

## "BELONGING: PUBLIC HISTORIANS AND PLACE"

NCPH TO MEET IN OTTAWA, CANADA,  
19-21 APRIL 2001

by Sharon Babaian, Local Arrangements Committee Chair  
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This spring, public historians from around the world will converge on the Chateau Laurier in Canada's national capital to attend the 23rd annual meeting of the National Council on Public History. The conference, whose theme is "Belonging: Public Historians and Place," will seek, through panels, workshops, and tours, to address the many ways in which historians study place and present the past to their diverse audiences, all in the wonderful surroundings of Ottawa.

Ottawa, Ontario was not always a capital city. It began life in 1826 as Bytown, a construction camp and small town established by the British army to support the development of the Rideau Canal, which was intended to help defend British North America against American invasion. The town and the whole region, which included communities such as Hull (what is now west Quebec), also were sustained by the abundant forests of the Ottawa Valley. Beginning around 1800, wood and wood products dominated the commercial and physical landscape of the area, first with the timber and squared log trade and later, the sawn lumber and paper industries. Annual log drives remained a feature of life along the Ottawa River until the 1970s.

Renamed Ottawa in 1855, the isolated lumber town became Canada's national capital at Confederation in 1867. Government buildings and jobs gradually displaced the timber barons and their empires, especially after the Second World War. From the 1950s to the 1980s, the national capital region expanded steadily to meet the needs of a growing population and a larger, more active federal

government. That trend began to change in the 1980s as successive governments cut dozens of federal programs and thousands of public service jobs in an attempt to balance the budget. Fortunately for Ottawa and the region, the relative decline of the federal public service has been cushioned by the rise of a new high-technology sector, currently consisting of about 1,000 companies employing over 70,000 people.

### What's New in 2001

The 2001 NCPH conference is only the second to be held outside of the US and, in keeping with this departure from the norm, the program and local arrangements committees have incorporated some new features in this year's program. We have produced NCPH's first bilingual program, with the registration information, tour, and special event details appearing in Canada's two official languages—English and French. The program also provides costs in both Canadian and US dollars. Delegates may pay by cheque in the currency of their choice.

Conferees will discover a new approach to the traditional tour offerings. The program and local arrangements committees have arranged seven off-site sessions on Saturday afternoon, which will include tours relating to the theme of each session. Included are sites relating to Cold War history, environmental history, cultural tourism, diversity, interpreting cultural landscapes, agricultural history, industrial and labour history, and history in the federal government. The cost of these session-tours has been included in the basic

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## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

**Martin Blatt**, Chief of Cultural Resources at the Boston National Historical Park and former member of the NCPH Board of Directors, is co-editor of the forthcoming *Hope & Glory: Essays on the Legacy of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment*. The anthology is derived from the 1997 centennial celebrating the Augustus Saint-Gaudens' monument to Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts.

**James A. Percoco** of West Springfield (Virginia) High School received the James Harvey Robinson Prize from the American Historical Association for his book, *A Passion for the Past: Creative Teaching of U.S. History* (Heinemann, 1999).

**Chemung Valley History Museum** in Elmira, New York, received a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History for its exhibit, "The High Line: A City Divided, A City United."

**Charles Jacobson**, a senior associate with Morgan Angel & Associates, has published *Ties That Bind: Economic and Political Dilemmas of Urban Unity Networks, 1800-1990* (University of Pittsburgh Press).

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Alan S. Maxwell, President

Patrick O'Donnell, Vice-President

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Sharon Babaian, Secretary-Treasurer

David G. Vannoy, Executive Director

► Cover story ... continued.

registration fees to encourage the widest possible participation, especially by students. As a consequence the fees are somewhat higher than usual this year. Early registration for members will cost CDN\$150 (US\$110) and CDN\$165 (US\$120) for non-members, so we encourage you to register early to obtain the best price.

Another new feature of the 2001 program is the poster session. The program committee felt strongly that posters have not always received the attention they deserve and attempted to address this problem by assigning a special time slot for poster presentations—Friday afternoon 20 April—and by appointing Kathy Corbett to co-ordinate poster submissions. The program committee has scheduled over forty sessions in six concurrent time slots on Friday and Saturday. Several important themes are represented, among them cultural tourism, community history, official history, cultural landscapes and industrial heritage. There are several sessions dealing with the history and interpretation of indigenous peoples in Canada, the US, New Zealand and Australia. The challenges posed by cultural diversity are dealt with in a special AASLH round table discussion, "Diversity In and For History," a session on African-Canadian heritage interpretation, and a session-tour, "Weaving Diversity into the Fabric of National Narratives." Presenters will be coming from as far away as New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The local arrangements committee has also arranged four local tours and one combined tour and roundtable on Thursday 19 April. These events cover several topics including the history of planning in Canada's national capital, Ottawa's churches as social documents, the social and cultural history of the ByWard Market and Lowertown, and the history of the anti-slavery and civil rights movements in Canada. The round table "Museums, the Media and the Public" will be held at the Canada Science and Technology Museum, after which tours of the museum will be offered. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to sign up for one

workshop on Thursday. For students and potential employers, the Careers in Public History Workshop offers an opportunity to explore career opportunities in the field of public history as exemplified in the resources of the host community. A panel on the history of the fur trade and the interpretation of fur trade sites in Canada and the US also will be held on Thursday afternoon.

