

PRESERVING PAPERS AND PAINT:

The Corporate Archives of Benjamin Moore & Co.

by Barbara Mayer



Cloth banner depicting an early advertising image for Benjamin Moore House paint, c. 1919.

children. Although this is no longer the case, his early policy continued through several generations. As a result, the company took on some of the qualities of being a family. This feeling contributed to a corporate culture that has valued the company's history and led to the preservation of many interesting items.

Thanks to the initiative of several former employees, Benjamin Moore & Co. retained and catalogued materials reflecting the early history of the company as well as of the American paint industry. However, the individual who catalogued the historical collection retired around 1985, and the company did nothing significant with its archives until hiring me as a consultant in late 1997. My assignment was to bring the existing archives up-to-date and to suggest and implement ways of using those materials. The active phase of this project is expected to continue at least through the end of 1999.

The principal reason for Benjamin Moore & Co. for supporting this project, as I understand it, is to enhance its corporate image. The leadership at Benjamin Moore views the archives as a business asset because they confer a distinction that may provide a competitive edge. Eileen McComb, director of corporate communications, promoted the idea of reorganizing and extending the archives, and she obtained support for the project from the company chairman.

The archives are rich in materials from the 1880s to the present. Among

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ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

• The National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. has appointed **James B. Gardner** to the position of assistant director for history. Gardner serves as chair of the NCPH Membership Committee.

• **James Perocco**, chair of the NCPH Pre-Collegiate Education Committee, has published *A Passion for the Past: Creative Teaching of U.S. History* (Heinemann, 1998).

• **Paige Roberts**, co-facilitator of the NCPH listserv PUBLHIST, is the new Executive Director of the Immigrant City Archives, Lawrence, MA.

• **David G. Vanderstel**, NCPH Executive Director, has been named historian for Marion County, Indiana. This honorary position, part of the state's county historian program, will allow Vanderstel to promote the study and preservation of history among the county's numerous historical agencies and the public at large.

NEW MEMBERS

- Ager, Michael, *Canton, MI*
- Alvitti, John, *Houston, TX*
- Anderson, Jandy, *Dixon, CA*
- Anthony, Susan, *Blue Bell, PA*
- Arkansas Territorial Restoration, *Little Rock, AR*
- Arring, Chuck, *Wassockett, RI*
- Beard, Vicki R., *Robson Park, CA*
- Beattie, Susan L., *St. Louis, MO*
- Breitkreutz, Cathleen L., *Arlington, MA*
- Bronson, Susan, *Montreal, Canada*
- Broom, Jane E., *Starchers, CA*
- Calkins, L.M., *Emme Adamsburg, GA*
- Carlisle, Ronald C., *Carnegie, PA*
- Chadde Ford Historical Society, *Chadds Ford, PA*
- Charterlain, Holly K., *Vancouver, WA*
- Chatterton, Lethe, *Ithaca, NY*
- Christen, Catherine A., *Washington, DC*
- Clark, Nick, *Lafayette, IN*
- Cockroft, Jeanette W., *Bryan, TX*
- Craft, Lisa A., *Tallahassee, FL*
- Crane, Ellen, *Buff, MT*
- Crane, Pamela B., *Old Town, ME*
- De Rosa, Maria Christina, *Houston, Argen*

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

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

► *Preserving . . . continued from pg. 1*

them are photographs, point-purchase materials such as store signs, cans of paint, color and decorating brochures, and an unusually large collection of paint color cards. There are also early ledgers, company publications, salesman's manuals, and items used over the years as promotional giveaways.

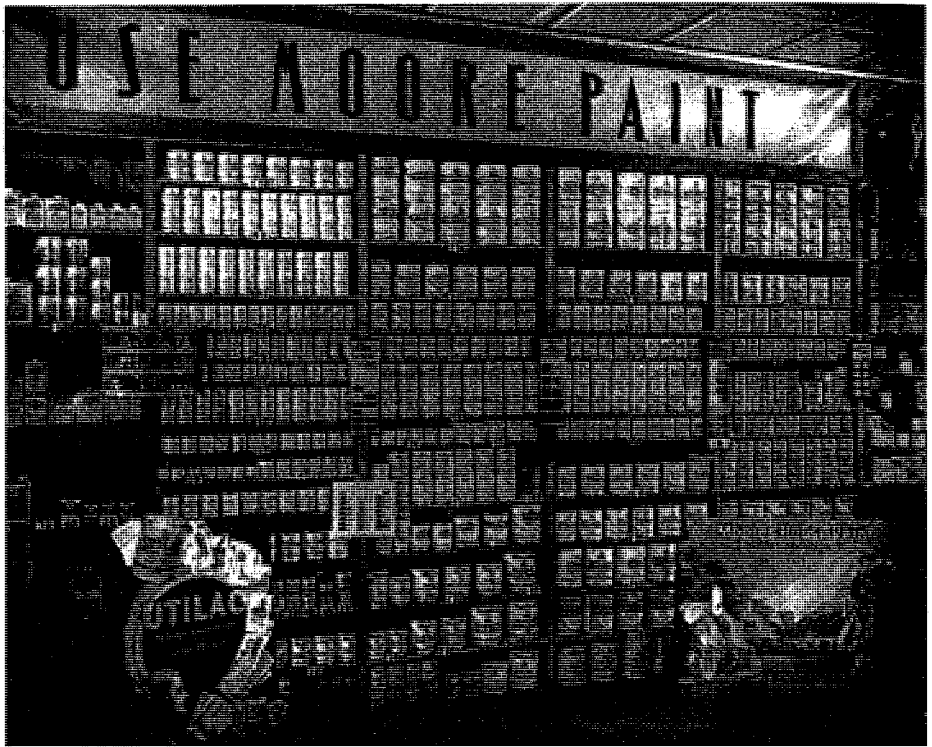
One of my first activities as project consultant was to initiate a series of oral history interviews with significant employees for a narrative of the company's history. The purpose of this history was not necessarily to publish it in book form, but rather to accumulate the recollections of employees that could provide historical context as well as information useful as part of the public relations function.

