



PUBLIC HISTORY NEWS

> Volume 19, Number 4

> Summer 1999

ANNUAL REPORT, 1998-1999

President's Report

by Dwight Pitcaithley

I want to begin my final newsletter column where I began my first, with a note of thanks to those who assisted me mightily over the past twelve months. Executive Director David G. Vanderstel and his staff provided continued administrative and logistical support throughout the year and made my work easier in many ways. Those who graciously agreed to serve as committee chairs, as well as committee members, also deserve a nod of appreciation. This organization survives and thrives on the willingness of its membership to roll up their sleeves and work for its greater good. The time they spent (and spend) attending to the business of NCPH is greatly appreciated. Finally, I need to express my gratitude to Bob Spude who chaired the 1999 Program Committee and Gray Fitzsimons who chaired the Local Arrangements Committee. Without their dedication to providing you an interesting, productive and substantive annual meeting, our gathering at Lowell would have been unremarkable.

Indeed, I thought our annual meeting was everything an annual meeting was supposed to be. The attendance was good, sessions were diverse, tours informative, and the food plentiful. What more could a historian want? I should also note that we get out of conferences what we put in to them. The sessions I attended were not only well conceived and presented, but the discussion in each moved the session topic to a different plane. Audience participation was thoughtful and plentiful.

One of the more significant and lasting accomplishments of the past year about which we can all be proud concerns the subject of the endowment. *Plan 2000* set a goal of \$200,000 by the close of the year 2000.

With your assistance, the Endowment Committee announced that we have reached the half way mark. This is a notable achievement for an organization the size of ours; all those who contributed should share in this accomplishment. Participating in the endowment campaign, however, is more than a monetary contribution; it is an investment in the future of the National Council

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

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

- **Martin V. Melosi** has been named Distinguished University Professor of History at the University of Houston. In a recent letter, Provost Edward P. Sheridan stated: "This is an honor rarely given at the University of Houston and it acknowledges the exceptional performance you have shown as a scholar and teacher."

- **Jannelle Warren-Findley**, co-director of the Graduate Program in Public History at Arizona State University and former NCPH president, was named one of two Ian Axford 2000 Fellows on May 8. Jann will examine the public practice of heritage resource management and historic preservation in New Zealand and the United States.

- **Otis L. Graham, Jr.**, Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, received the 1999 Robert L. Kelley Memorial Award at the recent NCPH annual meeting in Lowell.

- **Jeffrey Stine**, curator of engineering and environmental history at the Smithsonian Institution, has been elected to a two-year term as President of the American Society for Environmental History.

- **Armita Jones**, former Executive Director of the Organization of American Historians and a past president of NCPH, has been named Executive Director of the American Historical Association.

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on Public History. A healthy endowment will help us realize the goals of the organization, place ourselves on a firm economic foundation, and provide scholarships and other incentives for the continued health of our organization. Although we have now invested the endowment in a reliable mutual fund, it continues to require constant nourishment. If you contributed, thank you; we look forward to your contribution next year. If you have not contributed, don't wait until next year's conference in St. Louis. Please contact committee chair Marianne Babal at (415) 396-7904 or Marianne.Babal@wellsfargo.com with your contribution to NCPH's future.

Turning to the public understanding of history, I had the opportunity in June to judge the finals of National History Day at the University of Maryland. If you have any question about the public's ability to understand complex or layered aspects of history, I urge you to get involved with National History Day activities. Every year, Dr. Cathy Gorn organizes student competitions in the categories of exhibits, papers, performances, and video documentaries. It is an enlightening experience to judge these competitions. Students as early as the sixth grade develop rather sophisticated understandings of the past and present their knowledge in graphic ways. Competitions at the district, state, and national levels allow students to hone their presentations and include ever increasing nuanced interpretations and presentations. If these young people represent the future of public understanding of the past, we are in far better

shape than we think. Should you wish to become a supporter of this most worthwhile national program, contact the National History Day offices at (301) 314-9739 or at cgorn@aol.com.

I have written several times this year about the power of the past, clearly understood or not, to drive contemporary action. The last several weeks have witnessed yet again, this time in Richmond, Virginia, the power of the past. A redeveloped river front pedestrian way sought to attract attention with the unveiling of several dozen scenes from historic Richmond. Included was a dozen or so portraits of prominent Richmond personalities, among them Robert E. Lee. During the premier a few days before the opening, a city council member protested the Lee portrait claiming it was offensive to Richmond's black citizens. Local officials quickly removed the portrait, which prompted the Sons of Confederate Veterans to protest the opening ceremonies and then drape a large Confederate flag over a bridge underneath which dignitaries were viewing the riverwalk from barges. To add a layer of complexity imagined by no one, former governor Douglass Wilder, the first black governor of Virginia, saluted the flag as his barge passed under-

neath. His explanation, that he was trying to relieve the pressure of the situation, revealed just how complex issues of public memory can get. Richmond is still working on the cultural implications of all this. Stay tuned.

I have enjoyed my year as your president. It has been enlightening and rewarding. It has impressed upon me even more than in the past that the vibrant role of public history and historians is critical to our social and intellectual health. Public history creates opportunities where this society can discuss its differences with civility and contemplation, and places where it can accept its differences without labeling one better and the other worse. Public historians strive to impart the understanding that the purpose of the study of the past is not to judge one group of historical actors good and the other bad. Rather, it is to understand the past in all its richness and complexity so that we can better understand the present in all its richness and complexity. As we move this discussion of the past forward, let us seek to find those places where a thoughtful discussion of the past can be held, where we as public historians can nurture that discussion for the betterment of our society.



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.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



by **Michael J. Devine**

It seems like a job crisis in the history profession has existed forever. It has been a fact of life at least since I entered graduate school in the late 1960s. Our professional organizations have decried this sorry situation over and over again, but little has been done in terms of a pro-active policy to remedy the situation. Addressing the job crisis a quarter of a century ago, the president of the OAH suggested that those unfortunate Ph.D. recipients who could not find a job teaching history at a university might look elsewhere, offered his moral support and predicted, most accurately, that "No miracles are likely to occur."

The current employment situation for graduates of history programs appears as bleak as ever. However, the next twelve months or so may offer an opportunity to the profession that has been by-passed several times in past years. The American Historical Association, now directed by Arnita Jones, formerly the Executive Director of the Organization of American Historians, has within the last month created a task force to address the crisis in graduate education in the history departments within our nation's universities. It will examine the plight of adjunct faculty and part-timers who are increasingly being assigned the task of providing the undergraduate and graduate instruction which was previously the realm of full-time tenure-

track faculty. The task force should broaden its focus. While the problems confronting our history graduate programs and the situation of part-timers and adjuncts present serious problems that deserve long overdue attention, I believe that no realistic attempt to address these issues can be made without a major adjustment in the fundamental attitude of the profession towards work outside academe, or, in other words, employment in the fields now recognized as public history.

The efforts of the AHA task force will be counterproductive without a serious exploration at the overall world of historians and their work, the responsibility of all academic historians for professional issues beyond the classroom, and the state of the history profession as a whole. There will be no solution to problems of university history departments until tenured university-based historians teaching Ancient Greece, Modern China, and Medieval Europe realize that they have a vital professional interest in what happens at the SHPO in the state capital, who directs the state and local historical organizations, what policies and guidelines are adopted by the National Parks Service and the National Archives regarding professionalism and professional qualifications for employment. The profession must come to an understanding that employment as a curator or manager of a history museum, as an archivist or as a senior administrator in a SHPO is real work. Further, history departments must accept the fact that students in graduate schools should be prepared for this kind of work and that all professional historians have a stake in making certain

that these positions are filled with qualified historians with advanced degrees in history.

Sadly, for three decades our major professional organizations have done nothing, other than a lot of hand-wringing, over the ever-shrinking market for highly qualified historians. And the record of the National Council on Public History has not been strong as an advocate for placing historians with appropriate credentials in the leadership positions of agencies, institutions, and organizations where an advanced degree in history should be a prerequisite. In the future, NCPH must become much more active as an advocate for the highest professional standards in public history, both inside and outside the academic setting. Furthermore, the AHA task force, if it is to be successful, must work with public historians to address far wider professional concerns than the problems of graduate programs and the situation of part-time faculty.