### Special Events

The annual meeting will provide a variety of special opportunities to consider, commemorate, and praise the accomplishments of public historians. The Presidential Luncheon, scheduled for Friday, will feature President Alan Newell's address "'Home is What You Take Away With You': K. Ross Toole and the Making of a Public Historian," as well as a brief business meeting. The Local Arrangements and Endowment committees are pleased to offer a uniquely Canadian fund-raising event on Friday evening -- a special performance of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride, which is a demonstration of military equestrian skills on a grand scale. Refreshments will be served at a reception following the performance. Proceeds from this event will go towards the NCPH Endowment Fund.

On Saturday night, we invite all to attend a dinner banquet in one of Chateau Laurier's grand ballrooms. R. Cole Harris, a distinguished Canadian historical geographer, will present the keynote address. Dr. Harris is known specifically for his work on the seigneurial system in New France, on settlement patterns in British Columbia, and on the highly-acclaimed first volume of *The Historical Atlas of Canada, From the Beginning to 1800*. He has an extensive knowledge of Canada and Canadian history and an acute sense of the importance of place in understanding the past. The banquet also will include the presentation of NCPH awards.

### Travel Tips and Information

Ottawa is a great place to visit any time of the year, but having the right information always helps make the trip

more enjoyable. With that in mind, those planning to attend the conference should be aware that Canada uses the metric system of measurement. Gasoline is sold in litres, speed limits are in kilometres per hour, and temperatures are reported in degrees Celsius. Ottawa's weather in April can be unpredictable, so be prepared. The average high temperature is 11°C (or about 50°F). Lows range from 0 to 2°C (or 33 to 35°F). For current weather information, visit the website:

<http://weather.ec.gc.ca/forecast/yow.html>.

**Please make special note of the following: All visitors to Canada must show proof of citizenship upon entering the country--a valid passport or original birth certificate should suffice.**

With regards to currency, local merchants generally accept American dollars, although automated teller machines provide a good exchange rate on most major currencies.

Individuals attending the annual meeting will have a selection of hotels. The main conference hotel is the Chateau Laurier, a heritage building in the heart of downtown Ottawa. The conference room rates are CDN\$165-\$175 (US\$110-\$117) and will be available until 15 March 2001. Please be specific about your particular needs as the rooms at the Chateau are not all of standard size. A small block of rooms also will be available until 5 March at the nearby Lord Elgin. Rates there are CDN\$105 (US\$70) for single and CDN\$110 (US\$73) for double occupancy.

The early registration deadline for the conference is 20 March 2001. If for some reason you have not received your program/registration materials in time to make that deadline, please contact Danielle Naoufal, the Canada Science and Technology Museum, [dnaoufal@nmstc.ca](mailto:dnaoufal@nmstc.ca) or 613 991-3081.

### Further Readings about Ottawa

At the suggestion of NCPH President Alan Newell and *The Public Historian's* Lindsey Reed, the Local Arrangements Committee has compiled a list of books set in Ottawa and the surrounding area or written by Ottawa authors. We hope there is something here to meet everyone's

# THE CANADIAN NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

by David Monaghan

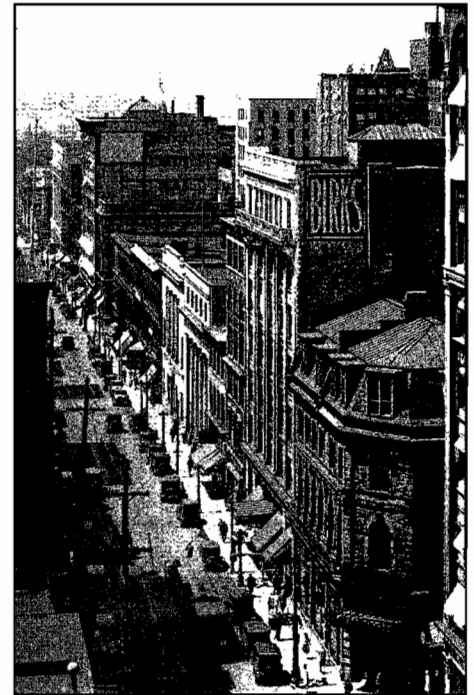
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The Canadian National Photography Collection is a remarkable collection of photographic images assembled by the Canadian National Railways from the 1920s onwards. Comprised of an estimated 750,000 images, the collection covers the period from the mid-1850s to 1985. The company decided to donate its collection in 1999 to the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa (formerly known as the National Museum in Science and Technology), citing their concerns over the long-term preservation of the collection and limited public access as the reasons behind their decision. Under the terms of the donation, CN will continue to transfer photographs to the Museum, retaining only images taken during the most recent 15 years for its own use.

The images from this massive collection document Canadian National

and its numerous predecessor railways' interests and underscore the pervasive role that railways played in the development of Canadian society beginning in the 1850s. Much more than a collection of railway photographs, these prints, negatives and transparencies cover such diverse topics as aviation, radio communication, road transport, marine transportation, natural resources, immigration, agriculture, and tourism. Moreover, given CN's presence in all ten Canadian provinces and the territories, the collection provides a unique resource that chronicles the development of Canada over time and space.

The acquisition is an excellent match for the Museum whose own mandate is national in scope and endeavours to explore and document the role of science and technology in the



Sparks Street, Ottawa, n.d.

Credit: Canada Science and Technology Museum

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interest.

