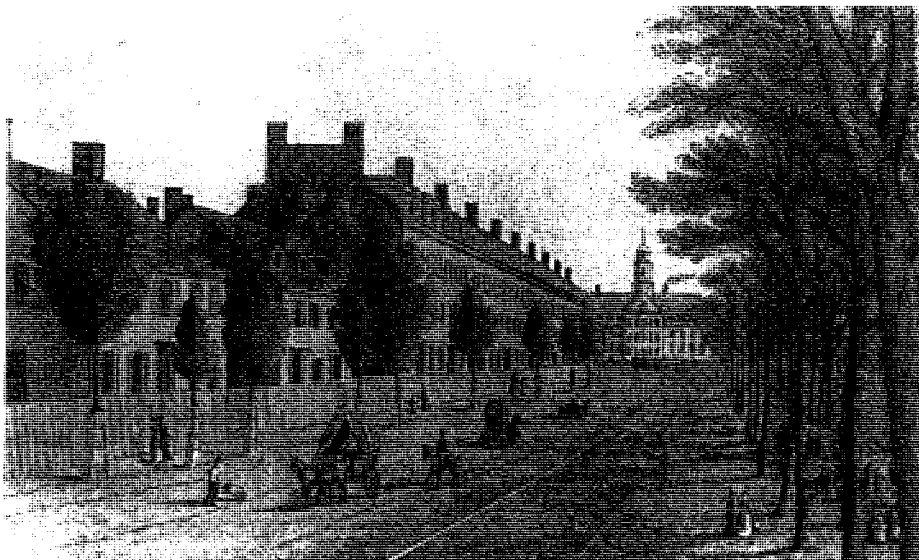


**“HISTORY IN THE PUBLIC SENSE:
HISTORIANS AND THEIR PUBLICS”**

**1999 NCPH ANNUAL MEETING
IN LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS**

by Gray Fitzsimons, Local Arrangements Chair



Merrimack mills and boarding houses, Lowell, MA. Engraving by O. Pelton. Photo courtesy of Lowell National Historical Park.

From April 29 to May 2, 1999, hundreds of public historians are expected to travel to Lowell, Massachusetts, one of the nation's earliest planned industrial cities,

to attend the annual meeting of the National Council on Public History. To commemorate the Council's twentieth anniversary of service to the profession and the public, the conference theme will be "History in the Public Sense: Historians and Their Publics." Throughout the week's meeting, assorted sessions, workshops, plenary sessions, and panel discussions will explore the principal theme and concern of public historians, namely the relationship between historians and their various audiences.

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- Dwight Pitcaithley, President
- Michael Devine, Vice-president
- Jannelle Warren-Findley, Past-president
- Elizabeth Brand Monroe, Secretary-Treasurer
- David G. Vanderstel, Executive Director

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library received a two-year grant by the Henry Luce Foundation to catalogue and place on-line the library's Decorative Arts Photographic Collection (DAPC) and the Photographic Index of American Art and Design (PIAAD), and to support field photography for collection development.

Loretta Sullivan Lobes, Executive Director of the National History Education Network, is the first winner of the Gabriel G. Rudney Award, an annual dissertation prize given by the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organization and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA). Her Ph.D. dissertation discussed the importance of women's contributions to the reorganization of social services from the late 19th to the early 20th century.

Riverside, the Farnsley-Moreman Landing has received the 1998 Award for Excellence in Programming from the Southeastern Museums Conference. Patti Linn, Site Manager for Riverside, and Donna M. Neary, Administrator of the Jefferson County Historic Preservation and Archives program, accepted the award in Little Rock, Arkansas October 15, 1998. The historic site, located along the banks of the Ohio River near Louisville, Kentucky, was featured in the fall 1998 issue of *Public History News*.

> See History pg. 2



Weave Room Workers, Boott Cotton Mills, Lowell, MA, circa 1910.
Photo Courtesy of Lowell National Historical Park.

► History continued from pg 1.

Scheduled sessions will examine how history is told and the diverse roles that historians play in society. They also will focus on how historians understand and respond to the social forces that shape their decisions in selecting areas of study and presenting their findings, and the ways in which the public affect the history that is “enshrined” and interpreted.

Lowell, Massachusetts, site of this year’s annual meeting, was the center of the nation’s cotton textile production for decades. Many of the 19th century textile mills still stand, as do many early commercial buildings in the city’s historic downtown. Lowell National Historical Park, established in 1978 to interpret the social, labor, immigration, and technological history of industrializing America, is the partner for the NCPH meeting.

The four-day meeting will be filled with various special events and activities. One of the highlights will be a keynote address by historian Howard Zinn, who has been an influential figure in presenting American history “from the bottom up.” Professor Zinn will speak to the issues of interpreting and presenting the history of the multitudes of American people who, prior to the 1960s, were seldom found in historical writings or interpreted in the nation’s historical institutions.

The conference also will feature two stimulating plenary sessions. One scheduled for the evening of Thursday April 29 will celebrate NCPH’s twentieth anniversary by examining the past and future prospects of the Council. The second gathering on Saturday May 1 will feature historians Roy Rosenzweig and David Thelen in a discussion about their recent book *The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life* which explores how Americans understand and make use of their past.