Growing out of the historic narrative that I am compiling will be a series of articles about different aspects of the company's history and the history of American color preference in general. As of April 1999, we plan to begin posting short historical "takes" and interesting images on Benjamin Moore's website [www.benjaminmoore.com]. Topics include American color preferences over the decades, the company's innovative products, and its promotion of color through "Betty Moore," a Betty Crocker-like figure who offered color guidance and decorating advice over the radio.

A selection of the company's collection of early color cards illustrates an article in the April 1999 issue of *The Old-House Journal*. Restoration specialists have used these samples to develop color schemes for The Old Governor's Mansion in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the House of Commons in Ottawa, Canada. We anticipate that restorationists and preservationists will find the color cards valuable in developing period color schemes for similar work in the future. Since close modern equivalents exist in the current line, Benjamin Moore can supply modern paint in colors from different time periods.

As a way of highlighting the rich holdings of the corporate archives to a wider public, the company circulated exhibits to several company locations. One focused on early 20th century holiday greeting cards; another showed 1940s-era watercolors of room decorating schemes that had been conserved and archivally framed.

Such high-profile projects have won support for the archives from the leadership of Benjamin Moore & Co. Still, the



Photograph brochure shows the interior of a typical paint store c. 1935.

most important task has been the decidedly unglamorous one of imposing order on an unorganized and therefore unusable collection and of making sure that the objects are appropriately housed to preserve them. The most time-consuming job has been to transfer old records from written form to a computerized format and to add to the database those materials accumulated since 1985. The database now includes approximately 3,200 entries, with about 500 more to be added.

I am now developing criteria to keep the archives up-to-date. We are also about to begin digitally photographing and scanning some images and importing them into our computer database. One of the main reasons for doing this is to share the images without exposing the actual objects to excessive wear and tear.

The Benjamin Moore & Co. Archives are open by appointment only to employees. Facilities do not permit use of the archives by those outside the company, and we cannot undertake major research assignments. However, the company is eager to share its archives as much as possible and will consider lending objects for exhibitions and contributing to scholarly projects.

Barbara Mayer is currently the archivist for Benjamin Moore Paint Co. For more information on the archives, contact Barbara at Barbm3882@aol.com



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.

A JUGGLING ACT:

The Challenge of Teaching History in a Secondary Classroom

by Howard Connelly

In today's public school, the history teacher, out of necessity, is a juggler of sorts. The teacher must balance a series of problems, which stem from the many and diverse groups that he/she serves or to whom he/she answers: the expectations of both parents and students; state graduation requirements, basic knowledge expected by colleges for the success of their students; and, finally, the personal goals that each teacher has for his/her students' mastery of content. To meet the goals and expectations of each of these groups, history teachers have often had to re-evaluate the basic goals and objectives of the profession.

History teachers today are faced with new and varied groups who are evaluating their work. The problem is that each of these groups has different criteria for its assessment and valuation. Trying to meet the expectation of these many groups has made today's history educator one who must "juggle" the many hats created by the demands of a changing society.

One significant challenge that a history teacher faces is how to provide students with what he or she needs from their education. What does each student need to meet the basic expectations of contemporary society? This is a question that each teacher must face. Is there a bare minimum of content that is expected from the graduating senior? In many states, students are required to demonstrate a certain proficiency in key subjects in order to graduate. This is a trend that appears to be gathering support in most states. But, is this basic knowledge for graduation enough? Students who simply hope to meet graduation requirements would probably say yes and so might their parents. Frankly, in some cases, the teacher admits that for some students this is a reasonable goal. History teachers struggle to make history interesting and relevant to these students.

The second challenge is meeting the expectations of colleges and universities. No teacher wants his or her students to be unprepared for the challenges of college. Parents are quick to point out that their tax dollars fund public education and that

► *Members continued from pg. 1*

tina

Dichtl, John R., *Bloomington, IN*
Dressler, Heidi J., *Carrboro, NC*
Edwards, Helen, *Victoria, Canada*
Gibb, James G., *Annapolis, MD*
Godwin, James C., *Wilmington, DE*
Goganian, Susan, *Natick, MA*
Gray, Marcy, *Cincinnati, OH*
Grunwell, Dawn M., *Columbus, OH*
Hal, Varian, *Berkeley, CA*
Hanley, Joanne, *Farmington, PA*
Hansen, Arthur, *Yorba Linda, CA*
Hanson, Elizabeth, *Palisades, NY*
Hayes, Erika A., *West Columbia, SC*
Hester, Albert C., *Olanta, SC*
Janssen, Wendy, *Atlanta, GA*
Kelly, Thomas, *Houston, TX*
Kern, John R., *Roanoke, VA*
Kiely, Oliver, *Coal Center, PA*
Laird, Matthew R., *Fredericksburg, VA*
Lester, Deegee, *Nashville, TN*
Library Acquisitions, *Salt Lake City, UT*
Limerick, Patricia, *Boulder, CO*
Lineberger, Toni R., *Denver, CO*
MacDonald, Sharon, *Halifax, Canada*
MacDougall, Pauleena, *Orono, ME*
Macon State College Library, *Macon, GA*
Marshall, Sandy, *Las Cruces, NM*
McAvoy, Christy J., *Los Angeles, CA*
McCarthy, Celia, *Berkely, CA*
McGee, Alyson, *Fort Collins, CO*
McKernan, Rebecca A., *Cambridge, MA*
McMahon, David R., *Lone Tree, IA*
Mendlesohn, Betsy, *Washington, D.C.*
Meyer, Philip L., *Holland, MI*