## Fiction:

Robertson Davies, *What's Bred in the Bone* (Penguin Books, 1997)

Carol Shields, *The Stone Diaries* (Random House of Canada, 1993)

Alan Cumyn, *Burridge Unbound* (McClelland & Stewart, 2000)

Elizabeth Hay, *A Student of Weather* (McClelland & Stewart, 2000)

Mary Jane Maffiny, *Speak Ill of the Dead* (Napoleon, 1999) - mystery

Charles DeLint, *Moon Heart* (H.B. Fenn, ca 1980) - science fiction

Heather Robertson, *Willie* (General Paperbacks, ca 1980s) - historical novel

Heather Robertson, *Igor* (General Paperbacks, ca 1990s) - historical novel

Elisabeth Harvor, *Excessive Joy Injures the Heart* (McClelland & Stewart, 2000)

André Alexis, *Childhood* (McClelland & Stewart, ca 1990s)

## Non-Fiction:

John Taylor, *Ottawa, An Illustrated*

*History* (Lorimer, 1986)

Phil Jenkins, *An Acre of Time* (Macfarlane & Ross, 1996)

City of Ottawa, Local Architecture Advisory Committee, *Ottawa: A Guide to Heritage Structures* (City of Ottawa, 2000)

Helen Smith, *Ottawa's Farm: A History of the Central Experimental Farm* (General Store Publishing House, 1996)

Sandra Gwyn, *The Private Capital: Ambition and Love in the Age of Macdonald and Laurier* (McClelland & Stewart, 1984)

Ottawa Citizen, *Our Times: A Pictorial Memoir of Ottawa's Past* (Ottawa Citizen, 2000)

Bruce S. Elliot, *The City Beyond: A History of Nepean, Birthplace of Canada's Capital, 1792-1990* (City of Nepean, ca 1991)

John Ward Hughson, *Hurling Down the Pine: the Story of the Wright, Gilmour and Hughson Families, Timber and Lumber Manufacturers in the Hull and Ottawa Region and on the Gatineau River,*

*1800-1920* (Historical Society of the Gatineau, 1965)

Chad Gaffield, (ed.), *History of the Outaouais, Quebec* (Institut québécois de recherche sur la culture, 1997) Also available in French.

## Special Thanks

Conference organizers are greatly indebted to the Canada Science and Technology Museum Corporation, whose management and staff have generously provided clerical and administrative support, translation, editorial and publishing expertise and plenty of helpful advice and encouragement. Thanks also are due to staff at Parks Canada for providing translation services critical role in all of this, and the project itself, along with the partnerships that produced it, point to strategies that we and others will be using to answer preservation questions in the years ahead.

# REACHING THE PUBLIC: HISTORIANS AND THE WORLD WIDE WEB

by William Thomas <wgt9m@virginia.edu>

Academic historians are just beginning to use the new technology of the World Wide Web to reach the public. Historians have every reason to be pleased—their audience is large and ever growing; their histories, even the most academic, are appealing and gaining adherents. They have every reason to be concerned as well—crackpot theories abound on the Web, wrongheaded arguments not only persist but also grow more entrenched there. Since the Web's first appearance in 1993, sites devoted to the subject have sprouted up for nearly every aspect of history. There are, for example, Civil War web sites on weaponry, medical treatment, soldiering, camp life, generalship, and on and on. There are sites dedicated to uniforms, flags, spies, engineers, railroads, and muskets. Some estimates put the number of Civil War sites at over 600,000. The leading journal of academic libraries reviewed Civil War sites in 1998 and concluded, "some days, it appears that the Internet consists of equal parts Star Trek, stock market reports, soft-core pornography-and Civil War sites." History, as a subject, rarely finds itself so cozy with mass media, so adjacent to popular culture, so faddish and hip as to be in the same sentence as Star Trek.<sup>1</sup>

That history is popular on the Internet is no accident. The Web appears on close inspection to be exactly the sort of medium in which history might thrive. The Web can deliver large volumes of data, quickly and accurately. It can handle images, video, audio, and text with equal facility. It can offer its patrons a sense of shared interests and community through discussion lists, video conferencing, chat rooms, and web rings. It can provide an environment for animated sequencing of images, maps, and hypertext narratives. Finally, the Web is an open marketplace of ideas and thoughts where print space is relatively cheap and the landscape of human activity and ideology vast and open for engagement.

At the Virginia Center for Digital History (VCDH) at the University of

Virginia, historians are working with software engineers, programmers, educators, and graduate and undergraduate students to produce a digital form of historical scholarship, designed to reach large audiences in the general public, as well as students, teachers, and researchers. VCDH currently produces digital history projects on the Jamestown settlement, Lewis and Clark, Dolley Madison, the Civil War, African American history, Virginia history, and the history of the American Presidency. (To view the site, visit: [www.vcdh.virginia.edu](http://www.vcdh.virginia.edu) )

Many academic historians have generally been uncomfortable with popular history, preferring instead the cloistered rancor of peer-reviewed publications and the occasional public lecture. But the World Wide Web has presented skeptical academics with a very popular medium, one that may prove too popular to ignore. While some academics shun the new technology, others have warmly embraced it. Neither reaction is new to the profession. Debates within the profession have occurred throughout the 20th century over how to address popular concerns, and even new technologies for historians to use. Allan Nevins, who moved from journalism into academe at Columbia University and wrote Civil War history for a wide popular audience, served in 1959 as president of the American Historical Association and delivered his keynote address on the growing division between academic historians and other writers and producers of history. Nevins argued that historians seemed to have abandoned any effort to reach the general reader. "The central explanation of the change," he suggested, "is connected with the sweeping transfer of history into scientific channels. . . In proportion as history took a scientific coloration, employed mechanistic or evolutionary terms, and abandoned its old preoccupation with individual act and motive, . . . its significance to the ordinary citizen paled." Nevins understood as well the effect that new media could have on the profession of history. "The New mass

media," he said, "have heightened the spirit of apprehensive caution within our guild [history] by increasing the danger that careless popularizations of history will mean their vulgarization."<sup>2</sup>