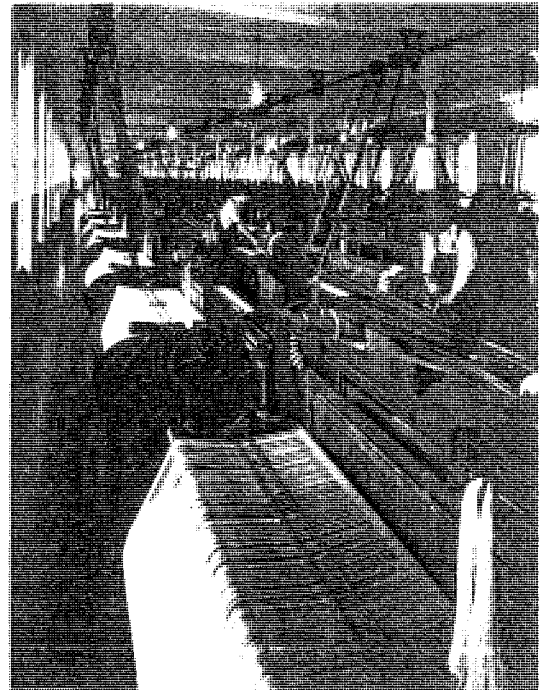
In addition to these sessions, there will be workshops on oral history, cultural resource management, and non-profit management; each of these requires an additional registration fee. Continuing its long tradition, the Curriculum and Training Committee will sponsor the annual “Careers in Public History Workshop” for students. To entice conference attendees to take a break from confines of the hotel, there will be a

selection of tours of historic sites in the area. Planned are tours of Lowell’s industrial buildings and downtown, two excursions to Boston, one to Lexington and Concord, and another to Old Sturbridge Village, a living history museum that interprets antebellum New England.

The conference will be headquartered at Lowell’s DoubleTree Hotel. Rooms will cost \$89.00 plus 9.7% occupancy tax for single or double occupancy. The hotel has a pool, Jacuzzi, and workout room, and each room is wired for Internet access. Shuttle service is available to the hotel, located about 35 miles from Boston’s Logan Airport or the airport at Manchester, New Hampshire. You may make hotel reservations and secure the special conference rate by calling **1-800-876-4586 before March 27, 1999** and identifying yourself as affiliated with the NCPH annual meeting.

Lowell is located along the Pawtucket Falls of the Merrimack River, at the junction of the Concord River. The weather in late April and early May varies, but is often pleasantly cool. Normal high temperatures are about 60°F and lows are about 40°F. Be sure to bring comfortable shoes for the tours and an adventurous culinary spirit for exploring Lowell’s many European and Southeast Asian ethnic restaurants and evening spots.

Conference registration materials will be arriving in your mailboxes soon. For more information, contact Gray Fitzsimons, Local Arrangements Chair, at 978-275-1724; the NCPH Executive Offices at 317-274-2716; or visit the NCPH website at www.iupui.edu/~ncph



The Weave Room Exhibit at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum. Costumed weavers and 88 operating looms recreate the clatter, heat and vibration of work in a textile mill.
Photo courtesy of Lowell National Historical Park.

NEW MEMBERS

Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College, *Tifton, GA*
Ackerman, Frank, *Wellfleet, MA*
University of Alabama, *Tuscaloosa, AL*
Albany Institute of the History of Art, *Albany, NY*
Amherst College, *Amherst, MA*
Amos, Christine, *Shelbyville, KY*
Anacortes Museum, *Anacortes, WA*
Arizona Department of Library Archives and Public Records,
Phoenix, AZ
Arizona Historical Society, *Tucson, AZ*
Asbury, Susan, *Columbia, SC*
Auburn University, *Auburn, AL*
Autry Museum of Western Heritage, *Los Angeles, CA*
Back, Adina, *Brooklyn, NY*
Baer, Robert, *Watertown, NY*
Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, *Munich, Germany*
Beaumont Public Library, *Beaumont, TX*
Belmont Technical College, *St. Clairsville, OH*
Bemidji State University, *Bemidji, MN*
Biola Library, *La Mirada, CA*
Birmingham Public Library, *Birmingham, AL*
Blythe, Robert, *Decatur, GA*
Boise State University, *Boise, ID*
Bonillas, Luisa, *Tempe, AZ*
Brent, Joseph, *Versailles, KY*
Bridgeport Public Library, *Bridgeport, CT*
Bridges, Sarah T., *Beltsville, MD*
Brisco, Jerry, *Tempe, AZ*
Brubaker, Pat, *Berkley, CA*
University of California at Berkley, *Berkley, CA*
University of California at Riverside, *Riverside, CA*
California State University at Chico, *Chico, CA*
California State University at Fresno, *Fresno, CA*
California State University at Northridge, *Northridge, CA*
California University of Pennsylvania, *California, PA*
Carnegie Mellon University, *Pittsburgh, PA*
Case, Kim, *Little Rock, AR*
Chowan College, *Murfreesboro, NC*
Clements, Patricia, *Tallahassee, FL*
University of Colorado, *Boulder, CO*
Colorado State University, *Ft. Collins, CO*
Colston, Stephen, *San Diego, CA*
Combined Arms Library, *Ft. Leavenworth, KS*
Crown Forestry Rental Trust, *Wellington, New Zealand*
Cumberland College, *Williamsburg, KY*
Cummins, Eric F., *Boulder Creek, CA*
Dallas Public Library, *Dallas, TX*
Davis, Julie, *Tempe, AZ*
Detroit Public Library, *Detroit, MI*
Dintman, Sonya, *Stroh, IN*
Diputacio De Barcelona, *Barcelona, Spain*
Dufresne, Sylvia, *Montreal, Canada*
Dunn, Paul, *Chestnut Hill, MA*
Dept. of History, Duquesne University, *Pittsburgh, PA*
Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, *Abilene, KS*
Earle, Ken, *El Dorado Hills, CA*
Earll, Victoria, *Marblehead, MA*
Eastern Kentucky University, *Richmond, KY*
East Oregon State College, *La Grande, Or*
Emory University, *Atlanta, GA*