Moncure, Amber B., *Madison Heights, VA*
Muchaka, Albert, *West Allis, WI*
Muir, Dawn, *Murfreesboro, TN*
Naruta, Anna, *Berkeley, CA*
Nichols, Susan, *Washington, D.C.*
Niquette, Charles M., *Lexington, KY*
Norse, Ellen, *Edwardsville, IL*
Osgood, S., *Boise, ID*
Perkins Martin C., *Eagle, WI*
Picha, Paul R., *Bismarck, ND*
Ray, Donald, *Hopeland, CA*
University of Regina, *Regina, Canada*
Roche, Lillian G., *Cambridge, MA*
Schifferli, Michael P., *Buffalo, NY*
Schultz, Andrea H., *Milton, FL*
Seger, Christina R., *Tucson, AZ*
Semon, Anna, *Clarks Summit, PA*
Seymour, Rhett, *Auburn, AL*
Sims, Amy R., *San Francisco, CA*
Snapp, Annette, L., *Fort Myers, FL*
Stonebrock, Nathan, *Kalamazoo, MI*
Sullivan, Mary E., *Albany, NY*
Talbott, Jack, *Santa Barbara, CA*
Taylor, James, *Calgary, Canada*
Title Express, *Hempstead, NY*
Verplanck, C., *San Diego, CA*
Vogel, Robert C., *New Brighton, MN*
Weber State University, *Ogden, UT*
Wood, Melanie, *Northfield, MN*
Wood, Robert, M., *Sacramento, CA*
Wright, Elizabeth A., *San Francisco, CA*
Wright-Shay, Mona, *Richland, WA*

they want their children to learn more than just a basic knowledge of core subjects, including history. This college-bound group of students, and those who may have a special interest in studying history, demand a different level of education than students just trying to meet local and state graduation requirements. While many schools have added accelerated learning programs for these students, the educational trend still wants the inclusion of all students in a standard class. This tendency has made attaining the goals of basic competency AND college preparation extremely difficult for today's teachers to meet.

In addition to juggling diverse learning styles and the expectations of students, parents, and administrators, the history educator must keep abreast of new technologies. For a teacher to truly prepare a student for the future, he/she needs to utilize and teach new technology so that

students might meet the state's education requirements, admission standards for college, and/or the needs of the job market.

History teachers balance several personal and professional goals and expectations to prepare students for the future. The ultimate goal of the history educator, of course, is to hear students say that they learned a lot in history class, that they would recommend you to other students, and that your courses have made an impact on their understanding of the relevance of past to the present.

Howard Connelly teaches high school history and government at Plainfield High School in Plainfield, Indiana. Mr. Connelly has a B.A. in Secondary Education/Social Studies from DePauw University and has been a teacher for thirty years.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



by Dwight Pitcaithley

In April we will gather for the twenty-first time to share and celebrate and explore and expand our sense of this thing called "public history." It is particularly noteworthy that we will be doing so in Lowell, Massachusetts. The multiple historical layers of this mill town, rediscovered after decades of economic quietude, now define Lowell locally, regionally, and nationally. Furthermore, Lowell, as a national historical park, is approximately the same age as the National Council on Public History. As a public space, Lowell provides a most appropriate venue for the discussion of the theme of this year's conference, "History in the Public Sense: Historians and Their Publics."

As we begin our third decade as an organization, it seems appropriate that we look back to our beginnings and assess what we were thinking when we began this journey, how the Council has changed over the years, and how we should chart our course for the future. To that end, the opening plenary will feature a panel discussion among six historians who were "present at the creation." The second plenary will discuss a book that has redefined how Americans use their past and the degree to which it informs their daily lives. Roy Rosenzweig and David Thelen will explore the meaning of *The Presence of the*

Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life, (Columbia University Press, 1998).

Through a sophisticated analysis of the hundreds of interviews Rosenzweig and Thelen plumb the meanings of history among the public and come to some interesting conclusions. For example, one of the questions asked dealt with the trustworthiness of various sources of historical information. Of the seven listed, movies and television programs were considered the least trustworthy with high school and college teachers ranked in the middle. At the top of the trustworthiness scale were museums and historic sites. For those of us who manage these institutions, this revelation will force us to rethink our role and, I trust, renew our efforts to live up to these appreciative expectations. Finally, I would like to bring to your attention our keynote speaker, Howard Zinn, who will explore the astonishing popular success of his book, *A People's History of the United States*. All in all, I believe this year's conference presents an extraordinary opportunity for us to rethink, reaffirm, and renew our commitment to our profession.

Taking off my president's hat for a moment and donning my work-a-day hat as Chief Historian of the National Park Service, I will/must confess a sense of satisfaction in the number of National Park Service historians who are participating in this conference. When I first began attending this gathering seventeen or so years ago (in Raleigh, North Carolina, to be exact) there were a distinct handful of us representing a federal agency that presents history to millions of Americans each year. A quick perusal of the advance program for Lowell indicates almost three-dozen NPS historians, rangers, and

managers who will not only be attending, but taking an active part in the presentations and discussions. This represents a quantum leap in the professional maturity of the National Park Service and, I think, in our organization. Because of its presentation of history to a wide variety of publics, the National Park Service should be well represented here. But so too should other federal agencies and state agencies that manage historic sites and museums that interpret the past in public ways.