Nevins could well be talking about the year 2001, not 1959. As historians survey the new technology of the Internet and the World Wide Web, they do so with Nevins' words of caution ringing in their ears. On the Web there is little to differentiate validated, professionally produced material from the multitude of opinion pieces by individuals on personal home pages. A search on the Web for historical information can return a third-grader's report side-by-side with a dissertation chapter. The sheer proximity of these returns concerns academic historians. Nevins singled out "scientific" history for particular emphasis. Favoring the history of men and ideas, Nevins loathed the scientific approach--it seemed to him an antiseptic amalgamation of disparate data to compile a history, possibly a history without moral imagination or purpose. As technologies abound historians might try to keep their bearings on some of the criteria that Nevins described in 1959 for historians—full and complete research of the subject, avoidance of factual errors, judgment and insight into the past, and use of the imagination.

At the Virginia Center for Digital History, historians are trying to use the technology of the new mass media to produce histories that among other things fit Nevins' criteria. Two projects among several can serve as examples. Edward L. Ayers, a social historian of the American South at the University of Virginia, has created a digital history at once imaginative, purposeful, and insightful. Ayers' "Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War" [ <http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu> ] was meant to create a social history of the Civil War and to use the technology to explore the conflict in ways that had not seemed possible without it. In "Worrying About the Civil War," an essay about the problem

of the Civil War in American history and popular consciousness. Ayers writes, "the standard interpretation [of the Civil War] is no longer serving liberal ends as it once did. The story of the Civil War has become a story of things being settled, of scores being righted. Movies and books that tell of Americans killing more than 600,000 other Americans somehow convey a sense of the greatness of everyone concerned and of the nation for which they died. Such faith in the transformative effects of warfare can make it easier for Americans to find other wars natural and inevitable." Ayers calls for "a new Civil War revisionism" and uses the Valley of the Shadow Project to help make the case for such revisionism to the general public, as well as to teachers, students, and scholars. "That revisionism," Ayers writes, "unlike its predecessors, might focus on the way we relate the Civil War rather than on matters of interpretation alone. It might resist the very notion of the war as a

single story, with a beginning, middle, and end, with turning points and near misses."<sup>3</sup> The Center is working to reach a broad public with its scholarship in other subject areas as well. One project, "The Ground Beneath Our Feet," explores Virginia's history since the Civil War and produces a film series and web sites for WCVE television in Richmond. The films are produced by George H. Gilliam and William G. Thomas, scholars working on a social history of modern Virginia through oral histories and interviews with everyday Virginians. The films are intended for the general audience of PBS, and the web sites are intended for K-12 education audiences in 11th grade U.S. history and Virginia history classes. The films are meant to engage the public with recent history and to educate viewers on controversial subjects, such as massive resistance and the removal of families from Shenandoah

National Park in the 1930s. We have completed films on the New Deal in Virginia, the secession crisis in Virginia and the formation of West Virginia, and massive resistance to school desegregation in Virginia. [see [www.vahistory.org](http://www.vahistory.org) ]

VCDH projects, such as the "Ground Beneath Our Feet" and "The Valley of the Shadow," are designed to encourage scholarship and connect it with a wide general audience. Ayers' interpretation



of the Civil War through the "Valley of the Shadow" Project reaches over 1,000 individual visitors a day, and over the last several years has had over 1 million visitors come to the site.<sup>4</sup> Other VCDH projects, such as Virtual Jamestown, receive heavy traffic from K-12 schools that regularly teach about Jamestown's history. VCDH is working on a broad array of projects designed to develop scholarly history resources online and to tailor them for the broadest possible audiences. The Center welcomes inquires at The Virginia Center for Digital History, Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22904, phone: 804-924-7834, website: [www.vcdh.virginia.edu](http://www.vcdh.virginia.edu).

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup>Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries, April 1998 (vol. 35, no. 8).

See [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and [www.northernlight.com](http://www.northernlight.com) for search engines to explore Civil War sites. For a review of historical sites on the Web, see Michael O'Malley and Roy Rosenzweig, "Brave New World or Blind Alley? American History on the World Wide Web," *Journal of American History* (June 1997), 132-155. For a review of Civil War sites on the Web, see also William G. Thomas and Alice E. Carter, *The Civil War on the Web: A Guide to the Very Best Sites* (Scholarly Resources: 2000).

<sup>2</sup>Allan Nevins, "Not Capulets, Not Montagus," *The American Historical Review* (January 1960): 253-270. Nevins suggested that four characteristics describe the work of historians: full and complete research of the subject, avoidance of factual errors, judgment and insight into the past, and use of the imagination. The main criticism of the popular writers against academic historians, he noted, is that they

emphasize the first two--research and avoidance of factual errors--and ignore the latter two--insight and imagination about the past. The main criticism of the academic historians of the popular writers is that they overvalue the latter two. The criticism of Ken Burns's documentary series *The Civil War*, for example, followed this pattern exactly.

<sup>3</sup>Edward L. Ayers, "Worrying About the Civil War," unpublished essay, in possession of the author.

<sup>4</sup>William G. Thomas, "'Fax Me Everything You Have on the Civil War!' A Look at Web Audiences in the Valley of the Shadow Project," *AHA Perspectives* (February 1999).