Evans-Hatch, Gail, *Silverton, OR*
Finbraaten, Erika, *Phoenix, AZ*
Fondazione Luigi Einaudi, *Torino, Italy*
Fort Davis, *Fort Davis, TX*
Fort Pulaski National Monument, *Savannah, GA*
Furman University, *Greenville, SC*
Galveston Texas Historical Center, *Galveston, TX*
Garber, Stephen, *Washington, D.C.*
University of Georgia, *Athens, GA*
Georgia South University, *Statesboro, GA*
Gonzaga University, *Spokane, WA*
Goodman, Lynn, *Albany, NY*
Guillotte, Alice B., *Lafayette, LA*
Hackbush, Janice L., *Toledo, OH*
Hitchcock, Christina, *Derry, NH*
Hobbs, Stuart, *Columbus, OH*
Huffman, Joan B., *Macon, GA*
Idaho State Historical Society, *Boise, ID*
Independence National History Park, *Philadelphia, PA*
Indiana University-Purdue University of Ft. Wayne, *Ft. Wayne, IN*
Industrial Research Associates, *Buffalo, NY*
Jaarsma, Lisa, *Mesa, AZ*
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, *St. Louis, MO*
JTCC/Midlothian Library, *Midlothian, VA*
Kelleher, Michael, *New York, NY*
University of Kentucky, *Lexington, KY*
Kingsport Public Library, *Kingsport, TN*
Lapointe, Robin, *Crowley, LA*
LaTrobe University of Bendigo, *Bendigo, Australia*
Leonard, Benjamin, *Mesa, AZ*
Library of Virginia, *Richmond, VA*
Lincoln Library, *Springfield, IL*
University of Louisville, *Louisville, KY*
University of Maine, *Orono, ME*
Martin, Megan, *Australia*
Martin, Thomas J., *Cambridge, MA*
Maryland Historical Society, *Baltimore, MD*
University of Massachusetts, *Boston, MA*
Mathew, Barbara, *Hadley, MA*
McCabe, Arva, *Miami, FL*
Melton, Brad, *Glendale, AZ*
University of Miami, *Coral Gables, FL*
Middle Tennessee State University, *Murfreesboro, TN*
Milsik, Laura, *Chicago, IL*
Milwaukee Public Library, *Milwaukee, WI*
Monash University Library, *Clayton, Australia*
Mooney, Phil, *Atlanta, GA*
National Archivist Library, *College Park, MD*
National Endowment for the Humanities, *Washington, D.C.*
Nebraska State Historical Society, *Lincoln, NE*
University of Nevada, *Reno, NV*
Newberry College, *Newberry, SC*
New Jersey State Library, *Trenton, NJ*
New York University, *New York, NY*
State University of New York at Albany, *Albany, NY*
State University of New York at Binghamton, *Binghamton, NY*
State University of New York at Potsdam, *Potsdam, NY*
University of North Carolina, *Chapel Hill, NC*
Dept. of History, University of North Carolina at Greensboro,
Greensboro, NC
University of North Carolina at Wilmington, *Wilmington, NC*
Notre Dame College, *Manchester, NH*

► See New Members pg. 7

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



by Dwight Pitcaithley

I am writing this column the day after the House of Representatives voted two articles of impeachment against President William Clinton. After months of congressional debate and, for our purposes, references to historical precedent and context, the United States Congress has impeached a President for only the second time in its history. Because of the attention given to the historical background of the impeachment crisis, the most public use of history, I feel compelled to devote part of my column this issue to current issues.

History and historians have become more public over the past few months. Following hard on the heels of my last column which contained praise for Douglas Greenberg's challenge to academic historians to take a more active part in the public debate about the past, 400 historians, representing a cross section of the academy, signed an open letter complaining that the then current impeachment hearings were not envisioned by the Constitution which specifically reserved impeachment proceedings for "high crimes and misdemeanors in the exercise of executive power." (I do not presume that Greenberg's article or my column prompted this public petition in support of history, intriguing as that possibility might be.) Subsequent to the publication of the letter last October, numerous scholars of the Constitution testified before the House Judiciary Committee in an impressive tutorial in American jurisprudence.

Their testimony prompted more discussion, which led the House Judiciary Committee to recommend four articles of impeachment of which the House of Representatives approved two. In the space of six weeks, the rancorous nature of the arguments prompted the resignation of first one Speaker of the House and then his successor and the impeachment of a president along strict party lines. The frenetic and dizzying and seemingly end-

less turn of contemporary events prompted one reporter for *The Washington Post* to declare, "So this is what history feels like before the historians get hold of it. Before they choose, interpret, compress, highlight, and elide." And then in perhaps the most telling of comments, he concluded by getting to the heart of historians' compulsion to make sense of it all, "History feels awfully confusing."

Indeed, history is confusing, at least the first of the two histories articulated by Carl Becker in his 1931 American History Association presidential address. The second, the one that occurs after "historians get their hands on it," is only less so. It is, of course, because of the complexity of the past that societies turn to historians to find logic in the confusion, purpose in the seemingly contradictory and overlapping rush of events. I was impressed with the quick historical correctives provided by reporters during the heated and passionate claims and counterclaims made over the past few days. Representative Robert Livingston, in an attempt to justify impeachment hearings while American troops were engaged in attacks on Iraq, argued that impeachment hearings against Richard Nixon began when troops were still deployed in the fields of Vietnam. In fact, as a *New York Times* reporter quickly noted, the last combat troops has been withdrawn a full six months before the House Judiciary Committee was asked to address the subject of impeachment. On the same day, Senator Trent Lott, during an interview on CNN, suggested that during the 1991 vote authorizing President Bush to use force in Iraq, not a single Democrat had voted to support the President. A quick check of the *Congressional Record* revealed that, indeed, 86 Democrats in the House and 10 in the Senate had voted for the authorization.

As the past year has shown very clearly, there is an increasing need for public historians and other historically minded folk to engage the public discussion of the past to bring clarity of thought and speech to contemporary affairs. Public debate based on historical half-truths or, worse, mis-truths sets societies adrift from their historical moorings. With the stakes, and passions, as high as they currently are, this society can ill afford to engage in discourse that does not reflect

historical reality. Our work, that of clarifying and contextualizing the past, is cut out for us.

On a different but related matter, the National Council on Public History, as I hope all of you now know, is in the midst of an endowment campaign to place our organization on a firmer economic footing. Following the pattern set by last year's conference in Austin, the 1999 annual meeting in Lowell will provide several opportunities to join with others to support the endowment. Please participate in these activities and help the organization assist and recognize its members through student scholarships and awards. As we reach our financial goals, we hope to expand endowment-funded opportunities to strengthen and enrich further the work of public history.