Perhaps this is where I wrap up this column by harking back to my first column last year, with a plea for each one of us to reach out and recruit friends or colleagues who practice history in a public sense, who, to borrow a phrase from Ed Linenthal, commit history in public. We as an organization do not represent the field as deeply as we should; we do not represent the field as broadly as we might. If the National Council on Public History is to have the salutary effect on the public's understanding of the past that we think we should, as our by-laws say we should, then over the next several years, we will have to attend to the business of expanding our membership to include under represented aspects of our profession. I think we should seek out more filmmakers and television producers, and more ethnic and cultural groups. And, yes, more teachers, like Jim Percoco, who make history come alive in his history course at West Springfield High School.

I look forward to seeing you in Lowell.

ON THE INTERNET

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



www.iupui.edu/~ncph

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by David G. Vanderstel

I recently had the opportunity to return to the institution where I began my public history career in 1982. Conner Prairie, the living history museum that interprets 19th century Indiana, invited me to speak for “returning interpreters day.” The occasion brought back many fond memories of the eight years spent doing research, organizing public programs, and curating exhibits—all new experiences for one who came out of a traditional academic history program with no clue at the time as to what public history was. This homecoming, after being gone nearly a decade, showed me just how much things had changed over those years. Most of the staff with whom I had worked had either retired or moved on to other institutions. The building had undergone a significant reconfiguration. And those of us still around had become older, grayer, and hopefully wiser.

During those same years, we also had witnessed another notable change. That was the maturation of the public history movement itself, which had grown from infancy into a vibrant and visible force within the field of history. It had made its mark on academic programs, helped to open new career opportunities, and, hopefully, affected the public's perception of and appreciation for the importance and usefulness of history.

Despite all of these changes, there was one thing that had not changed. I had realized from the beginning of my career that those of us involved in public history faced unique challenges of reaching diverse audiences and in presenting the most accurate and comprehensive interpretations of the past. Most importantly, though, the challenge was to present that history in the most creative, understandable, and meaningful ways for our publics and to demonstrate the relevance of the past to the present.

As I approached the end of my graduate studies and polished up the dissertation, I envisioned spending my life in the halls of a small Midwestern liberal arts college, writing books on immigration and local history topics and teaching and advising students. Little did I realize that my career would evolve so that I would be

working with and teaching publics more diverse than students enrolled in history courses. Since being introduced to public history, I have had the opportunity to work with teachers and curriculum specialists, the media, state and local historical societies, senior citizen groups, children, government agencies, fellow academics, and many other “publics.” all in an effort to promote the importance and usefulness of studying the past. And it has been a worthwhile and exciting journey.

In my comments to the Conner Prairie interpreters, I emphasized the important role that they play daily as “public educators.” I encouraged them to view themselves as teachers, disseminators of historical information, and nurturers of historical understanding through the museum's exhibits, hands-on activities, and role-playing interpretation. I pleaded with them not to be purveyors of myth and folklore since the media and television do their fair share of dismantling historical reality. I stressed the importance of incorporating tough and sensitive subjects into historical interpretation since the road through our past times is anything but smooth and serene. Most importantly, I encouraged the interpreters to explore connections between past and present, like James Burke did so successfully in his PBS series *Connections*, to illustrate the ties between people and cultures across time and particularly the relevance of the past to our present conditions.

In recent years, politicians, education specialists, and segments of the public, concerned about the quality of American education, have focused on raising the standards for student and teacher performances in the classroom, particularly in the fields of math, science, and linguistics. Unfortunately, a similar enthusiasm for knowledge about history seems to be absent, as I noted in my last column regarding the state of Indiana's efforts to reduce the history course requirements for the professional licensing of teachers. As such, our nation suffers a rather high degree of historical illiteracy, even though reading books about historical events and figures and visiting historic sites and museums remains a popular pastime of the American public.

Apart from the fact that the professionalization of history in the late 19th century created a chasm between academics and the public, something for which we historians are, in a way, still paying a price, we have not done a good job at educating the public about its history or the relevance of that past to the present. And that is why interpreters at

museums and historic sites and public historians in general have such important roles to play in public teaching. The challenges they encounter are indeed great. The public generally seems to adhere to Carl Becker's adage that “everyman is his own historian,” so they question why it is necessary to rely upon a professional historian or interpreter to explain the meaning of the past. Furthermore, the public's understanding of the past tends to emphasize a sense of antiquarianism and filiopietism, a fact complicated by the presence of living history sites that often unintentionally present a more romantic view of times gone by. Thus, the public seems to view history as “comfort food,” designed to give them roots and to reassure them about a “simpler past” amidst a more complex and hectic present. Only in isolated cases does the public see history as a tool to understand how and why we arrived at the current spot in our national, local, or personal history. In most instances, the public sees the past as something removed, remote, and quaint.

I am excited by the accomplishments of the public history movement in recent years, especially as it has moved to reach new and more diverse audiences. Consider the extensive efforts by the National Park Service to improve historical interpretation through exhibits and publications. Or, the renewed efforts by museums to mount exhibits that deal with tough issues and seek to show connections between past and present. Also note the continued success of NCPH, now entering its third decade of existence, in promoting the field, reaching out to students, and nurturing new professionals so that they too can work with the publics in whatever field they pursue. The achievements have been noteworthy and remarkable indeed. Yet, despite these great accomplishments thus far, we have much to do and, as Robert Frost once wrote, “miles to go before we sleep.”



NCC WASHINGTON UPDATE



by Page Putnam Miller, Director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History
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• **President's Commission on Celebration of Women In American History Makes Recommendations** — On March 15 the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History fulfilled their mandate as established in Executive Order 13090 by issuing a report and recommendations on ways to best acknowledge and celebrate the roles and accomplishments of women in American history. Ann Lewis, White House Director of Communications, and Beth Newburger, Associate Administrator of Communication at the General Services Administration, who co-chaired the Commission, held open meetings across the country to hear testimony from a broad range of citizens and historians interested in strengthening an understanding of women's past. The recommendations represent a distillation of the hundreds of ideas presented to the Commission.