Once again, no miracles can be expected. But, with some vision, assertiveness, and a coordinated approach involving the entire profession, perhaps some real progress might be anticipated.

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New Members

Melissa Grubb, *Skiatook, OK*

Patrick Hagopian, *Lancaster, England*

Katherine Hurwich, *Cambridge, MA*

Jennifer Lawrence, *Philadelphia, PA*

Gretchen Luxenberg, *Seattle, WA*

Louis Malon, *Richmond, VA*

Sarah Mast, *Milwaukee, WI*

Mesa Public Library, *Mesa, AZ*

William Mulligan, *Murray, KY*

James Williams, *Boston, MA*

Charles Wetzel, *Madison, NJ*

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by David G. Vanderstel

Annual Report to the Members

As the National Council on Public History begins its third decade of existence, I am pleased to report that the state of the organization is excellent. Membership is up; finances are strong; and the visibility of NCPH is much more apparent within the profession as well as the wider world. We have established strong relationships with numerous organizations and institutions, and embarked upon initiatives to improve public history education and professional development. NCPH has launched an endowment fund that will support ongoing training opportunities, a series of awards that recognize achievements in the field, the future operations of the Executive Offices, and other initiatives adopted by the Board.

NCPH also faces many challenges in order to build upon its previous successes. NCPH needs to retain a larger portion of its members annually and attract more public history students to the fold. It must develop new products that serve the members and benefit the professional development of those entering the field. In our own respective ways, NCPH members must expand our collaborative efforts with other professional organizations, institutions and agencies to demonstrate the utility of history and the roles that historians can play at the table. Likewise, NCPH must seek ways of improving professional development opportunities and being more active in matters of history-related advocacy.

STAFF. I would like first to recognize the individuals who deal with the day-to-day details of maintaining the NCPH Executive Offices. After Tina Trettin, administrative assistant for 14 months, left NCPH in September 1998 to pursue an editing career in Chicago, Kelly Barnes joined the staff in November and quickly adapted to the position. Having previously served in retail and customer service, Kelly has demonstrated great energy, enthusiasm, and creativity in handling the many and diverse tasks associated with the job. She immediately tackled the financial records and has created more detailed monthly statements. Kelly also maintains the NCPH website, responds to inquiries for information, and handles many other administrative tasks.

During the past year, graduate intern Nicole (Nikki) Meyers oversaw the production of three issues of the quarterly newsletter, *Public History News*. She also continued work on the institutional archives, which are deposited in the IUPUI University Archives. In addition, Nikki provided assistance with "other tasks as assigned," in the process learning the complexities of administering a professional organization.

Both Kelly and Nikki have been a pleasure to work with and have been major assets to the organization. To both, I extend the organization's appreciation for their hard work.

IUPUI UPDATE. I am pleased to report that the School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis continues its strong support of the NCPH Executive Offices, now in its ninth year of being headquartered at the university. The dean provides office space, furniture, and funds to support the half-time staff. Despite last summer's retirement of Dean John Barlow, who had provided substantial support for NCPH since its arrival in 1990, new SLA Dean Herman

Saatkamp has continued the tradition of strong support for NCPH by supplying the office with new Gateway computers. Phillip V. Scarpino, chair of the department of history, continues as a strong advocate for NCPH during the transaction of School of Liberal Arts and university-wide business. NCPH is truly fortunate to have this relationship with IUPUI, and I extend my appreciation to Phil and Dean Saatkamp for their continued support.

FINANCES. The state of NCPH finances is very good, and our financial records are in good order. To ensure continued accuracy of our books, the NCPH Board authorized last fall an audit of our records. The staff worked with the auditors during January and February. The auditor's report for fiscal year 1997-1998 concluded that the organization was in good shape and recommended some changes in reporting and record-keeping to comply with changes in legislation affecting not-for-profit organizations.

• **Income.** NCPH continues to experience good fortunes with its financial status. At this writing (mid June) the organization has exceeded the projected year's revenue of \$52,872.00 and has expended roughly 75 percent. The annual revenue line was boosted by the \$20,594.97, the total proceeds from the 1998 meeting in Austin. Given this success, the Board approved a transfer of \$10,000 from the conference proceeds to the Endowment Fund.

One key component of NCPH income — money generated by publications — will obtain greater attention in the coming year. Sales of our publications have declined as our products become more dated. Consequently, the Publications Committee will be working in the coming year to identify ways of updating current publications and offering new items for our members.

• **Expenses.** NCPH is “on track” for its annual expenses. There were, however, a few additional or unanticipated expenses during the past year. As a follow-up to the re-incorporation of NCPH in the State of Indiana, the organization had to file for a “re-determination of not-for-profit status” with the Internal Revenue Service. We redesigned the membership brochure to highlight NCPH’s 20th anniversary and did a large mailing to potential members. In an effort to build closer relationships with other professional organizations and to recruit new members, NCPH hosted receptions at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the Oral History Association.

A more complete year-end financial statement will appear in the fall issue of *PHN*.

ENDOWMENT. I reported in last year’s annual report that NCPH had roughly \$45,000 towards our endowment goal of \$200,000. Since that time, pledge appeals and special fundraising events at our annual meetings (a beer tasting reception in Austin and a Southeast Asian dinner in Lowell) have brought in additional funds that have pushed the endowment over the halfway mark. Members of the Endowment Committee are to be commended for their hard work in maintaining the momentum of this campaign. Likewise, members and friends of NCPH who have contributed to the fund also deserve many thanks. (A list of contributors to date is included elsewhere in the newsletter.)

In a move to improve returns on our long-term investments, the NCPH Board also approved the transfer of the endowment fund into a Vanguard Wellesley Account. The projected returns will allow the fund to grow at a much faster rate than in a traditional bank savings account.

MEMBERSHIP. According to the report of Tom White, Marketing Manager for UC Press, NCPH membership stood at 1,525 at the end of 1998. This was an 8 percent increase from the previous year. Overall, individual membership increased 10 percent; student memberships were up 15 percent; and institutional subscriptions grew by 10 percent.

This is indeed good news. NCPH, however, continues to face the challenge of membership retention.



Slightly more than 70 percent of 1998 members renewed their affiliation with NCPH in

1999. White notes that that if we achieve a renewal response rate of 75 percent, NCPH will still need to attract more new individual and institutional members simply to achieve the membership number at year-end 1998. In order to increase our membership, all NCPH members should urge their colleagues and institutions to join or renew their affiliation. And, directors of public history programs should encourage greater participation by their students by emphasizing the benefits of membership in NCPH.

PUBLIC HISTORY LISTSERV. Last year, the NCPH Board approved a motion to affiliate our PUBLHIST listserv with H-NET, the large history listserv network headquartered at Michigan State University. In January 1999, I prepared our application for submission to the H-NET Board of Editors. We received notification of approval on 16 February 1999 for our new list to be called H-PUBLIC. Since that time, I have worked with the technical support staffs of H-NET and IUPUI’s Integrated Technology Services to coordinate the transfer of the list. There will be one significant change with H-PUBLIC. It will be a moderated

list with NCPH member Paige Roberts and I serving as co-moderators. Once we complete our listserv editor’s training, H-PUBLIC will be online, probably towards the end of summer 1999.

NEW AWARD INITIATIVE. In December 1998, Frank Schubert, historian in the Joint Chiefs of Staff Office, and Gordon Olson, City Historian of Grand Rapids and former NCPH board member, called my office. Both informed me of the sudden death of Michael Robinson, a long-time historian for the Army Corps of Engineers and the American Public Works Association. They wished to explore the possibility of establishing an award for public policy history in Robinson’s memory. After consulting with the NCPH Executive Committee and receiving its approval to proceed, I worked with Schubert to draft a proposal for consideration by the NCPH Awards Committee and the NCPH Board. The goal is to have the first award given in 2001.

Working with the NCPH staff, Schubert coordinated the plea for contributions from Robinson’s friends and colleagues. To date, the Robinson Fund has attracted over \$3,800 in contributions towards a pledged goal of \$5,000. The funds will be part of the NCPH endowment, and the award will be coordinated through the Awards Committee.

UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETINGS. During the past year, the NCPH staff began work on plans for the next two annual meetings. Our 2000 annual gathering in St. Louis will be a joint meeting with the Organization of American Historians. NCPH is represented on the Program Committee by Marty Blatt, Rebecca Conard, and Noel Stowe, and on the Local Arrangements Committee by Kathy Corbett. These individuals, as well as the NCPH staff, have been

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working with OAH staff and committee members to finalize the program and conference details. Likewise, after the NCPH Board approved the bid from Ottawa, Canada, for the 2001 meeting, NCPH staff have been assisting Local Arrangements chair Sharon Babaian to lay the groundwork for that meeting. Plans are already afoot to meet jointly with the Organization of American Historians in the year 2002 in Washington, D.C.

PUBLICATION UPDATE. In early 1999, NCPH signed a contract with the American Historical Association to collaborate on an updated version of the popular *Careers for Students of History*. In the coming months, NCPH will identify authors for this new publication, the original of which was written by Barbara Howe and published in 1988.

OTHER ACTIVITIES. As you may know, the NCPH Executive Offices is staffed by three individuals — the Executive Director, the Administrative Assistant, and the Graduate Intern, all of whom are half-time. To round out my appointment at IUPUI, the other half of my time is spent in The Polis Center, an interdisciplinary urban research center devoted to the study of Indianapolis and urban issues. As its Senior Research Historian, I am involved in the "Project on Religion and Urban Culture," a multi-year project funded by a multi-million dollar grant from The Lilly Endowment. I am working on an

historical analysis of downtown congregations and their responses to the changing urban environment. In addition, I am directing a related project entitled "Teaching the Role of Religion in American History," an effort to create curriculum materials for secondary school students and teachers that address the role of religion in history at the national, state, and local levels through the use of primary documents.

Several other projects and responsibilities keep me busy in my "spare time." I continue work on a biography of Edmund O. Hovey, one of the cofounders of Wabash College (1832) in Crawfordsville, Indiana. This is a project that has been funded by a Clio Grant from the Indiana Historical Society. In February, the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana Historical Bureau appointed me historian for Marion County (Indianapolis). This is an honorary position that will allow me to encourage collaboration among local historical organizations and to promote history to a broader public. So, in many ways, I live the life of a public historian well beyond the confines of the Executive Offices.

CONCLUSIONS: Throughout this anniversary year, I regularly have looked back over the past couple decades to examine the development of the National Council on Public History. During those years, hundreds of individuals from all areas of public history dedicated themselves to the creation and nurturing of a new field of historical study and

practice. Believing that history had applications far beyond the classroom walls, they sought ways of becoming more visible and active within the historical profession and demonstrating the true viability of being historians in the public sector. Through their work, these professionals reached out to wider audiences in an effort to promote the utility of history in dealing with issues affecting us every day, thereby showing the true relevance of the past to the present. Those who founded and have sustained the public history movement have done yeoman work in enhancing our work as historians, providing new fields of study and employment, and offering ways for the public to utilize and appreciate their historical past. To all of those individuals, past and present, NCPH, as it enters its third decade, owes much gratitude.

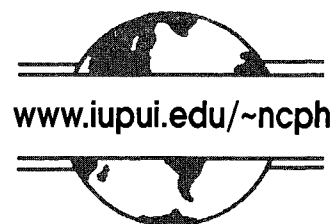
I have been honored to serve as your Executive Director since August 1994, nearly a quarter of the Council's life span. Thank you for continuing to place your trust in IUPUI, the Executive Offices staff, and me; we appreciate your continued support. I look forward to continued service to NCPH and the public history community at large, and to the opportunities to work with members and friends of NCPH in addressing the challenges that face us in the new millennium. As always, I welcome hearing from you.

Best Wishes,
DGV

ON THE INTERNET

Watch for the new
Public History
Discussion List
H-PUBLIC
Coming Soon!!

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



www.iupui.edu/~ncph

NCC WASHINGTON UPDATE



by Page Putnam Miller,
Director of the National
Coordinating Committee
for the Promotion of History
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Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Considers

Increase for NEH — When the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee met on 22 June to recommend the FY2000 budgets for all federal agencies and programs under its jurisdiction, the subcommittee singled out the endowments as agencies that merited increases. While support for NEH was clear, it is uncertain at this point how much of an increase the Senate will actually appropriate. With the 1997 imposed budget caps the subcommittee had a limited amount of money with which to work. Senator Slade Gorton (R-WA), and Chair of the subcommittee, explained in his opening remarks that while the marked-up bill included only a \$1 million increase for the NEH and the NEA, the subcommittee intended this as a symbolic gesture to indicate the Senate's support for the endowments. This would mean a budget for NEH in FY2000 of \$111.7 million.

The issue of funding for NEH surfaced later in the mark-up when Senator Thad Cochran (R-MISS) said that he was disappointed at the failure of the subcommittee to provide an increase for the NEH. After noting that NEH funding had been cut sharply in 1996 and had remained flat since then and that the agency now had an able, new leader in Bill Ferris, Cochran said that he hoped to introduce an amendment to add \$10 million to the NEH budget if he could find an offset from

some other agency or program in the Interior budget. Gorton argued that the two endowments should be treated with equity so that any increase for NEH should have a parallel increase in the Interior bill for NEA. An effort to have equity in funding for the two endowments would be a relatively new development. Prior to the 1995 setback in funding, the appropriation for the arts endowment was generally higher than that of the humanities.

Library of Congress Assessing A Policy Of Shelving by Height and Not Subject

— For several years there has been internal discussion at the Library of Congress on the possibility of saving money by shelving books by size instead of by subject. In Congressional testimony this spring Librarian James Billington referred to the Library's strategic objective of "re-engineering our handling of access to books." Many inside and outside the Library are wondering if this means that the Library will be changing its shelving policy. Reference librarians, the Library of Congress unions, and Congressional Research Service staff all have expressed strong opposition to shelving by size at the main buildings. A 1997 Library of Congress report from the working group on reference and research to the task group on shelving arrangement concluded that while shelving by size may be an option at the library's remote storage locations, shelving of the general collections at the Capitol Hill facilities should, if possible, retain the classified subject arrangement.

Some Congressional research staff have noted that they would never have met deadlines if they had not had been able to look at books in the stacks. Subject classified shelving not only enables a more efficient evaluation of a collections, but it allows for the in-depth research that is not available through on-line subject catalogues. Reference

librarians are often able to answer scholars' queries only by going to the stacks. The Library of Congress Professional Guild, which went on record in 1997 opposing shelving by height at the main library buildings, recently circulated an essay titled "The Height-Shelving Threat to the Nation's Libraries." And a June 11 opinion piece in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* highlighted the negative implications for research that would result from shelving by size and raised the question of whether the Library of Congress of the future will be more like a warehouse than a library.

Senate Recommends Level Funding for The Fulbright Scholarly Exchange Program

— On 10 June the Senate Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations Subcommittee passed its appropriations bill for FY 2000, which included approximately level funding for the Fulbright scholarly exchange program and for the American Studies Centers abroad.

Library of Congress Conference on Scholarship in The 21st Century Identifies Challenges for History

— The recent Library of Congress Conference, "Frontiers of the Mind in the 21st Century," included a session dealing with historical scholarship. Historian Jonathan Spence of Yale University identified seven issues that will affect where the discipline will move in the next century. These were: the ambiguity of what is a historical source; whether sources will include videos and t-shirts; the fragmentation of sources with access difficulties as well as overload problems; bias and closure of debate on some subjects that are seemingly placed off limits; the relationship with other disciplines; interaction with new technologies which brings both problems and possibilities; what is "public history" and who does it; and is a world history possible.

NCPH AWARDS

Otis L. Graham, Jr. Receives Annual Kelley Award

Otis L. Graham, Jr., professor of history at University of North Carolina, Wilmington, and former editor of *The Public Historian*, received NCPH's highest honor at the organization's recent annual meeting in Lowell, Massachusetts. The award, named for Professor Robert Kelley of the University of California, Santa Barbara, is given to individuals, institutions, or projects to recognize excellence and contributions to the field of public history. Previous winners included Page Putnam Miller of NCC, and the American Social History Project.