The program for the Lowell gathering is now complete and will provide us all both a forum for thought and an opportunity to explore the historic and ethnically diverse mill town of Lowell, Boston, and neighboring historic sites. The list of sessions and speakers is varied and rich enough to provoke and sustain an active intellectual engagement of the public history issues confronting us today. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to join us in Lowell next April.



The National Council on Public History

promotes the application of historical scholarship

outside the university in government, business, historical societies, preservation organizations, archives, libraries, professional associations, and public interest groups.

For details contact NCPH President Dwight Pitcaithley, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; Vice President Michael Devine, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071-3924; or David G. Vanderstel, NCPH, Cavanaugh 327, IUPUI, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140; (317) 274-2716; E-mail: ncph@iupui.edu.

For change of address, write UC Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720.

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by David G. Vanderstel

Historians traditionally have not been overly involved in public advocacy. In recent years, however, it seems that the historical profession has been challenged to the "max" with issues that have hit close to home, which have led historians to speak out and discuss the relevance of history in contemporary society. Problems with the Smithsonian's Enola Gay exhibit, controversies over the National History Standards and Disney's America, battles over declassification of government and court records, and even issues pertaining to affirmative action and candidates for political office have captured the attention of historians and moved them to express their positions on the issues. Clearly, the nature of these controversies indicate that history does indeed matter, but to what extent? We in the public history field believe that historians must be involved and need to address historical issues not only for the benefit of the profession but also for the public's interest.

Within the past couple months, two issues have emerged that demonstrate the importance of historians speaking out to provide their perspective and to promote the relevance of history today. The first arose on PUBLHIST last fall regarding the question whether undergraduate institutions should offer certificates in public history. Proponents claimed that a certificate would expose students to the field and possibly entice them to pursue a career in public history. Opponents, however, noted that certificates would not provide students with sufficient exposure to nor experience in the complex and diverse field of public history. They expressed a concern that students might attempt to seek employment in the field with only a bachelor's degree, thereby diminishing the importance of pursuing a graduate degree in public history and achieving a

degree of professional competency required in other professions.

As a product of a small Midwestern liberal arts college myself, I would have appreciated exposure to the field of public history in my undergraduate studies. The history faculty, however, was oriented solely to producing history majors who would go on to pursue graduate degrees in history and thus a career in academe, or those who studied history to supplement their desired career in teaching, law, or the ministry. At no point was there any discussion of what we might call "alternative careers" or public history. Within the past few years, the chair of the department has put me in touch with several history majors from my alma mater who are interested in pursuing careers in public history. In my conversation with him, I conveyed my belief that all undergraduate history departments should provide their students (especially majors) with exposure to public history, whether in the form of a short course, a segment of the senior seminar, and/or through internships. I believe, as did many participants in the PUBLHIST discussion, that such exposure might help to stimulate the interest of students in the field of public history and make them stronger candidates for admission to public history graduate programs.

The other issue affecting the field of history that surfaced in the fall pertains to proposed changes in social studies licensing standards here in Indiana. The licensing committee has proposed creating a general social studies license for teachers that would greatly weaken history preparation of teacher education students. Historians affiliated with the Indiana Association of Historians and the newly-formed Indiana Council for History Education have been voicing their concerns in the press and public meetings about what they consider to be the "gutting" of content preparation for teaching history at lower grade levels. They argued that not only would this change affect the quality of teaching, but it also would have a detrimental effect on the working knowledge and appreciation for history by students, making the teaching of history at the collegiate level that much more

difficult. One member of the licensing committee, in response to a concern expressed about insufficient content background for teachers, said quite bluntly, "How much geography does the typical 7th grade geography teacher need to know?"

Oddly, at a time when there is movement nationwide towards improved education and the adoption of higher standards, the State of Indiana, not known historically for its support for education or for educational innovation, seems to be moving in reverse. Even Secretary of Education Richard Riley stated in a recent speech before the National Press Club that "future teachers should major in the subject they want to teach."

While we historians are often concerned with the state of affairs within academe and the profession at large, we also need to be paying closer attention to the state of history among our various publics, especially the realm of elementary and secondary education. How history is taught—or not taught—at the lower levels as well as in undergraduate institutions will indeed affect the way students understand the past and whether they perceive history to be an important window on contemporary society. Watering down the requirements for teachers in history and social studies will only perpetuate the long-held stereotype that history can be taught by anyone. Likewise, failing to expose our undergraduates to applied or public history is, I believe, truly unfortunate. By focusing solely on an academic perspective, those in the academy are, in a way, placing blinders on their students and preventing them from experiencing the fullness and richness of history.

I trust that as we begin the new year, public historians will be increasingly aware of their diverse publics. Let us resolve—and not break those resolutions!—to work towards improved history education at all levels and to promote the relevance of history in contemporary society.

MIDDLETOWN RESEARCH CENTER EXEMPLIFIES HISTORICAL RESEARCH IN THE PUBLIC'S INTEREST

by Bruce Geelhoed

Between 1924-1927, a sociological team led by social researchers Robert S. and Helen Merrell Lynd came to Muncie, Indiana, to conduct a research project dealing with life in a mid-sized American community. Funded by the Institute for Social and Religious Research, an arm of the philanthropy of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., the research team collected data, conducted interviews, and analyzed newspaper sources in an effort to construct a profile of community life as lived by the ordinary citizens of Muncie. In 1929, the Lynds published the results of their study in a book entitled *Middletown: A Study in Modern American Culture*. To the surprise of virtually everyone, this academically oriented, clinically written book became a national best seller and represented a landmark in the literature of American sociology. *Middletown* also had another profound impact: it identified Muncie, Indiana, as the "representative" mid-sized community in America. Almost overnight, Muncie became Middletown, the barometer of social attitudes, customs, beliefs, and behavior in the American heartland.