The Commission outlined their recommendations under three initiatives: a national agenda, a community agenda, and women's history in the nation's capital. Under the national agenda the recommendations included the promotion of traveling exhibits, building a national women's history umbrella website, and developing how-to resources for promoting women's history. The Community Agenda, which listed 10 ideas for celebrating women's history in local communities, included such initiatives as preserving buildings and records associated with women's past and developing new programs in schools and public areas for telling women's stories.

The final recommendation focused on women's history in the nation's capital and called for the designation of a women's history site in Washington, DC, the holding of a national event in March 2000 to celebrate the changes in women's lives during the last century, and a commitment to even greater change and opportunity in the next. While the Commission recommended "a focal point for women's history in our nation's capital," they noted that several solutions for a

presence in Washington had been suggested and concluded that "however the focal point is chosen, we recommend that it serve as a destination for families who visit the capital to learn about our nation's history and be linked through technology with sites and resources around the country."

• **Administration Affirms Importance of Declassification** — On March 16, John Podesta, the White House Chief of Staff, was the keynote speaker for the National Freedom of Information Day Conference held at the Freedom Forum in Arlington, Virginia. Podesta emphasized that openness is a singularly American concept and provides the US with an exceptional advantage in the world. While stressing that openness is at the heart of the democratic experiment, he focused on two key points—first, that the drive for openness does not give license to disclose classified information, and second, that the requirements of secrecy are not fundamentally at odds with openness. He noted that the President had requested \$30 million in the 2000 budget for declassification and that this marked the first time that any President had recommended funding of this level for an openness initiative.

• **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Endorses Proposed Regulations** — On February 12 the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, after an intensive 6 year review process, formally adopted revisions to Section 106 regulations governing Federal agency compliance with the Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 requires agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings—construction of buildings, roads, dams, etc.—on properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The new regulations reduce the Council's role in routine case-by-case reviews under Section 106 and place more decision making authority at the state and local levels. The Council assumes greater responsibility for overseeing the general functioning of the Section 106 process and focuses on cases involving complex and controversial Federal undertakings, as well as Federal program improvement and oversight. The revisions also provide more clearly defined opportunities for public participation. The Advisory Council plans to publish the revised regulations in the *Federal Register* later this spring. The changes will take effect 30 days after being published. For additional information see the news section on the Council's web page
<http://www.achp.gov/newsregs.html>



• **Amendments Proposed To National Trails System Act** — Several bills have been introduced in the 106th Congress that amend the National Scenic and National Historic Trails Law, Title 16, Section 1244 of the U.S. Code. This law identifies 17 designated national trails, sets forth the qualifications and process for designation, and lists 36 other trails that are being studied for designation as national trails. S. 366 would elevate the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail from the study status to an officially designated national historic trail. This trail was the primary route between the colonial Spanish capital of Mexico City and the provincial capitals and would include the 404 mile long trail from the Rio Grande near El Paso, Texas to the present San Juan Pueblo in New Mexico.

S. 441, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Study Act, calls for a study of the trail tracing the route of the British invasion of Maryland and the District of Columbia during the War of 1812 and the route of the American defense. The purpose of the study is consideration for eventual designation as a national historic trail.

Note From the Editor:

*Mark your calendars
for the 2000 NCPH
Annual Meeting
in St. Louis, MO.*

March 30 - April 2, 2000

1999 ELECTION RESULTS



Newell Elected Next Vice-President

In the recent NCPH election, members selected Alan Newell as the next vice-president/president-elect. Alan is extremely familiar with NCPH, having been an active member of the organization since 1980. He served on the Publications Committee, organized the Consultant's Working Group, and served as Program Chair for the 1994 annual meeting in Sacramento. Beginning in 1992, Alan served a three-year term on the NCPH Board of Directors. He served on the Long Range Planning Committee in 1995 and helped to prepare the goals for *Plan 2000: 1995-2000*, which the NCPH Board subsequently adopted. More recently, Alan has been a member of the Editorial Board for *The Public Historian*, serving since 1996, and of the Endowment Committee.

After completing his graduate work at the University of Montana, Newell co-founded Historical Research Associates, Inc. in 1974. Since then, HRA has been a pioneer for history in the commercial sector. In addition to HRA, Alan founded Litigation Abstract, Inc. in 1989, a firm that provides litigation support through document imaging, database development and electronic trial presentations.

Alan believes the goals of *Plan 2000* have provided important guidance to NCPH for the past five years. He adds that, "It is time to assess our achievements, revise our strategic plan as necessary, and to confirm the direction of the NCPH for the future." He hopes to focus his initial efforts as Vice-President on identifying new constituencies and increasing individual membership in the NCPH.

New Members of the NCPH Board of Directors Elected

During the early months of 1999, members of NCPH sent in their ballots to select new three new directors who will serve the organization for the next several years. Elected to three-year terms were Andrew Gulliford, Victoria Harden, and David Neufeld.

Andrew Gulliford is currently the Director of Middle Tennessee State University's public history graduate program. He holds a Ph.D. in American culture/American history from Bowling Green State University. Gulliford has served on a variety of NCPH committees, including the History and the National Parks Collaboration Committee, acted as tribal consultant on NAGPRA, and served as a reviewer for the AAM Museum Assessment Program.

As the Historian for the National Institutes of Health and Director of the De Witt Stetten, Jr., Museum of Medical Research, Victoria Harden served as coordinator of exhibits at the NIH on biomedical research and as the co-chair of the AIDS History Group. Harden, who holds a Ph.D. in American history from Emory University, has served on the NCPH Electronic Communications Task Force and has held numerous positions with the Society for History in the Federal Government, including the position of president.