The letter nominating Graham for the award stated best why Graham deserved this year's award: "First and most importantly, Otis Graham reshaped *The Public Historian* into a professional journal and it blossomed under his direction into a journal of distinction. It came to offer a place for the exchange of methodological approaches important in doing history outside of the academy as well as a showcase for public history-related research and analysis. Second, Otis Graham has been a tireless advocate of the importance of history in the public life of the nation through the journal, attendance at major professional conferences and thought his wit,

friendly persuasion, and firm insistence. Third, Otis Graham possesses a distinguished record as an administrator of a graduate program in public history. Creating and/or administering a public history program draws on a myriad of talents that include the details of curricular design, nurturing community contact, and mentoring students." Graham received a framed certificate and a \$500 check at the Saturday evening banquet in Lowell.

NCPH extends its thanks to Otis for his years of service to the organization and congratulates him on receiving this year's Kelley Award.

Two Entries Tied for the G. Wesley Johnson Award

There were many submissions for this year's G. Wesley Johnson Award, the prize given to recognize the year's best article in *The Public Historian*. There were, however, two candidates that stood out, thereby resulting in a tie. The recipients of the 1998 Johnson Award were Giselle M. Byrnes of New Zealand and Cary Carson of Colonial Williamsburg. Each received a check and framed certificate at the Saturday evening banquet in Lowell.

Byrne's article, "Jackals of the Crown: Historians and the Treaty Claim Process in New Zealand," in discussing the treaty claim process as public history, addressed many of the most critical questions in the field today. She analyzed the growing trend in "end-use" history in both academe and public history, whether that end-use be directed toward obtaining funding and sponsorship or whether it be in the service of the courts. She broached the difficulty of understanding wider historical context when time and money are limited to research-specific "facts" and recommended that in such cases public historians state

their position at the outset in order to establish the limitations and perspective of such research. She showed how the world of postmodern theory and contract history comes together in an enlightening manner. In this regard, the quandary of postmodern relativism becomes pertinent when official agencies involve themselves in Aboriginal history. Byrnes's experience informed this question and allowed her to analyze the role of the public historian in finding a way for different cultures to talk to one another without resorting to either a babble of absolute relativism or the cultural imperialism of the past. This extremely thoughtful and well-informed article provided useful pointers for all public historians involved with history in post-colonial societies.

"Colonial Williamsburg and the Practice of Interpretive Planning in American History Museums" by Cary Carson, traced the evolution of Colonial Williamsburg's educational program, placing it within the context of interpretive planning in the museum field as well as within the context of the CW experience. Carson argued that interpretive approaches, both content and manner

of presentation, should not occur within a vacuum. They are creatures of the dynamics within the historical profession, initiatives set froth by funding agencies, internal institutional missions, concern about/sensitivity toward/understanding of the baggage brought by visitors, necessity for institutional financial health, and civic responsibility. Carson neatly used CW as a case study to illustrate not only the interconnections among these various elements but was able to assess the impact of teaching history to the public—both specifics and the process of the historians' craft. He addressed the issues associated with presenting "controversial" history to public audiences, a subject that will continue to dominate discussions about museum interpretation and the educational role of historical sites internationally. Given the large number of people visiting museum, historical sites, and living history institutions, Carson's discussion was instructive on a variety of different levels and should prove to be a useful article for some time to come.

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Inaugural Student Project Award Given

Jane C. Wehrey, a graduate of California State University Fullerton, received the first annual Student Project Award given by NCPH for her public history project, "Voices From This Long Brown Land: Oral Recollections of Owens Valley Lives and Manzanar Pasts." The prize committee selected her oral history project from many entries as the one that best represented the type of student work NCPH seeks to encourage and reward. They concluded that the project materials and the enthusiastic letters of support from the cooperating institutions,

California State University Fullerton and the Eastern California Museum, testified to Wehrey's ability to use her academic training and interest in the topic to transform community oral history interviews into valuable and compelling historical resources for a diverse audience.

Wehrey received a \$500 travel award during the presidential luncheon at the Lowell annual meeting. A brief article about her experience working on the project, as well as her reactions to the annual meeting, appears below.

NCPH Presents the First New Professional Award

Douglas Dodd, an architectural historian in Bakersfield, California, received NCPH's first New Professional Award. This new prize recognizes new public historians working in the discipline and provides a travel grant to attend the annual NCPH conference. Dodd, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Santa Barbara, works for the California Department of Transportation where he surveys and records historical resources within the area of projected transportation projects. Previous to this position, he served as assistant book editor for *The Public Historian*.

CREATING AN ORAL HISTORY

by Jane Wehrey

"Historians and Their Publics", the theme of the 21st Annual NCPH Conference, was eloquently and simply illuminated by historians David Thelen and Roy Rosenzweig when they challenged the standing-room only crowd at their plenary to "trust your audience." Throughout the four-day meeting, public history professionals and students from the U.S., Canada and Australia grappled with the concerns and shared the pleasures of the historian/audience connection. Who, they asked, are these intended receptors of the public history process? What do they think about the past, and how do they experience history? How do they affect the public historian's efforts to find consensus and be faithful to accuracy in transmitting the past through public forums?

Discussions about these "public" questions spilled out of the conference rooms and into the nearby historic sites, waterways and eateries of Lowell. Public historians became audiences as they experienced the clamor of century-old looms still producing tea towels and contemplated infrastructures of water and power as the lifeblood of cities and

livelihoods. On Lowell's streets, a more recent past was visible, too, of new waves of immigration from Southeast Asia and an influx of cutting-edge technologies now filling the city's historic mill buildings.

As the recipient of the first NCPH Student Project Award, I was intrigued both by the practice of public history in Lowell and by the ongoing debate the issue of audience inspired within the meeting rooms. Each, it seemed, was relevant to the project I had submitted to receive this honor. "Voices From This Long Brown Land: Oral Recollections of Owens Valley Lives and Manzanar Pasts" was the culminating experience of my MA program in Public History at California State University, Fullerton. It, like the conference itself, is a project in two parts; the first devoted to practice, the second to theory, historiography, and method. The "public" section is an anthology of nine oral interviews culled from among nearly 400 hours of tape and raw transcripts in the archives of the Eastern California Museum in the Owens Valley. These interviews, which I then edited and framed with suitable introductory and contextual material, form the core of the project.

The project's second portion is intended for an academic audience; it dissects the public section and explains its methods and theoretical underpinnings. It includes a review of Owens Valley historiography and postulates how this body of literature has shaped memory and historical consciousness among the Valley's residents. Issues applicable to the audience/historian dynamic are addressed as well: the meaning of historical experience in individual and public life, the themes of the "New West" historiography and their applicability to the Owens Valley, and the function of Place in shaping a personal historical identity. A methodology includes criteria for selecting interviews, choices in editing, and the rationales of compiling and annotating.

From this isolated "long brown land," as author Mary Austin in 1903 so eloquently described the Owens Valley, a contested legacy has reverberated throughout the West and the nation. For nearly a century, it has symbolized the social, political, and environmental dilemmas of large-scale water transfers in arid regions. Here too, is Manzanar, a former Paiute

► See Oral History pg.10

► *Oral History continued from pg. 9*

settlement and prosperous orchard community now known throughout the world for the internment camp hastily erected there to guard and house Japanese Americans removed from the West coast during World War II. A National Historic Site since 1993, Manzanar has become a place of remembrance and commemoration, charged with the formidable task of interpreting the stain of the internment experience to a public often divided in its assessment of it and increasingly wary of views of history at odds with individual personal experience.

The conception, development, and execution of "Voices From This Long Brown Land" rests on the premise that the audience is a participant, along with the nine oral history narrators, in a dialogue about the multi-layered pasts of the Valley. Envisioning this dialogue, I was inspired by geographer Barry Lopez who reflected in his essay, "Mapping the Real Geography":

If I were now to visit another country, I would ask my local companion, before I saw any museum or library, any factory or fabled town, to walk me in the country of his or her youth, to tell me the names of things and how, traditionally, they have

been fitted together in a community. I would ask for stories, for the voice of memory over the land.

