history. This letter should identify the relationship between the organization and the student(s) responsible for the project and be sent directly to the committee chair. The letter should include an evaluation of the project's usefulness and the qualities that make it a work of professional public history.
4. Please send completed application packets to: Howard S. Miller, Chair, NCPH Student Project Public History Award Committee, 205 Kern Avenue, Morro Bay, California 93442.
5. **Deadline for submissions is January 15, 1999.** Nominees will be notified of the winning project by March 1, 1999.

## Membership Application - 15% Introductory Offer for New Members

I would like to become a member of the National Council on Public History and receive a 1998 calendar year subscription to *The Public Historian* and *Public History News* as a part of my new membership.

- Individual ..... \$39.95 (regular, \$47.00)  
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 Institution ..... \$67.15 (regular, \$79.00)

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Payments to NCPH are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, they may be deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.  
NCPH tax number: 52-1210-174.

PHN 183

# NCPH CALL FOR PROPOSALS



## 2000 ANNUAL MEETING IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

MARCH 30-APRIL 2, 2000

### "The United States and the Wider World"

The 2000 Annual Meeting will be a joint meeting of the National Council on Public History, the Organization of American Historians, and the Missouri Conference on History.

The Program Committee invites submission of proposals for papers, panels, and sessions. **Deadline is January 15, 1999.** For more details and specific guidelines, consult the *OAH Newsletter*, PUBLHIST, or contact:

Executive Offices  
National Council on Public History  
425 University Boulevard - Cavanaugh 327  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202  
Phone: 317.274.2716  
Email: [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu)  
[www.iupui.edu/it/ncph/ncph.html](http://www.iupui.edu/it/ncph/ncph.html)

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## *Public History News*

327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI  
425 University Blvd  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140

ISSN 08912610

Editor: David G. Vanderstel  
Editorial Assistant: Nicole Meyers  
Layout & Typesetting: Jim Dietrich

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #4245 Indianapolis, IN
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