David Neufeld is the Yukon and western Arctic historian for Parks Canada,

Yukon Territory. Previously he ran a historical consulting firm on the Canadian prairies. In his position at Parks Canada, Neufeld has, since 1986, worked with Aboriginal groups on community-based research projects and studied traditional cultures. He sits as a governor for Yukon College (Whitehorse, Yukon Territory) and is a member of the Board for the Yukon Historical and Museums Association. Neufeld holds a Master's in history from the University of Western Ontario.

Also selected during the winter elections was a new member of the Nominating Committee. Anne Millbrooke, long affiliated with NCPH, works as a consulting historian. She also has taught in Nome at the Northwest Campus of the College of Rural Alaska, University of Alaska Fairbanks. Over the years, Anne has served NCPH on several committees, including the G. Wesley Johnson Award, Publications, Finance, and Executive.

In congratulating and welcoming these new members to positions of leadership in NCPH, we also extend our appreciation to those outgoing officers and members of the NCPH Board who have served during the past three years: Janelle Warren-Findley of Arizona State University; Timothy Crimmins of Georgia State University; Heather Huyck of the National Park Service; and Selma Thomas of Watertown Productions.

The 1999 NCPH Awards

The National Council on Public History is pleased to announce the recipients of the following awards:

Robert Kelley Memorial Award

Otis L. Graham, Jr.

G. Wesley Johnson Award

Giselle M. Byrnes, "Jackals of the Crown? Historians and the Treaty Claim Process in New Zealand" (TPH, 20:2)

Cary Carson, "Colonial Williamsburg and the Practice of Interpretive Planning in American History Museums" (TPH, 20:3)

Student Project Award

Jane C. Wehrey, "Voices From This Long Brown Land: Oral Recollections of Owens Valley Lives and Manzanar Past"

New Professional Award

Douglas Dodd.

NCPH would like to congratulate all of the winners.



• **Canadian Indian/Native Studies Association (CINSA)** is a new association dedicated to "fostering the development of Aboriginal Studies as a discipline informed by, and respectful of, Aboriginal intellectual traditions, and to create a place of respect and dignity for Aboriginal Peoples within Canada and the world." Currently, CINSA has members from various Native Studies departments at post-secondary institutions across Canada. For more information on membership in CINSA, contact: Laurie Meijer Drees or Dan McDonald, First Nations Studies Department, Malaspina University College, 900 5th Street, Nanaimo, BC V(R 5S5, phone (250) 753-3245 ext 2603, e-mail HtmlResAnchormeijerl@mala.bc.ca

• **Dimensions: A Journal of Holocaust Studies** is a semi-annual publication produced by the Braun Holocaust Institute of the Anti-Defamation League in New York City. Articles focus on the latest scholarship on the Holocaust and related topics. Many editions of the journal include special educational supplements, discussion guides, and bibliographies. For more information, contact the Anti-Defamation League, 823# ited Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017; phone (212) 885-7700; website www.adl.org

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND INTERNSHIPS

• **The Westport (WA) Maritime Museum** has an immediate opening for a Washington Service Corps (Americorps) intern. The intern will serve as an Education Assistant, focusing on upgrading and expanding the museum's educational programs for K-12 and adults. Candidates must be between the ages of 18 and 24, U.S. citizens and physically present in the state of Washington on the date of hire. Interns receive a stipend of \$700 per month and an n educational award of \$4725 upon successful completion of eleven months of internship. Those interested in applying should send resumes and references (with telephone numbers) to: researchnorth@seanet.com. For more

information about the Westport Museum contact their website at <http://www.westportwa.com/museum>.

• **Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.**, a non-profit historic preservation organization dedicated to the history and preservation of Arthurdale, West Virginia, is accepting entries for the Barbara J. Howe Award. The award was created to recognize and encourage scholarship and research of New Deal Homesteads and related topics. Preservation projects, journal articles, manuscripts, museum exhibits, films and other formats are eligible for this award. **Deadline for entries is June 1, 1999**; the prize will be presented at the anniversary dinner in October. Entry forms may be obtained from Deanna Hornyak, Executive Director, Arthurdale Heritage, Inc., P.O. Box 850, Arthurdale, WV 26520; phone (304) 863-3959; e-mail ahi1934@aol.com; or website www.arthurdaleheritage.org.

• **The James J. Hill Reference Library** will award a number of grants of up to \$2,000 to support research in the James J. Hill and Louis E. Hill papers. The papers are an excellent source for the study of the railroad industry, tourism and Glacier National Park, political developments in the nation and the Northwest, national and regional economic development, agronomy, and other topics concerned with the Upper Midwest, Pacific Northwest, and Western Canada. **Deadline for applications is November 1, 1999**; the awards will be announced in early 2000. For information, contact: W. Thomas-White, Curator, James J. Hill Reference Library, 80 West Fourth Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102; phone (651) 265-5441; fax (651) 222-4139; e-mail HtmlResAnchor twhite@jjhill.org

• The Ohio Historic Preservation Office is accepting nominations for the **Ohio Historic Preservation Office Awards**. These awards recognize outstanding achievement in preservation, rehabilitation, and adaptive use of historic properties, as well as publications and educational programs that promote the preservation of historic places in Ohio. **Deadline for submissions is July 1, 1999**. For nomination forms and details, contact: Ohio Historic Preservation Office, 567 E. Hudson St., Columbus, OH 43211; phone (614) 297-2470.