[Barry Lopez, "Mapping the Real Geography", *Harpers Magazine*, November 1989: 19-21]

In their interviews, these "local companions" of the Owens Valley speak to their friends and neighbors—and to a larger audience as well. Their lives intersect with the well-documented conflicts for which the valley is known, but they tell also of being a Native American there, and of the early railroads, the decades of Western filmmaking, a fledgling ski industry, a still-viable cattle business, and the evolution of pioneer society. These remembrances offer a more multicultural, complex, and accessible perspective on the valley's pasts than has previously been published; together, they place the sharply polarized and often politicized versions of these pasts into a broader, more ambiguous context.

I have viewed my role as a historian for this project as one of facilitator and mediator of the projects envisioned dialogue. Through the editing processes, the haze of trivia and nostalgia present in much oral history is eliminated to reveal the essence

of personal memory and individual connections to past events. Likewise, in the creation of introductions and annotations, I have endeavored not so much to inform and interpret as to suggest context and stimulate reflection and curiosity about the nature of historical experience.

Despite its genesis as raw and often unformed local oral history efforts, and though its intended purpose is, in part, as a model for local historical agencies, "Voices" reaches far beyond its local community roots and seeks to connect the local with the regional, the personal with the collective, and the minutiae of individual experience with broad historiographic contexts. It is a project that demonstrates how, like Lowell itself, threads of place, experience, and memory bring narrator, audience, and historian into a common search for meaning from the past.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to a most supportive and enthusiastic "audience" of public historians, the members of the NCPH Student Project Award Committee—Katherine Corbett, Cynthia Brandimarte, Robert Carriker, and Howard Miller—who reviewed the submissions for this award.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service (NPS) recently announced the award of \$2,166,035 to assist museums, Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Alaska Native villages and corporations with implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The award was divided among 38 projects.

Projects to be undertaken by grant recipients include: the repatriation of the remains of nearly 2,000 individuals to the Pueblo of Jemez; a project to document ancestral Wichita human remains using anthropological methods; a statewide conference to discuss

chemically contaminated cultural materials in museum collections; a project to develop a comprehensive series of land maps that delineate the traditional homelands and hunting territories of the Lakota Indians; as well as numerous tribal consultation visits to museums.

NPS received 77 applications from 52 Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages and corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations, and 20 museums for a total request of approximately \$4.4 million.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), enacted in 1990, requires museums and federal agencies to

inventory and identify Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections and to consult with culturally affiliated Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages and corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding repatriation. Section 10 of the Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants to implement provisions of the Act.

Additional information regarding these awards may be obtained from Dr. Francis P. McManamon, Chief, Archaeology and Ethnography Program, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, NC340, Washington, D.C., 20240.

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IN HONOR OF DAVID ALLAN HAMER



David Allan Hamer, who died unexpectedly in Wellington, New Zealand on 16 May 1999, was born in Auckland, New Zealand in 1938. He was awarded a B.A. and M.A. with first class honours in History from Auckland University, and a D. Phil. from Oxford University in 1965. He taught at the University of Lancaster, the University of Auckland, and Victoria University of Wellington. At Victoria, Hamer served additionally as chair of the Department of History (1984-6; 1997-); Dean of Arts (1988-91); and Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs (1991-1994). The author of ten books and many articles and speeches, Hamer's interests developed from British Liberal politics to politics in New

Zealand. This change in focus led him to examine rural towns and towns on the frontier, broadly defined. That led in turn to path-breaking work in the comparative histories of urban frontiers. His most recent book, *History in Urban Districts: the Historic Districts of the United States* (Ohio State University Press) was published last year.

Hamer was very active in professional organizations and public history undertakings. He was a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, an editorial advisor to both the *New Zealand Journal of History* and *The Journal of Urban History*. He served on the Board of Directors of the Urban History Association from 1993 to 1997. Most recently, he chaired the Robert Kelley Award Committee for NCPH in 1999 and gave a paper at the 1998 Austin meeting. His public history work included being a member of the Board of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust; a member of the Advisory Committee of the

Historical Publications Branch of the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs; and membership on the committee making awards in Oral History in connection with the Australian Sesquicentennial gift to New Zealand, 1991-1994. Hamer was instrumental in organizing a senior Fulbright grant in 1997 for a public historian from the US to help design a public history M.A. program at Victoria. Hamer spent a good deal of time helping to facilitate that initial public history course offering, and participated in a session on public history programs at the December 1997 meeting of the New Zealand Historical Association. Both as a scholar and as a public historian, Hamer worked to link historical theory and public practice in order to make more sophisticated the practice of history and heritage management for a broader public. Those of us who worked with him have lost a valuable friend and colleague, but the field of public history has lost a thoughtful and deeply engaged supporter.

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FIELD SERVICE OFFICES AND PUBLIC HISTORY

by Andrew Verhoff

“What’s the right way to move a twenty-ton canal boat overland?” “How do you start a historical society?” “Where should we look for grant money?” Except for the first question, the Local History Office of the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) helps local historians with inquiries similar to these every day. The office, which is a department in OHS’s Society Relations Division, is one of twenty-two field services offices around the nation operated by state historical societies for the benefit of local historical organizations. Since it was established in 1981, the office’s mission has been to assist Ohio’s approximate 600 local historical organizations in their efforts to collect, preserve, and interpret their communities’ pasts. The Local History Office’s functions are mandated by the Ohio Revised Code and they work closely with the board of its statewide partner organization, the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums (OAHSM) to administer its programs.

Field service offices are resources for the citizens of their states. According to its mandate in Ohio’s Revised Code, the Ohio Historical Society “shall encourage and promote the organization and development of county and local historical societies” and “provide advisory and technical assistance to local societies for the preservation and restoration of historic and archaeological sites.” OHS’s Local History Office and OAHSM fulfill these requirements through a variety of programs. Like most field service offices, the Local History Office and OAHSM publish a newsletter for local historians (*The Local Historian*), offer workshops in areas of historical agency administration (“Brass Tacks Workshops”), sponsor annual meetings of local historians, provide on-site consulting services, and answers questions and makes referrals over the phone.

The programs of the Local History Office and OAHSM are intended for amateur local historians, whether paid staff members of local historical organizations or volunteers, and for professionally-trained local historians who, mainly, are the paid directors or curators of local historical societies. The amateurs have no professional training in public history or any of its sub-disciplines (historical agency administration, museum studies, historic preservation, archival administration, etc.) although they may be paid employees of local historical organizations. More often than not, amateurs are volunteers. They have an abiding interest in their community’s history and enjoy spending free time setting up displays in the local museum, collecting artifacts, writing books and pamphlets about local historical topics, leading walking tours, or giving talks to classes at area schools and before civic organizations.

Although these local historians are amateurs, they want professional results and call on the Local History Office for help. The consultants who execute field service programs generally have graduate degrees in or have done graduate work in history, museum studies, archival administration, and/or historic preservation. Consultants also have work experience in the field. Drawing on their experience, consultants translate their training into practices that encourage amateurs to follow professional standards.

Providing technical assistance and resources make up a large part of what many field service consultants do and, in the case of Ohio, the Local History Office and OAHSM have been successful at raising the level of technical proficiency at amateur-administered local historical organizations. Raising standards of historical interpretation, however, has been more of a challenge. It is easy to convince an organization to pull the shades in its house museum when a consultant can show the effects of ultraviolet light on a

textile. It is less easy to explain or inculcate the habits of mind that lead to subtle and enlightening interpretations of a community’s history, which professional historians learned how to do in graduate school.

The Local History Office serves professionally trained local historians in much the same way as it helps amateurs. As with their amateur colleagues, the professionally trained local historians use the Local History Office to continue their education. Workshops in fundraising and grant writing are usually filled by an even number of amateurs and professionals, as is the case with panel sessions on state proficiency testing, budgeting and financial management, and non-profit governance. The Local History Office also provides a network of professional contacts for professionally trained local historians and administrators. Often, the director or curator of the local historical society, with his/her MA in hand, is the lone history professional in a community. Field service offices not only provide information, but also collegiality, fellowship, and information about job openings.