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# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



by Alan S. Newell  
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The NCPH Board of Directors passed a resolution at its meeting of 28 October 2000 to change the organization's election procedures. Beginning with the 2001 elections, the Nominating Committee will select one candidate rather than two for the office of Vice-President. The candidate, once confirmed by the NCPH membership, will serve as Vice-President and will then succeed to the office of President the following year. All other NCPH offices (Secretary/Treasurer, Directors, and Nominating Committee) will continue to be filled through competitive elections.

This change to our by-laws represents a significant alteration to our current election process. The Nominating Committee has recommended the revision for the past two years, and it has been the subject of lengthy discussion by the NCPH Board of Directors. A resolution to make the change was placed before the board at its spring 2000 meeting. Following considerable debate, the board decided to solicit comment from the membership before voting on the resolution. We announced this decision at the annual business meeting in St. Louis and, throughout the late spring and early summer, a number of NCPH members submitted comments to officers and board members. Most of these were posted on H-PUBLIC. The board had intended to vote on the resolution last summer, in time for the fall elections. However, given the number of lengthy comments generated by the proposal, many of them submitted by past NCPH officers and board members, the Executive Committee decided to postpone the vote and to submit the resolution for additional debate at the fall meeting.

Our October debate was lively. I think that it is fair to say that the comments in opposition to the proposal submitted by longtime members of the NCPH caused a number of board members to reconsider

their earlier support for the resolution. I know that those views prompted me to question my previous position. And so, I think that it may be helpful to those who favor the present system of fully contested elections to know why I ultimately voted in favor of the by-law change.

Opponents of the resolution offered well-reasoned and articulate arguments. At the risk of over-simplifying the sometime lengthy e-mails that were submitted to the Executive Director, the essence of the objections seem to be that by selecting, rather than electing, the Vice-President/ President, NCPH would be disenfranchising its members (gee, this has a familiar ring to it). Of equal importance would be the possibility that a small clique of active NCPH members would eventually control the organization, perhaps making the presidency a "figurehead" position and stifling leadership and innovation. For many the proposed process was simply undemocratic.

Supporters of the resolution, principally members of the two most recent Nominating Committees, argued with equal persuasiveness that our current system of contested elections wastes good and talented leaders. Committee members emphasized that it has been relatively easy to find suitable potential candidates for the top position in NCPH, but far more difficult to convince those candidates to run against their colleagues. Invariably, when two well-qualified members run for the position, one will lose and this is a loss to the entire organization.

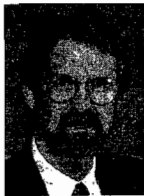
I went into the fall board meeting undecided about how to cast my vote. While I could understand the Nominating Committee's frustration with the present system, I was not convinced that making the selection task easier was necessarily in the best interests of NCPH. Moreover, I agreed with many of the opponents of the proposed change that losing an election was not necessarily an impediment to running for the same office a second time. Indeed, this had been the situation with my own election. What did convince me to support the resolution was the realization

that in selecting a Vice-President/President our elected Nominating Committee can engage in an entirely different conversation with a candidate than is now the case. Committee members can direct their questions to eliciting the nominees' perspectives on their past service to NCPH, their views on the direction of the organization, and the commitment of time that they are willing and able to give to this service. This conversation does not presently occur within the short time frame allowed for the selection of candidates. Neither does it occur in the abbreviated biographical statements of the candidates that appear on the ballot. By enabling future Nominating Committees to query potential candidates for the position of Vice-President/President, I believe that we have a greater likelihood of ensuring consistency in the leadership of our organization.

Undoubtedly, the resolution adopted by the Board of Directors in October places a great responsibility on the Nominating Committee. Indeed, it is likely that election to that committee will be a focal point in the future. The change also means that current NCPH officers and board members must assist the Nominating Committee, particularly the 2001 members who will institute the change, in helping to define the qualities of leadership that we think are important to the organization. To that end, I am soliciting the views of past NCPH presidents with the expectation of providing the board with a list of "leadership qualities" that we can discuss at our spring meeting in Ottawa. This guidance will then be provided to the incoming Nominating Committee.

I want to thank all NCPH members for their participation in this debate. I hope that if you have thoughts about the direction that you would like the Nominating Committee to take in the 2001 selection process that you'll feel free to voice those ideas. I certainly welcome your views and I look forward to seeing you in Ottawa in April.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by David G. Vanderstel  
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An ornately decorated Baroque dining room within a monastery complex in Salzburg, Austria, served as the setting. Crystal chandeliers provided the subdued lighting, evoking the candlelight that would have been common two hundred years ago. The three-course dinner came from 18th-century receipt books. Interspersed throughout the evening was music by Mozart, performed by a string quintet, clothed in appropriate period attire, from the nearby Mozart Academy. All in all, the evening was a cultural, historical, and culinary delight—an unforgettable experience in Mozart's hometown.

A visit to Europe for the recent holidays afforded me the unique opportunity to assess the uses and interpretation of history by other nations. In areas where history is often measured by millennium as opposed to century, the opportunities for presenting the past were mind-boggling. Historical markers adorned buildings and marked significant sites. Published walking tours, available in multiple languages, proved to be a popular means of drawing visitors into historic districts and immersing them in the history of the area. Illustrated histories of churches and cathedrals offered detailed descriptions of the buildings and the art works contained therein. Preservation and archaeological projects afforded interesting opportunities for interpreting history to passersby. Tour companies provided tourists with options of exploring castles, battlefields, vineyards, and other historic sites. Even "The Sound of Music" tour (which my daughter wanted to take, and about which I had some initial reservations), proved to be a most enjoyable—and accurate—blend of local/regional history, architectural history, film history, and popular culture.