• The **National Endowment for the Humanities** announces a new category of grants to support the development of public humanities programs. Consultation Grants will be awarded to allow collaboration with scholars and other advisers who can help to develop or deepen the project's humanities themes and content. Competi-

tion is open to museums, historic sites, public television and radio stations, independent media producers, libraries, and other non-profit organizations. The maximum award will be \$10,000. **Deadlines for submissions will be May 17 and September 13, 1999**. For more information, contact: NEH, Division of Public Programs, (202) 606-8267; email: HtmlResAnchor publicpgms@neh.gov or visit the NEH website www.neh.gov

CALLS FOR PAPERS/ PROPOSALS

• **The Indiana Association of Historians** invites paper and panel proposals for its annual meeting at New Harmony, Indiana, March 3-4, 2000. The conference theme is "Dreams and Visions in History: The Past and The Future." Proposals are welcome that explore how people have articulated their dreams and visions of the future, or interpreted their past and contemporary experiences as contributing toward particular visions of the future; other topics will also be considered. **Deadline for proposals is September 30, 1999**. Send one-page proposal and short c.v. to: Nancy Rhoden, History Department, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, IN 47712; (812) 465-1202; nrhoden@usi.edu.

• **The American Society for Environmental History** invites proposals for its 2000 meeting in Tacoma, Washington. Paper and session proposals that examine any aspect of human interaction with the physical environment over time are welcome. The program committee strongly encourages proposals that focus on the relationships among the practice of environmental history and environmental problems and solutions and that suggest possibilities for future environmental histories. Proposals should contain six copies of the following: cover sheet with the full name and affiliation of each panel participant and the titles of the session and/or of each paper; an abstract describing the purpose of the session, 100-word maximum; an abstract of each paper, 250-word maximum; a c.v. for each participant that includes telephone numbers, mailing addresses, email addresses and fax numbers, each c.v. should be two pages maximum. Please do not send extra materials or exceed word limits. **Proposals should be postmarked no later than July 15, 1999**. All six copies should be sent to Mart Stewart, Department of History, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225-9056. For more information contact Mart Stewart at smar4@cc.wvu.edu or at (360) 650-3455.

• **The American Association for the History of Medicine** welcomes papers on topics related to the history of health and healing; of medical ideas, practices and institutions; the history of illness, disease, and public health—from all eras and regions of the world. All papers must represent original work not already published or in press. Send six copies of a one page abstract (350 words maximum) to: Harry M. Marks, Dept. of the History of Science, Medicine & Technology, Johns Hopkins University, 1900 E. Monument Street, Baltimore, MD 21205. Abstracts should not merely state a research question, but describe findings and conclusions. Please also provide the following: name, preferred mailing address, work and home phone numbers, present institutional affiliation and academic degrees. **Abstracts must be received by October 1, 1999.**

CONFERENCES, INSTITUTES, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

• **The 1999 Woodland Native American Arts and Crafts Workshops** will be held **July 4-9, 1999** in West Lafayette, Indiana. During this time, ten tribal tradition bearers will share their knowledge of Woodland Native American arts and crafts with those seeking to learn new skills. The Waapaahshiki People's Pow Wow will be held July 10-11, immediately following the workshops. For more information, contact: The Museums at Prophetstown, 22 N. Second Street, Lafayette, IN 47901; phone (765) 423-4617.

• **The Winedale Museum Seminar on Administration and Interpretation**, administered by the Texas Historical Commission is a ten day residential training program designed to improve the quality and promote the continuing development of museum, historical organizations and cultural institutions. The seminar, **November 7-18, 1999**, is open to staff members and experienced volunteers of museums, historic sites and cultural organizations of all sizes. Participants are selected through an application process. Topics include: administrative issues, grant writing, trustee relations, volunteer management, interpreter training, object research, historical photos, educational programming, living history, marketing program evaluation, design and fabrication of exhibits, conservation of collections, security and special events. A registration fee of \$550 covers room and board and all materials including seminar manual.

Deadline for applications is September 20, 1999. For details, information or an application contact: Kit Neumann, Seminar Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711; phone (512) 463-5756; e-mail kit.neumann@thc.state.tx.us.

• **The Pioneer America Society** will hold its 31st Annual Conference in Washington, Pennsylvania, **October 7-9, 1999.** The meeting will be held at the Washington Ramada Inn on U.S. Route 40. Co-hosts for this event will be Professor David T. Stephens of Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH, and Alexander T. Bobersky of the Community Development Department, Warren, OH. For program information contact: Alexander T. Bobersky, Community Development Department, 646 Tod Avenue, N.W., Warren, Ohio 44485; phone (330) 841-2595; fax (330) 841-2643.

• **Winterthur's Annual Winter Institute**, a graduate-level course in early American decorative arts, will be offered **January 16 - February 4, 2000.** The course, titled "Perspectives on the Decorative Arts in Early America," surveys objects made or used in northeastern America during the colonial and early republican eras. Winter Institute is open to museum and university of professionals, as well as anyone seriously interested in American decoratives. **Applications will be available June 1, 1999 and must be returned by August 1, 1999.** Tuition is \$1400, partial scholarships available. For applications and housing information, call or write to Cynthia Doty, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, DE 19735, or call 1-800-448-3883x4923. For online information about Winter Institute go to www.winterthur.org.

• **The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies at the University of Winnipeg** will hold its ninth Biennial Colloquium on May 24-28, 2000, in Vancouver, Washington. The colloquium gives people a wide range of disciplines and experiences opportunities to share their work and interests concerning the peoples and history of Rupert's Land. Sessions may focus on the fur trade, on any facet of northern Native history and First Nations/newcomer interactions, and on the Pacific Northwest in recognition of the locale of this meeting. This is a preliminary announcement, calls for papers and registration materials will follow later. To be assured of receiving further information, please consider becoming a member of the

Centre. Annual membership is \$20, payable by check to the University of Winnipeg. For more information contact Jennifer S.H. Brown, Director at: The University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB Canada R3B 2E9; or e-mail jbrown@uwinnipeg.ca, phone (204) 786-9003, fax (204) 774-4134.