While the Lynds conducted their research in Muncie, they experienced life in a city that was enjoying all the benefits of the 1920s-era prosperity. Muncie's industrial sector, fueled by the expansion of the auto industry, was booming. Local commerce thrived and the community's outlook was positive and enthusiastic, believing that the future held only more prosperity and progress. When the Great Depression struck the United States in the 1930s, however, Muncie did not escape its effects along with the rest of the industrial heartland. Lynd returned to Muncie in 1935 to conduct a follow-up study and to analyze the effects of economic deprivation, rather than economic prosperity, upon the life of this mid-sized, mid-western community. In 1937, the Lynds published *Middletown in Transition: A Study in Cultural Conflicts*. While the Lynds' second study failed to receive the critical acclaim of their first book, it nevertheless provided a further glimpse into the dynamics of a city that was rapidly becoming a research laboratory for social scientists.

Following the publication of *Middletown* and *Middletown in Transition*, the next fifty years witnessed a steady progression of social scientists to Muncie to study various aspects of its life, in an attempt to either prove, disprove, or modify the conclusions of the Lynds. Between 1977-1982, sociologists Theodore Caplow, Howard Bahr, and Bruce Chadwick conducted a replication of the Lynds' original study, on the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Middletown*. This study, funded by the National Science Foundation, became known as

"Middletown Three" and resulted in the publication of two books by Theodore Caplow, *Middletown Families* (1982) and *All Faithful People* (1983). At the same time, but independent of the "Middletown Three" project, filmmaker Peter Davis was producing his six-part documentary series, entitled *Middletown*. By the mid-1980s, Muncie, Indiana, had unquestionably become the most studied mid-sized community in America.

Ball State University capitalized on the attention generated within the academic community on "Muncie as Middletown" by establishing the Center for Middletown Studies in 1980. Dwight W. Hoover, professor of history and a recognized scholar in the fields of social and intellectual history, was the founding director. Under Hoover's direction, the Center continued to expand and, in 1984, became an established academic unit within the university. In 1991, Hoover retired and E. Bruce Geelhoed, professor of history and a specialist in American business history, became the Center's new director.

The mission of the Center for Middletown Studies is to promote research and scholarship on the history of "Muncie as Middletown" according to the literary tradition of Robert and Helen Lynd. Since its founding, the Center has adopted four principal program areas that benefit both professional researchers and the general public. It promotes research and scholarship on Middletown topics by faculty and students of Ball State University and encourages research and scholarship on Middletown topics by visiting faculty, especially international scholars. The Center conducts public programs on Middletown topics for the benefit of the non-campus community, and advances the University's goal of internationalization by encouraging visits to Ball State by study-abroad students. To support the program areas, the Center conducts a regular lecture series and has sponsored visits by international scholars from Germany, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and other countries. It publishes regularly an academic newsletter, *The Social Change Report*, written by sociologist Theodore Caplow. The Center also supports Ball State faculty who are studying such topics as the lifestyles of elderly citizens in Muncie, crime and the local criminal justice system, the minority community, public health, religion, the contributions of women's organizations, and the history of education in central Indiana.

The Center for Middletown Studies offers a graduate assistantship each year to a qualified student working either in the humanities or social sciences. The graduate assistant receives exposure to the full range of the Center's work, including research, writing, and coordinating the international aspects of its program. In addition, the Center works closely with the staff of the Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie to sponsor public lectures on Middletown topics for the local community.

Bruce Geelhoed is Director of the Center for Middletown Studies. For more information about the Center, contact Geelhoed at (765) 285-8037 or by email at 00ebgeelhoed@bsu.edu

► *New Members continued from pg 2*

Ohio Northern University, *Ada, OH*
Osborne, Caitlin, *Portland, ME*
University of Otago, *Dunedin, New Zealand*
University of the Pacific, *Stockton, CA*
Pacific Lutheran University, *Tacoma, WA*
Pomona College, *Claremont, CA*
Preuss, Karl, *Austin, TX*
Pubsley, Andrea, *Phoenix, AZ*
Queens College, *Charlotte, NC*
University of Queensland, *St. Lucia, Australia*
Radford University, *Radford, VA*
Reese, Pamela, *Silver Spring, MD*
Riley, Sean, *Sacramento, CA*
Riverside Public Library, *Riverside, CA*
Roberts, Kevin, *Blacksburg, VA*
Rochester Public Library, *Rochester, NY*
Rusnak, Cecilia, *University Park, PA*
San Diego State University, *San Diego, CA*
San Francisco State University, *San Francisco, CA*
San Jose State University, *San Jose, CA*
University of Santa Clara, *Santa Clara, CA*
Seneca, Michael, *Glendora, NJ*
Simon Fraser University, *Blaine, WA*
Sloan, Stephen, *Mesa, AZ*
Sonoma State University, *Rohnert Park, CA*
University of South Carolina, *Columbia, SC*
Stark, Julie, *Yuba City, CA*
State Historical Society, *Madison, WI*
State University College, *Oswego, NY*
State University College, *Plattsburgh, NY*
St. Bonaventure University, *St. Bonaventure, NY*
St. Cloud University, *St. Cloud, MN*
Stephens Jr., Donald, *Omaha, NE*
Strong Museum Library, *Rochester, NY*
Tennessee State Library, *Nashville, TN*
Tennessee Technical University, *Cookeville, TN*
University of Texas-Pan American, *Edinburg, TX*

U.S. Geological Survey Lab, *Herndon, VA*
University of Utah, *Salt Lake City, UT*
Vanderbilt University, *Nashville, TN*
Victoria University of Wellington, *Wellington, New Zealand*
University of Waikato, *Hamilton, New Zealand*
Walker, David, *Sacramento, CA*
Washington State University, *Pullman, WA*
University of Western Ontario, *Ontario, Canada*
University of West Florida, *Pensacola, FL*
Wichita State University, *Wichita, KS*
Wilkerson, Jane A., *Little Rock, AR*
Willamette University, *Salem, OR*
Williams, Glen F., *Catonsville, MD*
Winterthur Library, *Winterthur, DE*
Wright, Tracy, *Mesa, AZ*
Youngstown State University, *Youngstown, OH*
Zubeldia, Carlos, *Spain*

NCPH WELCOMES A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

In early November Kelly Barnes joined the NCPH staff as the administrative assistant to the Executive Director. Kelly is a returning student who is majoring in history. Originally from southern Maryland, she has lived in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Chicago before moving to Indianapolis. Kelly brings years of experience in customer service, having served previously as a waitress, bartender, and retail manager. Between Kelly and Nikki Meyers, the graduate intern, the office is never in short supply of amusing stories and lively conversation.