We Americans seem fascinated with European history, probably because most of it predates the histories of our own local communities as well as our nation. And

when history jumps out from every corner—whether it be a castle or cathedral, marktplatz or biergarten—it is very difficult to ignore. But one thing is very clear—public history is alive and well in Europe, even if it might not be recognized there as an academic discipline. Queries posed to contacts in Germany and The Netherlands

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revealed a knowledge of so-called "heritage" work, but they had no awareness of or definition for historians who might work in government or within the private sector. Clearly, we have much to learn from each other.

Given the work of many NCPHERs around the world—in places such as Australia, New Zealand, England, South Africa, China, to name a few—NCPH has extended the reach of the public history profession and brought an increasingly international face to our organization. At the same time, public historians here should

examine how these nations successfully utilize and interpret history for their audiences and seek ways of improving our own presentations and uses of the past for audiences in our own backyards. While our histories may not possess the allure of kings and castles, the many stories contained within our local, state, and national histories are fascinating and merit telling to broad audiences—whether through historical markers, walking tours, publications, exhibits, or even historical culinary programs. In turn, public history practitioners here should advocate making public history a course of study within undergraduate and graduate programs elsewhere. Although we certainly have a major task of making public history better known to undergraduate history departments and more widely understood and appreciated within graduate history programs in the US and Canada, I believe there is a strong need to bring those history programs abroad into our ever-widening public history circle.

As we gather in April in the historic setting of the Chateau Laurier in the historic surroundings of the national capital of Canada, I expect that we will be discussing the many ways in which we reach our respective audiences. I hope that part of that conversation will include the success stories of those who have worked abroad and how NCPH might bring a more international perspective to its efforts and membership.

### • PUBLIC HISTORICAL STUDIES •

The University of California, Santa Barbara, and the California State University, Sacramento, are pleased to announce the inauguration of a new joint doctoral program in Public Historical Studies. The partnership between UCSB and CSUS makes available to students an expanded faculty and the historic resources of California's capital city.

Students in the program develop an advanced level of historical research skills and the ability to think systematically about professional issues. Public History alumni have gone on to a wide variety of careers as historians in museums, archives, corporations, and governmental agencies.

Applicants must have an M.A. in history, public history, or related field. CSUS offers this degree to those interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in the joint program. Contact UCSB for an application to the Ph.D. program.

*For application and further information, contact:*

**For the Ph.D. Program:**  
Ann Plane, Director  
Public Historical Studies Program  
Department of History  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106  
(805) 893-2713  
<http://www.history.ucsb.edu>

**For the M.A. Program:**  
Christopher Castañeda, Director  
Public Historical Studies Program  
Department of History  
California State University  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
(916) 278-5631  
<http://www.csus.edu/hist>



by Bruce Craig  
Director of the National Coordinating  
Committee for the Promotion of  
History <rbcraig3@juno.com>

**107th Congress: House Members Introduce a Variety of Bills** -- As the 107th Congress got underway, a plethora of bills were introduced. On January 6th alone, over 250 bills and Concurrent Resolutions were dropped in the bill hopper, including several of interest to the historical/archival community.

Rep. Douglas K. Bereuter (R-NE) introduced H.R. 37--legislation authorizing suitability/ feasibility studies of four possible additions to the National Historic Trails System. Areas to be assessed include: several routes related to the Oregon National Historic Trail, a twenty-mile segment in Kansas considered appropriate for possible addition to the Pony Express and California National Historic Trail (NHT), a variety of routes in the Missouri Valley related to the California NHT, and several routes associated with the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail.

Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) and other co-sponsors introduced H.R. 40--legislation entitled "Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act." The legislation is designed to establish a seven-member commission to study the institution of slavery and make recommendations to Congress on appropriate remedies for de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans. Among their other charges, the commission would determine whether compensation to the descendants of African slaves is warranted. The legislation was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary for consideration.

Rep. Joel Hefley (R-CO) reintroduced a bill H.R. 107--legislation designed to study and identify sites and resources and to recommend alternatives for commemorating and interpreting the Cold War. Hefley introduced a similar (but not

identical) bill late in the 106th Congress but no action was taken on it. The new legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior (operating through the National Park Service) to inventory sites and resources associated with the Cold War. In preparing the study, NPS historians would be required to review studies completed by the Department of Defense, surveys conducted by state historic preservation offices, and to review other studies currently underway. The Secretary would also be required to consult with the public and "scholarly and other interested organizations and individuals." H.R. 107 includes a new section not present in the 106th Congress version--creation of a nine member Cold War Advisory Committee which is charged to consult and advise the Secretary of Interior. The thrust of the study currently focuses on defense/strategic related sites.

Rep. William J. Pascrell (D-NJ) has introduced H.R. 146--legislation only a few lines long - that seeks to authorize a study of the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System.

**Bush Cabinet-Designees: Civil War Nostalgia Becomes an Issue** -- Recent seeming "pro-Confederate views" expressed by President George W. Bush's two most controversial Cabinet nominees have raised questions about the real meaning of the Civil War. Because of comments made in 1996, several environmental groups, eager to defeat her nomination, targeted Interior Secretary-designate Gale A. Norton for her alleged, "lack of sensitivity to the horror of slavery." Attorney General-designee, John Ashcroft, also faced criticism for his praise of a neo-Confederate journal, *Southern Partisan*.