EXHIBITS

• "Murder in Monmouth! 1850-1900" is the title of an exhibition organized by the **Monmouth County Archives and the Monmouth County Historical Association.** The exhibit will detail murder cases in Monmouth County, New Jersey from a twenty-year period. It will open Sunday, May 2, 1999, at the Monmouth County Historical association on Court Street in Freehold and will continue through July.

• **The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Museum**, in Washington D.C., announces the opening of a new exhibition, "Pleasing Things Made in Her Honor: Martha Washington and The Colonial Revival." Each section of the exhibit displays original objects from the eighteenth century next to colonial revival reproductions. The exhibit explores Martha Washington as a focal point for those interested in colonial America and the part her image played in the colonial revival. The exhibit is open until September 3, 1999. For more information, call the museum at (202) 879-3241.

INTERNET

• **The Levi Jordan Plantation** web site is the result of a collaboration between historical archaeologists, African American descendants and European American descendants (and other community members) to create a "virtual conversation" to discuss the multiple archaeologies and histories of a 19th century plantation. The Levi Jordan Plantation website is based on the historic and archaeological site in Brazoria, Texas. The site discusses the lives of European Americans who lived on this plantation and focuses on the history and material culture of the resident African Americans. The web site helps archaeologists, educators, and community members learn more about how to communicate about history and archaeology on the Internet. The Levi Jordan Plantation site may be accessed at <http://www.webarchaeology.com>.

• Thomas Jefferson University and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania have entered 3,000 images, that present a rich, visual documentation of Philadelphia life in the 19th and 20th centuries-with a special emphasis on healthcare and medical education on to a searchable online computer database. **The Philadelphia Historical Digital Image Library (PHDIL)** database may be accessed on the Internet World Wide Web at the following address: <http://jeffline.tju.edu/archives/phdil/>.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

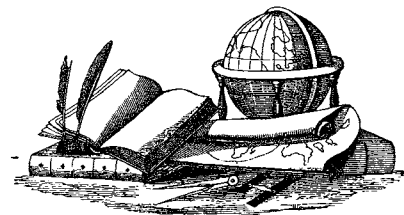
• **The National Library of Medicine** is seeking a writer/historian to research and write a history of the institution. The project is to begin as soon as possible, with the completed volume to be ready for publication by September 2001. The new history should take as its basis the earlier text by Wyndham D. Miles, "A History of the National Library of Medicine: the nation's Treasury of Medical Knowledge," which covered the NLM's history from its inception 1836 to the late seventies. Candidate should submit three copies of their c.v. and a copy of previously published books, articles, or other evidence of significant publication record to Dr. Elizabeth Fee, Chief, History of Medicine division, national Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894.

• **The Idaho Black History Museum** is seeking a full-time director. Applicant must have a B.A. or equivalent experience in museum management or related area, knowledge of African-American history

and culture, two years experience in program management, public relations experience, demonstrated ability to communicate effectively and able to fulfill management responsibilities. Send resume and two references to: Idaho Black History Museum, 1770 W. State St., Boise, ID 83702 or fax (208) 426-1394.

• **The Organization of American Historians** at Indiana University, Bloomington is seeking applicants for the position of Executive Director for a five-year renewable term. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in history, administrative leadership experience, a record of active scholarly pursuits, commitment to mobilize and communicate with historians of widely different interests and to represent their concerns in national, regional and local settings and a sensitivity to the interests of the organization's diverse constituents. If appropriate, this position may also involve a part-time appointment in the Indiana University History Department. Candidates should send letters of application to: Dr. Fredrick E. Hoxie, Chair, OAH Executive Director Search Committee, Department of History, University of Illinois, 309 Gregory Hall, MC 466, 810 South Wright St., Urbana, IL 61801-3697. Each application should include a full c.v. Three letters of recommendation should be sent separately to the committee, c/o Dr. Hoxie. The search will remain open until an appointment is made; review of files has already commenced. Potential candidates with specific questions should contact Dr. Hoxie (hoxie@uiuc.edu).

• **The Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace** has an opening for a full-time registrar. Related degree in museum studies, American history with B.A. or M.A. degree and two years' experience in the registration field highly desired. Responsibilities include related aspects of collections management, create, organize and maintain legal document, forms, files associated with the following: acquisitions, accessioning, cataloging, loans, packing/unpacking, shipping, inventory, insurance, and storage, pursuant to the care, custody, and control of museum objects at the library. The position also requires the coordinating of all aspects of borrowing and lending objects, which includes responsibility for the handling and/or packaging of objects, negotiating insurance coverage, making shipping arrangements, and arranging for security. The salary is in the mid-twenties with full medical and dental benefits. Knowledge of CorelParadox 5 or 8 required. Work is performed under the supervision of the curator. Send resume, cover letter and three references to Olivia S. Anastasiadis, Curator, The Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace, 18001 Yorba, Linda Ca 92886.



Watch for upcoming news about the "new and improved" NCPH listserv **H-PUBLIC**

Previously known as PUBLHIST, the new listserv will bring NCPH into the growing H-NET community of over 100 history discussion lists and provide improved connections with the rest of the discipline. For more information, contact the NCPH Executive Offices at ncph@iupui.edu

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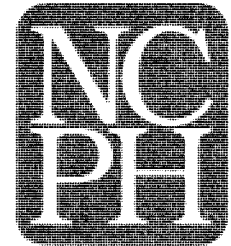
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FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

**March 30-April 2, 2000
St. Louis, Missouri**

A joint meeting with the
Organization of American Historians

**Spring 2001
Ottawa, Canada**

If you are interested in hosting future
meetings of NCPH, please contact the
NCPH Executive Offices for details.



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