As long as there are local historical organizations, the staffs of field service offices will never want for work. The increasing popularity of heritage tourism, for example, and the need for local historical societies to be accountable to the publics they serve demand that these groups meet professional standards without always having the benefit of professionally-trained staff. The services provided by field service offices, such as the Ohio Historical Society’s Local History Office, help bridge the gap between professionally trained historians, museum curators, archivists, and historic preservationists on one side and amateur local historians on the other.

-Andrew Verhoff, a graduate of the IUPUI Public History Program, is a Historical Agency Consultant in the Local History Office of the Ohio Historical Society

COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Awards Committee

Katherine T. Corbett, chair

The committee oversaw the selection of recipients for two new NCPH awards—the Student Project Award and the New Professional Travel Award. It also accepted a proposal from Frank Schubert, historian in the Joint Chiefs of Staff office, to establish a memorial award in honor of Michael C. Robinson, a historian and public affairs officer for the Corps of Engineers who died in late 1998.

The committee also explored the possibility of making an award at National History Day. At the suggestion of Beth Boland, the committee recommended that NCPH pursue instead the development of one or more technical leaflets on the practice of history, which would be made available to students working on History Day entries. Those who have worked with History Day believe this is a much needed resource and one that would have greater publicity value for NCPH than a single annual award.

The committee continues to debate a proposal for an annual NCPH award for the best contribution to scholarship that can be demonstrated to have made an impact on the public's understanding of history.

Consultant's Working Group

Jason Gart, chair

The 1998-1999 year marked an important change point for the Consultants' Working Group (CWG). Charged with promoting the interests of NCPH members who provide historical services as consultants or contractors, the CWG witnessed increased awareness and participation as a result of several new initiatives.

The CWG sponsored sessions and workshops for the NCPH annual

meetings. For this year's meeting in Lowell, the CWG organized a workshop, "Contracting for Historical Services: The Case of the Army Corps of Engineers," and a session, "Consulting Public Historians Look Ahead."

The second initiative introduced during the 1998-1999 year was the "Consultants' Corner" column for *Public History News*. Designed to highlight professional accomplishments among contract historians, contract firms, and other independent researchers, the quarterly column reports news of contract awards, ongoing projects, and contract report publications.

Presently, the CWG is working towards a number of new goals for the 1999-2000 year. The CWG is exploring the viability of updating and re-releasing the 1988 *Directory of Historical Consultants*, introducing professional liability insurance for NCPH members, and developing a certification process for practicing public historians and public history programs. Most importantly, the CWG must continue to look for new ways and new value-added deliverables to increase membership of consultants and consulting firms.

Cultural Resources Management Committee

David Harvey, chair

No report

Curriculum and Training Committee

Jon Hunner, chair

The Curriculum and Training Committee has made progress with two projects. Committee member Cindy Brandimarte is soliciting articles for *Public History News* to illustrate issues in curriculum development including new faculty hires to augment existing programs, a model "introduction to public history" course, and what non-academic professionals want public

history students to learn. The other project is a visible presence at the annual conference. The committee organized again this year the "Careers in Public History" session with a visit to the Lowell National Historic Park and discussions by National Park Service historians about their work. The committee also organized two poster sessions and a student mentoring program.

Electronic Communications Committee

Paige Roberts, chair

The principal work for the past year has involved laying the groundwork for the transfer of NCPH's discussion list PUBLHIST to the H-NET community. The H-NET Board of Editors approved our application in February 1999 for the creation of H-PUBLIC. This new list will go online later in the summer of 1999 after co-moderators Paige Roberts and David Vanderstel complete their training as listserv editors.

Endowment Committee

Marianne Babal, chair

The committee continued to work towards its goal of \$200,000 in the endowment fund by 2000. At the Lowell meeting this past April, the committee sponsored a fundraiser at a local Southeast Asian restaurant, with a target of raising \$2,000 from that event. Final results will be posted in the fall newsletter.

Since the endowment fund is well beyond the "kick-off" stage, we are now developing a long-term operational strategy. The committee will become more of a strategic planning body; advising the board on the future direction of the endowment and developing a long-range fundraising plan. To achieve this end, the committee recommended that the board consider the following actions:

- Make the currently ad-hoc Endowment Committee a standing committee of NCPH. (*approved*)
- Expand the committee by appointment of at least two additional members. (*approved*)
- One member of the Board of Director's should sit on the committee, ideally as chair. (*approved*)
- The committee should develop guidelines for submission and consideration of projects, publications, services or activities proposed for endowment funding.
- Develop a long-range plan for the endowment, including a fundraising campaign plan.
- The committee should advise and report on the financial state of the fund, track pledged and collected revenue for the endowment fund, and recommend yearly spending limits based on a percentage of the principal and interest in the endowment fund.

Finance Committee

Elizabeth Brand Monroe, chair

The state of the organization's finances is good. During the last year, outside auditors conducted an audit of the NCPH financial records and found them to be in good shape.

A detailed year-end financial report will appear in the fall issue.

History and the National Parks Collaboration Committee

Robert Weible, chair

Committee member Jeff Brown reviewed a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the National Park Service and the National Council on Public History. After Brown's review last fall, the Committee submitted the document to NPS and is currently awaiting a response. If adopted, it would facilitate projects or activities individually authorized by separate Cooperative Agreements. Projects might include public history

programs, personnel exchanges, peer review initiatives, and more.

The committee also supported a session at the Lowell meeting: "History by Design: Landscape and History at Gettysburg National Military Park and Manassas National Battlefield Park," proposed by Bruce Craig.

Committee members John Patterson and Robert Weible proposed a residential training program loosely modeled on the summer teacher institutes that NEH currently sponsors. NCPH and NPS would be the primary sponsors of this program. The committee will continue to work towards finalizing plans for a program in the summer of 2000 or 2001.

Long Range Planning Committee

Janelle Warren-Findley, chair

The principal work this past year dealt with drafting a position description for the NCPH Executive Directorate. Heather Huyck and Janelle Warren-Findley worked with President Pitcaithley, Executive Director David Vanderstel, IUPUI History Department chair Philip Scarpino, and the NCPH Board to complete this task. The Board approved the document at its April meeting.

Membership Committee

James Gardner, chair

During the year, the committee worked closely with Tom White, Marketing Manager of the Journals Division, University of California Press, and David Vanderstel, Executive Director, NCPH, to expand the organization's membership base. We mailed out over 6,500 newly designed brochures and letters to a target list, which included Environmental History, the Society for Historical Archaeology, subscribers to *CRM*, and the directors of public history graduate programs. The response rate to those mailings was lower than ex-

pected and the number of new members is down from last year, but we intend a more aggressive membership drive for the fall, including both general and targeted mailings. The latter will include special promotions to minority public historians and Canadian public historians, in anticipation of the 2001 meeting in Ottawa.

Recruitment of new members is only a part of our agenda; we are also concerned with retaining our current members. As in years past our efforts have focused on both annual membership renewal mailings and mailings to individuals who had not renewed, which have included letters asking them to explain why they have dropped their memberships. We are also interested in the possibility of convening a small focus group of former members to explore our strengths and weaknesses as a membership organization.

Finally, we are developing a new member profile form that we plan to include in the fall renewal mailing. The goal is to gain a better sense of who our members are, where they work, and what their interests are, all of which will assist in providing better service to the members.

While mid-year numbers are down from this time last year, we ended 1998 with 1,570 members/subscribers, compared to 1,453 at the end of 1997, an increase of 8 percent. While we have not seen the rapid growth that the leadership sought in 1995, we have grown at a rate that exceeds that of nearly every other organization in the discipline.

Nominating Committee

Lisa Mighetto, chair

The Nominating Committee's charge in 1998 was to secure ten candidates for five positions—two for President Elect; six for the Board; and two for the Nominating Committee. Members of the committee secured suggestions from past NCPH officers, lists of previous candidates, and

names of those individuals who had expressed interest in serving NCPH. After agreeing upon a slate, the committee forwarded the names to the Executive Offices, which conducted the election in early 1999.