Please extend your welcome to Kelly the next time that you contact the NCPH Executive Offices.

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.

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NCC WASHINGTON UPDATE



by Page Putnam Miller, Director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History
<pagem@capaccess.org>

[Editor's Note: Excerpts of recent NCC Updates are included here. Complete back files are maintained by H-NET and may be found at <http://h-net.msu.edu/~ncc>]

• **Researchers File Petition In Court To Gain Access To The Alger Hiss Grand Jury Records** — On December 15 Public Citizen, joined by the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Society of American Archivists, and the American Society for Legal History, filed a petition in the US District Court of the Southern District of New York to seek an order releasing fifty year old grand jury records relating to the Cold War era trial of Alger Hiss. Over fifty years ago on December 15, 1948, Alger Hiss was indicted for and later convicted of two counts of perjury arising out of his denials under oath before the grand jury of having passed State Department documents to a Communist agent. The intent of this petition is both to gain access to significant historical documents and to establish a legal precedent for opening secret grand jury records of historical interest.

This petition builds on a 1997 decision of the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York City in the case of Bruce Craig v. United States of America (No. 96-6264). In that decision the Court denied historian Bruce Craig access to the specific historical records that he sought; however, the Court made clear that historical interests are appropriate grounds for the release of grand jury material. This groundbreaking opinion stated that "It is, therefore, entirely conceivable that in some situations historical or public interest alone could justify the release of grand jury information" and the court provided some specific guidance for determining the "special circumstances"

when sensitive grand jury records should be unsealed for historical reasons.

The petition demonstrates how the request for the Hiss records meets each of the specific factors laid out for consideration in the Appeals Court's decision. Leading scholars signed affidavits in support of the importance of these records for addressing unanswered questions about important political and legal events of the early Cold War era. The petition has the support of Hiss family with both Hiss's son and stepson supporting the disclosure of the records. The petition notes that all of the principal parties involved in the grand jury proceedings are now dead and that significant disclosures about what transpired in the grand jury proceedings have already been disclosed. More information on this case may be found on the web site of Public Citizen <http://www.citizen.org>

• **Continued Delays in Opening 40 Year Old Atomic Energy Commission Records** — For over a decade scholars have been seeking access to records of the Atomic Energy Commission from the 1940s and 1950s. Today, only a small portion of the records are available for researchers at the National Archives. Now there are further delays as a re-review is underway by the Department of Energy for material that several months ago had been certified for release. The Department of Energy, which has custody of the Atomic Energy Commission records, had certified that 62 boxes containing records of five Atomic Energy Commission Commissioners from 1946-61 had been reviewed and were ready to be opened to researchers. But the records remain closed because the National Archives has suspended its processing of the records, the final stage in making them available to the public, for as long as the Department of Energy is engaged in a re-review.

• **Advisory Committee on Records of Congress Meets** — On December 17 the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress met. Two major items of discussion were the renovation of the Archives I building and public access via the Internet to resource materials for the study of Congress. Representatives of the National Archives reported that a major renovation of the Archives building on Pennsylvania Av-

enue will take two years with a target completion date in 2003. They stressed that the work would have minimal impact on the Center for Legislative Records. The current research rooms for legislative records will remain in operation during the renovation. When the renovation is completed, the Center will move within the building to larger and better facilities. It was noted that the storage facilities in Archives I for legislative records will not have any audio-visual records, for the retrofitting of the old building will not have adequate storage standards for audio-visual material.

The Committee heard encouraging reports about resource guides for the study of Congress that are now available on the Internet. The Senate, House, and the National Archives have cooperated in making available biographical information on all members of Congress from 1774 to the present and a guide to repositories across the country that house manuscript collections of Congressional members. Additional work is underway to develop finding aids for congressional records, which will include guides for the records of each major congressional committee. The National Archives, Senate, and House each have web sites with historical components that provide valuable research material: <http://www.nara.gov/nara/legislative> or <http://www.senate.gov> or <http://clerkweb.house.gov>

• **Head of Interagency Declassification Appeals Panel Urges New Ways To Access National Security** — In a speech in November before the 4th Annual Intelligence Community Information Management and Classification Conference, Roslyn A. Mazer, chair and Justice Department representative of the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP), urged agency leaders to seek new ways to reduce secrecy and to "use our unique international leadership status to bring secrecy standards for international governmental cooperation in line with what is and really needs to be secret." She was particularly critical of US classification policy that seeks to keep classified categories of information that are already widely know. Mazer's entire speech may be seen at the Federation of American Scientists web site <http://www.fas.org/sgp/advisory/mazer98.html>

Michael C. Robinson (1943-1998)

Michael C. Robinson, a long-time public historian and friend of many NCPH members, died at the Vicksburg Medical Center on Sunday, November 29, 1998, at the age of 55. Most recently, Robinson had worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, Mississippi, serving as the first historian of the Mississippi River Commission/Lower Mississippi Valley Division until he was appointed chief of Public Affairs in 1994. He continued in that role through the transition of the agency to the Mississippi Valley Division/Mississippi River Commission and until his death. Before moving to the Army Corps of Engineers, Robinson worked for the American Public Works Association in Washington, D.C., and in Chicago, Illinois, from 1974 to 1982. At the APW, Robinson served first as the associate editor of the association's bicentennial history of public works in the US and then as research coordinator for the Public Works Historical Society.