In her comments, Norton clearly was not defending slavery. Rather, objections stem from her comments that focused on the issue of states rights versus the power of the federal government. Specifically, when discussing the relationship of states rights to the 10th Amendment, Norton expressed the view that "bad facts make bad laws." She said, "we certainly had bad facts in that case where we were defending state sovereignty by defending slavery...but

we lost too much. We lost the idea that the states were to stand against the federal government gaining too much power over our lives." The question Norton's critics have posed is: Who is the "we" in the phrase "we lost too much" and what specifically was "lost" when the Confederacy lost and slavery ended in 1865? When queried about her comments by reporters for the Washington Post, Norton, through a spokesman for the transition of President-elect Bush, declined comment.

Attorney General-designee John Ashcroft also has faced criticism for his references to the Civil War. Criticism of Ashcroft stems from a 1998 interview in *Southern Partisan*, a magazine that advances pro-Confederate views. According to Ashcroft, "Your magazine also helps set the record straight...you've got a heritage of doing that, defending Southern patriots like Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and Jefferson Davis...Traditionalists must do more, I've got to do more. We've all got to stand up and speak to this respect, or else we'll be taught that these people were giving their lives, subscribing their sacred fortunes and their honor to some perverted agenda." Critics of Ashcroft's nomination have zeroed in on the question, was slavery not a "perverted agenda"? When questioned about his remarks before the Senate Judiciary Committee during his recent confirmation hearing, Ashcroft declared, "Had I been fighting in the Civil War, I would have fought with Grant...Slavery is abhorrent." Asked to comment on Ashcroft's remarks, a Bush transition spokesman stated, "Senator Ashcroft believes in an exact reading of history."

On a related note, Ashcroft is also a well-known opponent of the National History Standards. In a speech to the conservative Claremont Institute, Ashcroft stated his view that, "History standards became a recipe for disenchanting students with American history, for rendering in them a sense of shame." In that speech he also criticized the Standards for making too much of the Ku Klux Klan and nothing at all of Lee.



## CONSULTANT'S CORNER

*The NCPH Consultants' Committee is dedicated to promoting the interests of NCPH members who provide historical services as consultants or contractors. The committee 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, Consultants' Committee, at [jason.gart@askahistorian.com](mailto:jason.gart@askahistorian.com). Be sure to include your full name and address.*

**History International, Inc.**, of Mesa, Arizona, announced the completion of two consultant reports. The first, prepared for the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, provided a history of local community interaction in South Phoenix. Scott Solliday, of Mexico/Arizona Biographical Survey, served as a subconsultant. The second report, entitled "Historical Context Study of Sixth Street to Seventh Street, Mill Avenue to Myrtle Avenue, Block 10, Tempe (West), Maricopa County, Arizona," examined the history and development of a 2.8-acre parcel in downtown Tempe, Arizona, which is presently undergoing commercial redevelopment.

**History Associates Incorporated**, of Rockville, Maryland, is developing a written history of its twenty years as a historical services firm and will

commemorate the company's anniversary in 2001 with the book and photo exhibit. ~ Dr. Robert C. Williams, a co-founder and vice president of HAI, was named the Vail Professor of History at Davidson College during fall convocation in October. In addition, his book *Ruling Russian Eurasia: Khans, Clans, and Tsars* was published in August by Krieger Publishing Company. ~ Dr. Gabriele G. Carey, Senior Historian and Archivist who runs HAI's West Coast office, oversaw the completion this fall of fifteen local history websites for the County of Los Angeles Public Library, with research and writing assistance from Senior Historians Kathy J. Nawyn and Dr. Peggy M. Dillon. Titled "Community History in Words & Pictures," the sites ([www.colapublib.org/history/](http://www.colapublib.org/history/)) provide answers to frequently asked questions; contain images of historic photographs and other documents; and explain the history of Native Americans, local missions, and other regional topics. The websites marked the culmination of a two-year project titled "Accessing Los Angeles Community History" that included publication of a nearly 500-page guide to local history materials at all eighty-eight of the county's branch libraries and bookmobiles. ~ In October, HAI completed a review of the history and heritage programs throughout the U.S. Navy that also included recommendations to the Secretary of the Navy. The report, titled "History and Heritage in the U.S. Navy," was researched and written by Dr. Philip L. Cantelon, HAI president and co-founder; Dr. Rodney P. Carlisle, a co-founder and vice president

of the firm; Paul D. Lagasse, deputy director of HAI's Information Resources Management Division; and Peter S. LaPaglia, an HAI consultant. While the review focused primarily on activity at the Naval Historical Center in Washington, D.C., it also addressed the broader uses of history in education, training, and public outreach via museums and recruitment programs. ~ Senior Archivist Anita M. Weber had two essays published in the second edition of the *Handbook of American Women's History* (Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, Inc.), which came out in September. The essays were titled "Temperance Movement (1790s-1900)" and "Willard, Frances E. (1839-1898)." ~ HAI board member Dr. Frank G. Burke had an article titled "The Beginnings of the NHPRC Records Program" published in the Spring/Summer 2000 issue of the *New American Archivist*. The article drew on his experience as former Executive Director of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. ~ In October, Senior Historian Mike C. Reis gave a presentation titled "By the Gasworks Wall . . . : The Split Image of the Pioneer American Gas Industry and Its Buildings" at the annual conference of the Pioneer America Society in Richmond, Virginia. ~ In September, Dr. Ruth A. Dudgeon, HAI's Executive Vice President, completed the manuscript history of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

### Updates to the Annual Meeting Program in Ottawa, Canada

**Old Sites/New Stories:** Interpretation and Management of Fur Trade History Sites will be held as a roundtable discussion, not a workshop. There will be no registration fee charged for the session.