During discussions among the committee, the following suggestions emerged for consideration. (1) It might be worthwhile for NCPH to consider selecting a single candidate for President (as some history organizations do), rather than running two people. There are many good candidates that run for President, and someone has to lose. We want to select someone who can provide strong leadership and vision, and we don't want people to get discouraged.

(2) Another suggestion was that if there are multiple open positions (there were three Board positions open in 1999, for example), then NCPH could have an open ballot, allowing members to vote on all candidates and naming the top three as winners, rather than pairing people. Some committee members felt that this approach would be fairer than the current approach of pairing people (which does not necessarily result in the three people with the most votes winning). The committee and the Executive Director welcome thoughts and comments on this matter.

Pre-Collegiate Education Committee

James Percoco, chair

The committee worked during the year to boost membership in NCPH among secondary level teachers. In particular, we promoted the Lowell meeting to numerous teacher groups in the New England region. We also planned two sessions on Saturday morning that would appeal to teachers; the Local Arrangements Committee handled a special mailing to invite interested educators.

We also explored the possibility of co-hosting a conference with the National Council for History Education, of which I am a member of the Board of Trustees. This would help to give NCPH a wider profile among history teachers nationwide.

Public Relations and Promotions Committee

No chair for this committee.
No report submitted.

Publications Committee

Otis L. Graham, Jr., chair

In thinking about NCPH publications and their future, it is important to remind ourselves that scholarly publishing is in a time of rapid and unpredictable transition. Electronic communications is changing the media by which scholars communicate to the public and each other, and at a dizzying pace. NCPH's task in the area of current and future publications should be seen as a dual one, deciding what needs to be published for members and the larger market, and deciding which media to use.

The value of our scholarly journal *The Public Historian* seems beyond argument. However, to ensure that the journal continues to be what NCPH members want it to be and evolves with changing times, we suggest an open, "member commentary" session on *TPH* at the annual meeting. Likewise, the need for the organization's newsletter *Public History News* also seems an essential means of carrying professional news and articles on matters of professional concern, President and Director's messages, and the like.

NCPH's other occasional publications appear most useful to those considering public history graduate work, to history departments offering public history programs, and other professionals. But, as many of these items have shrinking shelf life, the question remains, are print publi-

cations advisable in the future? A paper publication is quickly out of date as programs change, and a web site publication ought to be considered.

With regards to proposed publications, we recommend a "reader" of articles from *The Public Historian* and a pamphlet series on professional topics of great interest on which little or nothing is in print.

Finally, there seems to be no justification for having separate Publications and Electronic Communications Committees, given the emerging technology in publishing and communication, and therefore suggest that they be merged. [ED. NOTE: The NCPH Board approved this recommendation at its April meeting.]

Robert Kelley Memorial Award Committee (1999)

David Hamer, chair

The 1998-1999 Robert L. Kelley Memorial Award Committee consisted of Page Putnam Miller of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History; Marie Tyler-McGraw of the National Park Service; and Roy Rosenzweig, George Mason University; with myself as chair.

Deadline for nominations was 1 January 1999. The committee received seven nominations, three more than the previous year. It selected Otis L. Graham, Jr., as the 1999 award recipient. Otis Graham has combined a distinguished career as a scholar with important contributions to the public history movement in the United States. Otis, as editor of *The Public Historian* from 1989 to 1997, played a major role in making it the highly respected journal that it now is.

1999 Local Arrangements Committee

Gray Fitzsimons, chair, with assistance from Martin Blatt

The Local Arrangements Committee dealt with many issues relating to the program. Members handled arrangements with the conference hotel; coordinated tours to Boston, Old Sturbridge Village, and other sites; arranged special events such as an opening reception at the Tsongas Industrial History Center.

Beside the scenes, the committee secured \$2,100 from the Lowell Cultural Council to subsidize local teachers, historians, and scholars to attend the conference. They also obtained a grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities to help subsidize the Saturday plenary session. In addition, the committee arranged with Media Mill Design

to design the conference booklet, and secured financial assistance from Lowell NHP to cover mailing costs. They also coordinated publicity locally and regionally. The Lowell Festival Foundation handled the financial administration for the conference.

Over four hundred people attended the meeting between 29 April and 2 May 1999. Highlights of the meeting included:

- NPS Chief Historian Dwight Pitcaithley's incisive presidential address, which critiqued how the National Park Service Civil War sites deal with the critical issue of slavery.
- Plenary speakers Roy Rosenzweig and David Thelen, co-authors of *The Presence of the Past*, spoke to the issue of how American understand and use the past.

• Banquet speaker Howard Zinn, author of *A People's History of the United States*, told how his social activism has informed his sense of history.

• The Endowment fundraiser dinner at Lowell's popular and tasty Southeast Asian Restaurant netted a profit of nearly \$1500.

1999 Program Committee Robert Spude, chair

The 21st annual NCPH conference program included 35 sessions, 2 plenaries, 5 workshops, the presidential talk and keynote address. 164 participants gave presentations or served as panelists, chairs, or commentators. The program contained a wide range of topics, including tools and techniques, new approaches or media, and sessions that present controversial issues or projects.

CONSULTANT'S 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, contract awards, contract report publications, ongoing oral history projects, or anything else that might be of interest to practicing historians. E-mail items to Jason Gart, Chair, Consultants' Working Group at gartjh@asu.edu. Please be sure to include your full name and address.

Donna M. Neary is the consulting historian to the Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, KY for an exhibit titled "Derby City 125." The nine-month exhibit, beginning 19 April 1999, will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Kentucky Derby, the longest running consecutive sport event in U.S. history.

The exhibit will include artifacts from businesses, organizations, museums, and private collectors.

Hal Rothman, principal of Hal K. Rothman & Associates, was awarded a contract by the National Park Service to provide a park administrative history, phase II, of Golden Gate Recreation Area in San Francisco.

History Associates Inc. in Maryland was included in an 18 February 1999 article in *The New York Times*. The newspaper examined the use of professional historians in researching American business ties to German corporations during the Second World War. Rodney Carlisle, HAI co-founder, has completed *Shaping the Invisible: Development of the Advanced Enclosed Mast/Sensor System, 1993-1998*, an analytical study of a new Navy radar mast.

Jason Gart, principal historian of History International, Inc. in Arizona, has been contracted by the city of Phoenix to prepare a context study of the Tovrea Castle and

Carraro Cactus Garden. History International is also presently preparing a comprehensive product history on Photodynamic Therapy for Ci-Tec UK Ltd. in England.

Kathryn L. McKay, consulting historian with Tracks of the Past in Montana, is currently preparing baseline research on the mining communities of Virginia City and Nevada City, Montana, for the Montana Heritage Commission. McKay is also preparing an administrative history of Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area in eastern Washington for the National Park Service.

Melissa Keane has joined the staff of SWCA, Inc., Environmental Consultants in Tucson, Arizona. Keane, a former staff historian with Dames & Moore in Phoenix, will serve as the Director of Tucson Cultural Resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Historic Preservation Services** Annual Report FY 1998 is now available. To obtain a copy or other publication of the Heritage Preservation Services Division contact Bradley Finfrock at bradley_finfrock@nps.gov

- **The Newberry Library's Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography** is pleased to announce the thirteenth series of its Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography, "Narratives & Maps: Historical Studies in Cartographic Storytelling." The lectures will be held from Thursday evening through Saturday afternoon, **28-30 October 1999** at the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago. "Narrative and Maps" will explore the connections between maps and language at a point where the links are most apparent - where maps have been historically employed in the telling of stories, both fictional and non-fictional. The lectures are free and open to the public, but please register in advance by contacting The Newberry Library or phone Kristen Block at (312) 255-3659 or smithctr@newberry.org.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND INTERNSHIPS

- **The Coordinating Council for Women in History and The Berkshire Conference on Women Historians** are pleased to announce the ninth annual competition for two \$500 graduate student awards to assist in the completion of dissertation work. The awards are designed to support either a crucial stage of research for the final year of writing. The be eligible for the CCWH/Berkshire and CCWH/Ida B. Wells Awards applicants must be

women graduate students of history at a U.S. institution, must be A.B.D. status by the time of application, and may specialize in any field (for the Ida B. Wells Award the applicant must be working on an historical project). Applicants must submit three copies of the application, three copies of a Curriculum Vitae, three copies of a statement describing the proposed dissertation (three pages, single-spaced), the signature (on the application) of a representative of the applicant's History Department verifying that the qualifying exams have been passed or A.B.D. status has been achieved, a self-addressed stamped envelope, a self-addressed, stamped postcard, with the statement "Your CCWH/Berkshire graduate student award application has been revived." Application materials must be received by **13 September 1999**, the winner will be announced on 15 November 1999. To request an application contact Professor Gina Hames, Awards Committee, Department of History, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA, 98447; e-mail: hamesgl@plu.edu.