Robinson, a native of Kingman, Kansas, earned his bachelor's degree from Southwest College in Winfield, Kansas. He received his master's degree from Wichita State University in 1967 and a doctorate from the University of Wyoming in 1974.

A specialist in civil engineering and environmental history, Robinson wrote extensively. His major works included *History of Public Works in the United States, 1776-1976*; *Water for the West: the Bureau of Reclamation, 1902-1977*; *The Mississippi River Commission: An American Epic*; and *Gunboats, Low Water, and Yankee Ingenuity: A History of Bailey's Dam*.

He was a member of many engineering and historical organizations and received several honors, among them the Heritage Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers for his contributions to the history of public works and civil engineering. Robinson also served at various times as president of the Mississippi chapter of the American Public Works Association and a trustee of the Public Works

Historical Society. Most recently, he attended the U.S. Army War College, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, an opportunity offered to only the most distinguished civilian employees of the Department of the Army.

Dr. Robinson was an innovative and creative public historian, who excelled in promoting the use of historical analysis among managers and policy makers. For over twenty years, from the time that he began work as one of two associate editors of the American Public Works Association's bicentennial history of public works in the US, he promoted the utility of historical studies in decision-making. He was among the founders of the Public Works Historical Society in Chicago, and used his position as research coordinator of that organization to show senior managers in the public and private sectors the importance of oral history interviews and historical studies.

When he left Chicago to be the historian for the Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, he took his skills as both practitioner and advocate for his profession with him. As the division historian and later as the public affairs officer, he remained an exemplar of the practicing historian, never compromising his integrity for the sake of expediency and always providing historical analysis of the highest quality. Dr. Robinson's entire career was a testament to the usefulness of the historian in the development of public policy.

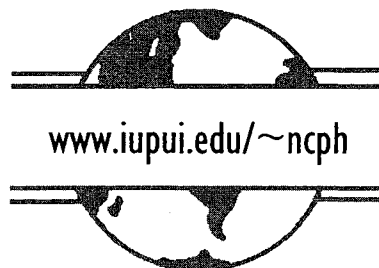
Dr. Robinson's contributions to the historical profession will be memorialized through the creation of the Michael C. Robinson Prize. The National Council on Public History has agreed to administer the prize, intended to recognize excellence in historical studies prepared in support of public policy formulation. Donations in memory of Michael Robinson and in support of the prize may be made to the "NCPH Endowment Fund — Robinson Prize" and sent to Executive Director, National Council on Public History, 327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI, 425 University Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140.

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 with a message SUBSCRIBE PUBLHIST.

Watch for some significant changes in the coming months.

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS



- **The Truman Library** has opened for research photocopies of 64 letters that Harry S. Truman wrote to his cousins Myra and Mary Colgan, the daughters of Truman's father's sister, Emily Ricks Truman Colgan. The collection includes three handwritten letters and two postcards that Truman sent his cousins in 1906 and 1907. These are the earliest handwritten, personal letters of Truman's in the Library's holdings. For information, call (816) 833-1400 or visit the web site at www.trumanlibrary.org.

- **Remembering Slavery: African Americans Talk About Their Personal Experiences of Slavery and Emancipation**, makes available, for the first time in both printed work and recorded voice, the recollections of American ex-slaves as recorded more than a half-century ago. It draws on written and recorded interviews of hundreds of elderly people that were made by the Federal Writers' Project in the 1930s and deposited in the Library of Congress. For more information call (202) 707-5221 or visit its web site at www.lcweb.loc.gov/loc/cfbook.

- **National Woman's History Project** is offering a program kit for National Women's History Month in March. This year's theme is "Women Putting Our Stamp on America." The kit includes the 1999 commemorative poster, a 20-minute speech about some of the women honored on the poster, a 14-minute video, "Women on Stamps," produced by the U.S. Postal Service, program tips, and other materials. For the Women's History Program kit, or for other ideas to celebrate National Women's History Month, contact the National Women's History Project, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492, call (707) 838-6000, or visit www.NWHP.org.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

- **The Athenaeum of Philadelphia** announces the availability of research fellowships and summer internships in early American architecture and building technology prior to 1860 to be used during the period of June 1, 1999, to May 31, 2000. Senior Fellowships applicants must hold a terminal degree. Applications should be submitted in the form of a single-page letter setting forth a brief statement of the project, with attached budget, schedule for completion, and professional resume. Applicants for summer internships must be graduate students enrolled full time in an architecture or historic preservation program. Summer internships are for periods of two to four months and carry a stipend of \$1,250 per month. Applicants should outline their project and explain why access to the research facilities of the Philadelphia region is required. A resume and letter of reference from the student's principal professor is also required. Applications will be accepted between **January 1, 1999 and March 1, 1999**, and should be addressed to the Chairman, Peterson Fellowship Committee, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, East Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-3794.

- **Eastern Illinois University's** programs in History and Historical Administration offer several positions with a tuition-waver, grant, and/or stipend. The History Department has a grant to fund a Technology in history Graduate Assistantship to assist in developing a web-based Center for Local History. To be considered for this or other awards, apply by **March 1, 1999**. For information and application forms, contact Newton E. Key (217) 581-6360, cfnek@eiu.edu, Department of History, Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln, Charleston, IL 61920-3310.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

- **The American Heritage Center**, a manuscript repository at the University of Wyoming, will host its eighth annual symposium entitled "The Fifties Turn Fifty: The 'Nuclear Family' and Postwar American Culture," September 16-18, 1999. The program committee requests proposals for papers and ses-

sions that explore the many aspects of 1950s family life. For papers and panels, submit an abstract of 100-150 words. Include the title of the presentation, full name of all presenters, institutional affiliations, mailing addresses, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail addresses, and special equipment requirements. Proposals for poster sessions may also be submitted. Send proposals to:

Sally Sutherland, American Heritage Center, PO Box 3924, Laramie, WY 82071; fax 307-766-5511; email: sallys@uwyo.edu **Proposals must be received by February 15, 1999.**

- **The Center for Cryptologic History** will host the eighth Symposium on Cryptologic History at the National Security Agency, Ft. Meade, Maryland. We welcome proposals for panels or individual papers relating to any aspect of cryptologic history. To propose either a panel or a paper, send a one-page abstract and a brief vita for each presenter to: Dr. David A. Hatch, Center for Cryptologic History (S542), National Security Agency, 9800 Savage Road, Ft. George G. Meade, MD 20755-6886. For further information call (301) 688-2966. **Deadline is April 1, 1999.**

CONFERENCES, INSTITUTES, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS

- **The Alexandria (VA) 250th Anniversary Commission** will sponsor the symposium "George Washington and Alexandria, Virginia: Ties That Bind" on Saturday **February 20, 1999**. The one-day gathering will include lectures on Washington and his role in the early republic. Richard Brookhiser, senior editor of the *National Review*, will be the keynote speaker, addressing the topic "Washington's Relevance to American Society Today." Registration is \$20 per person (\$25 after February 1.) The symposium will be held at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, VA. For more information, call (703) 838-3814.

- **The U.S. Information Agency's Branch for the Study of the U.S.** announces requests for proposals for the post-graduate American Studies Summer Institutes to be held during the summer

of 1999. Institute topics include Study of the U.S. for Foreign Secondary School Educators, The U.S. Constitution, Change and Reform in American History, and Foundations of U.S. Foreign Policy. For further information, visit the USIA web site at www.usia.gov/education/rfps/menr.html or contact Richard Taylor at the Branch for the Study of the U.S. at (202) 619-4557 or (202) 619-4578, e-mail: HtmlResAnchorrtaylor@usia.gov.

• The **Architectural History Department of the Savannah College of Art and Design** announces "The Savannah Symposium on the City Square" to be held **February 25-27, 1999**. The conference will address the history and development of town squares and the use of public space. For more information, contact: David Gobel at 912-525-6056 or dgobel@scad.edu or visit the school's web site at <http://archhist.scad.edu/symposium.html>

• The second annual **Museum and Library Archives Institute**, sponsored by the Monson Free Library and Reading Room Association, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the New England Archivists, and New En-

gland Museum Association, will be held at the Monson & Wilbraham Academy, Wilbraham, Massachusetts, on **June 25-26, 1999**. For information, contact Theresa Rini Percy, Director, Monson Free Library, 2 High Street, Monson, MA; phone (413) 267-3866; fax (413) 267-5496; email: TPercy@cwmares.org.

• The **Lancaster Family History Conference** will be held **March 25-27, 1999** in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Lancaster County Historical Society and the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society will cosponsor the conference. For more information contact Lola M. Lehman at 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499 or call (717) 393-9745.

• The **National Preservation Institute** has released its 1999 schedule of seminars in Historic Preservation and Cultural Management. For seminar agendas and schedules, contact www.npi.org on the Internet or call (703) 765-0100.

INTERNET

• For over a century the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress* has provided valuable information

about the more than 13,000 individuals who have served in the national legislature. A new online version goes well beyond the scope of the previous directory to include images from Congress' large photo collection and information from other published sources. The directory may be found at <http://bioguide.congress.gov>.

• The **James J. Hill and Louis W. Hill, Sr. Photographic Archives** are now online. Over 8,000 photographs, which span the period 1860s to 1950 in the American Northwest and Western Canada, are part of the railroad magnate's manuscript collection. Researchers can browse the entire photographic archive or smaller selected groups of photographs on specific subjects at http://www.jjhill.org/man_services.html

• The **Organization of American Historians** is one of a few selected web sites to host the entire online version of the Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board's final report. Researchers may view the entire contents of the report online at <http://www.indiana.edu/~oah>

CONSULTANTS' CORNER

The Consultants' Working Group (CWG) is dedicated to promoting 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. Forward news of finished projects, recent Requests for Proposals, contract awards, contract firms, and ongoing oral history projects, or anything that might be of interest to practicing historians. E-mail items to Jason Gart, Chair, Consultants' Working Group at gartj@asu.edu.

Christopher Clarke-Hazlett, a member of the NCPH Board, received a three-year contract from the National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center to assist in exhibition planning for NPS sites.

Carl E. Kramer of Kramer Associates, Inc. recently released *From Family Business to Community Stewardship: A History of Atlas Machine & Supply, Inc.*, which highlights the activities of the ninety-two year old Kentucky-based precision machine shop.

History Associates Incorporated signed a three-year contract with IBM to assist the company archivist with processing of records. The company also recently completed an oral history series for the National Institutes of Health.

Lee Anderson and Kathy Penningroth, partners in A&P Historical Resources, completed two on-going projects in 1998. A contract with the Iowa Pharmacists Association resulted in *Transitional through Innovation: The Iowa's Pharmacists Association and Iowa Pharmacy, 1954-1997*. Another project for the

University of Iowa College of Nursing culminated in the book *Complete In All Paris: Nursing Education at the University of Iowa, 1898-1998*, published by the University of Michigan Press.

Scott D. Welsh, an analyst with Evidence Based Research, Inc., and a team of Army historians recently concluded an eighteen-month historical review of Asian-American World War II veterans for possible upgrades to the Medal of Honor status.

Kise, Straw, & Kolodner is beginning an eighteen-month project to identify historical roadways significant to the development of New Jersey. The firm is working with an interagency committee that includes the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office.

NEW PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AWARD



The National Council on Public History will award a \$300 travel grant for a new professional to attend the annual meeting in Lowell, Massachusetts, April 29-May 2, 1999. Applicants must be members of NCPH and must have been practicing public historians for no more than three years and have no institutional travel support. The award recipient will attend the NCPH meeting and write a short article for the newsletter about their conference experience. Letters of application should explain how attendance at the annual meeting will benefit the applicant professionally. Please send a letter of application and c.v. to: Katharine T. Corbett, Chair, NCPH Awards Committee, 7249 Tulane Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63130. **Applications must be received by March 1, 1999.** The winner will be notified by March 15. The travel award is funded from interest earned by the NCPH Endowment Fund.

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