- **The American Antiquarian Society** offers fellowships for historical research by creative and performing artists. The AAS is now accepting applications for fellowships for historical research by creative and performing artists, writers, filmmakers and journalists. The program is designed to enhance the ways in which history is communicated to the American people. The deadline for submission of applications is **4 October 1999**. Fellowships will be provided to people whose research objectives are to produce works dealing with pre-twentieth century American history designed for the general public rather than for the academic/educational communities. The fellowships will allow recipients to conduct

uninterrupted research, reading and collegial discussion at AAS, which houses the world's preeminent and most accessible collection of American printed materials before the twentieth-century. For more information contact James David Moran at (508)363-1131.

CALL FOR PAPERS

- **The 31st Annual Algonquian Conference** is requesting papers relating to Algonquian-speaking peoples including but not limited to language, history, art, archaeology, ethnography, and anthropology. Papers may be delivered in English or French. The conference will be held 28-31 October 1999 in Lafayette, Indiana. Contributors should send titles and one page abstracts, by **September 1, 1999**, to Nicholas L. Clark, Executive Director, The Museums at Prophetstown, Inc., 22 N. Second St., Lafayette, Indiana 47901. For more information call (765)423-4617 or e-mail nclark@prophetstown.org.

- **The Bureau of Reclamation's Advisory Committee for Symposium 2002** solicits proposals for papers on topics related to the history of the Bureau of Reclamation. This symposium will address issues related to reclamation's one hundred year history. Papers will be required by **1 July 2001**, for distribution to participants in the symposium and revised papers will be due **1 September 2002**, and will be published. Paper requirements include use of the *Journal of American History* style guide, hard copy of paper, a diskette in WordPerfect or Word, approximately 20-30 pages double spaced, 12 point times roman, 1-inch margins on all sides. Submit proposals to the chair of the committee, Brit Storey, P.O. Box 25007, Denver, Colorado, 80225.

• **The British Association for American Studies Conference** for 2000 will be hosted by the Department of American Studies at the University of Wales Swansea from 6-9 April 2000. Send proposals to Dr. Michael A. McDonnell, Department of American Studies, University of Wales Swansea, SA2 8PP, UK.

• **Conference of Rural Women's Studies Association** will be held at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, Minnesota, 22-25 June 2000. The RWSA invites proposals for individual papers, presentation, sessions, and workshops for the conference. The conference is on Rural and Farm Women in Historical Perspective. The Program Committee welcomes proposals from an interdisciplinary perspective exploring all aspects of the lives of rural women and the historical interpretation of those lives. Potential presenters should submit 4 copies of a one-page abstract and brief vitae, including phone, e-mail, and fax number to Susan S. Rugh at the Department of History, 332 KMB, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602; (801)378-2742 or e-mail at: susan_rugh@byu.edu. Proposals are due by **15 October 1999**.

• **The Ohio Academy of History Annual Meeting**, to be hosted by Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, will be held 28-29 April 2000. The Ohio Academy of History Program Committee invites you to submit proposals for panels and papers for its annual meeting. We welcome proposals from all historians, whatever the nature of their employment and whatever their field of specialization. One need not be a member of the Ohio Academy of History to submit a proposal for this annual statewide conference. Proposals for entire sessions are encouraged, single paper

proposals will be considered. Panels and papers may deal with subjects in any field or any time period of history, including, but not limited to, historiography, methodology, pedagogy, public history, and research reports. Proposals are to include: Title of panel, abstract for panel, abstractor each paper (one typed, double-space page per paper), full names of participants (including moderator and commentator) institutional affiliations (if any), and addresses (U.S. mail and email), and phone numbers for all participants. Also, historians willing to serve as moderators and commentators should forward their names to the Program Chair with an indication of their special area of interests. Proposals are due no later than **1 November 1999** to: Dr. Julieanne Phillips; OAH Program Chair; Baldwin-Wallace College; 275 Eastland Road; Berea, Ohio 44017-2088.

• Organizers of the "**The Veteran and American Society**" conference announce the call for paper proposals. The conference, scheduled for 12-13 November in Knoxville, Tennessee, will examine the changing relationship of veterans with American society, from the Revolutionary War to the Persian Gulf. Proposals from a variety of disciplinary and historical perspectives are welcome. For details, contact G. Kurt Piehler, Center for the Study of War and Society, 220 Hoskins Library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0411; e-mail: gpiehler@utk.edu.

EXHIBITS

• **The Library of Virginia** has launched the Virginia in Maps projects. This project consists of three major interpretive components: an illustrated atlas, a major exhibition and a two-day scholarly symposium. The first component will be on Friday and Saturday, April 23-24, 1999. The second component, the exhibition, will run from April 23 through December 15, 1999. The third component, a definitive atlas, will be available in the fall of 1999. For more information about any of the elements of the Virginia in Maps project, please contact Jan Hatcock, Public Relations coordinator at the Library of Virginia, (804)692-3592

INTERNET

• **The Institute of Cultural Landscape Studies of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University** announces its new website: <http://www.icls.harvard.edu>. For further information contact Phyllis Andersen, Director Institutes for Cultural Landscape Studies, The Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130.

• **The Library of Congress National Digital Library Program and the Manuscript Division** announce the first release of the Thomas Jefferson Papers at the Library of Congress on the American Memory Collections website. The papers consist of 27,000 items representing the largest collection of original Jefferson documents in the world. The web address is: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mtjhtml>.

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

March 30-April 2, 2000

St. Louis, Missouri

**A Joint Meeting of NCPH and the
Organization of American Historians**

April 18-22, 2001

Ottawa, Canada

Spring 2002

Washington, D.C.

NCPH PUBLICATIONS

Add to your public history library today by acquiring these NCPH publications.

Careers for Students of History - by Barbara J. Howe **Cost** \$5.00

A 94-page booklet designed to introduce students to the diverse career options open to historians.

A Guide to Graduate Programs in Public History **Cost** \$5.00

This paperback contains information on 57 public history programs throughout the US and Canada. It is a useful tool for students planning to pursue graduate studies as well as for faculty counseling prospective public history students or those seeking to develop a public history curriculum.

A Collection of Public History Course Syllabi **Cost** \$30.00 for members; \$35.00 for non-members

This 375-page loose-leaf collection of course syllabi from over 20 different public history programs continues to be a popular item for students and faculty alike. It is especially valuable for those interested in establishing a new program or expanding an existing one.

Public History Today (video) **Cost** \$30.00 *New Price!*

The 33-minute video examines the work of three public historians and provides a sense of what is involved in doing history in and for the public.

Postage/handling: \$2.00 for one item; \$3.00 for two items; \$5.00 for three or more items.

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NCPH TO ANNOUNCE AWARD NOMINATION DEADLINES

With the successful initiation of two new awards this past year, the NCPH Awards Committee is making plans for opening nominations for the Student Project and New Professional Travel awards. Though details are not yet firm, the eligibility and nomination procedures will remain the same. The **Student Project Award**, given to recognize and reward the contributions of student projects to the field of public history and to encourage greater student participation in the organization, will be given to students pursuing master's or doctorate degrees. The award will enable one or more students from the project to attend the annual meeting. The **New Professional Travel Award** provides a grant for a new public history professional to attend the NCPH annual meeting.

If you are aware of anyone who might be eligible for these awards, keep them in mind. And look for the announcements later this fall for the deadlines and application procedures.

For more information, contact
**NCPH Executive Offices at (317) 274-2716 or
visit NCPH online at www.iupui.edu/~ncph**



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