**The Curriculum and Training Committee** invites students and new public history professionals to participate in a mentoring program at the annual meeting in Ottawa. Through this program you will be paired with a practicing public historian and will have the opportunity to learn first-hand about the profession. If you are interested in participating, contact the NCPH Executive Offices at 317.274.2716, or [ncph@iupui.edu](mailto:ncph@iupui.edu). Give your name, institution, contact information and desired area of public history work. We'll make every effort to match you with a historian in your area of interest

# PATRONS AND SPONSORS

The following patrons and sponsors have demonstrated their commitment to NCPH in 2000-2001 by providing additional funds to help support our programs and operations. Their generosity subsidizes publications, supports our members' services, and sustains our operating budget. NCPH greatly appreciates the continued support of these individuals and institutions. Besides receiving complimentary copies of all publications, NCPH patrons and sponsors receive recognition in the annual report, the NCPH newsletter, and the annual meeting program.

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## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND INTERNSHIPS

• **The Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College** in Durango, Colorado, directed by NCPH Board member Andrew Gulliford, will offer internship opportunities to work in three program categories for the summer of 2001. Interns may choose to work with a professional archivist in charge of thousands of documents, photographs, and original collections including the papers of Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell and rare glass photographs of the American West. Many potential research papers and Master's theses are contained among the hundreds of archival collections housed at the Center. Last year the Center was only one of two sites in the nation to receive a prestigious National Historical Records Commission Fellowship.

Students may choose to intern with the Center's curator to learn about the prehistoric ceramics like Anasazi pots and other materials. The Center also has one of the nation's finest collections of Southwestern weavings, which feature 800 years of exceptional Navajo, Hispanic, and Pueblo rugs, dresses, and blankets. Interns may also choose to work with the Center's director and learn about public programming, grant writing, college and donor relations, and a host of other administrative tasks. Housing will be available on campus, and though no internship salary is currently possible, funds are being sought to support internships.

Professional public historians are also urged to use the Center's resources that include major manuscript, photograph, map, and other document collections on the Southwest. Last year, the heaviest usage came from scholars researching environmental history topics. The Center also has significant Native American holdings and mining records. For more information, check out the Center's web site at <http://www.fortlewis.edu/acad-aff/swcenter> or email the director at [gulliford\\_a@fortlewis.edu](mailto:gulliford_a@fortlewis.edu)

• **The Bureau of Reclamation, Denver office**, announces two public

history internship positions for the summer of 2001. Successful applicants will conduct research in original, primary, and secondary sources and write on projects built by the Bureau of Reclamation. Research will be carried on in Denver at various locations, including the National Archives and Records Administration branch in Denver (which houses all Bureau of Reclamation records transmitted to NARA), the Denver office of Reclamation, the Western History Collection of the Denver Public Library, and the library of the Colorado School of Mines. Writing will be done in the office and computer word processing skill is essential. Positions are full-time for the period late May to early fall 2001. (These positions are temporary and cannot lead to permanent appointment, nor do they carry benefits or credit toward retirement.) Candidates must be students and meet the requirements for the **STUDENT TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**. Preference will be given to students of American history working on their M.A. or Ph.D. who are specializing in the American West or American water history. **Deadline for applications is 19 April 2001.**

Submit application on SF-171 or OF-612 which can be obtained upon request by calling (303) 445-2684 or from a local office of the Office of Personnel Management. Be sure to include information about research and writing skills, special interests/projects related to the position sought, and computer word processing/data base skills. Position title on applications will be "Historian." With application include: transcript of all college/university work; document enrollment and course load to prove you are a current student enrolled at least half time in a degree program; letter of recommendation from a faculty member regarding ability to do research and writing in the field of history. This may be sent directly. Please provide a writing sample in the form of a paper of at least 20 pages in length. Applications will not be returned. Send applications and supporting materials to and address questions to: Brit Storey, Senior Historian (D-5300), Bureau of

Reclamation, P. O. Box 25007, Denver, Colorado 80225-0007; phone: (303) 445-2918;

E-mail: [bstorey@do.usbr.gov](mailto:bstorey@do.usbr.gov)

• **The Gerald R. Ford Foundation** awards semi-annually travel grants of up to \$2,000 in support of significant research in the collections of the Gerald R. Ford Library. Collections focus on Federal policies, institutions, and politics in the 1970s. Processed archival collections contain materials on domestic, economic, foreign, and political affairs. **Application postmark deadlines are 15 March and 15 September.** Contact: Mr. Geir Gundersen, Grants Coordinator, Gerald R. Ford Library, 1000 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109; phone: 734-741-2218; fax: 734-741-2341; email: [library@fordlib.nara.gov](mailto:library@fordlib.nara.gov) Visit the grant website at: <http://www.ford.utexas.edu/library/hpgrants.htm>

• Nominations are being accepted for this year's competition for the **Philip Taft Labor History Award**. The competition is open to any book (or books) published in 2000 relating to the history of United States labor. The award carries a \$1,000 prize. Nominations of any and every eligible book for consideration are invited. **Nominations must be submitted no later than 1 May 2001.** For complete information on submission of a book for nomination, please contact Brigid Beachler, Administrative Assistant, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, [bk30@cornell.edu](mailto:bk30@cornell.edu).

• **National History Day** is pleased to announce The History Channel Award for Outstanding Contribution in History Education. The award, sponsored by The History Channel, will be presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to history education through service to the National History Day program. The winner will receive \$3,000, a television, VCR, and a video library for their school. To be eligible, the individual must be a participant in the National History Day program and may be a teacher, media specialist, district or state History Day coordinator, judge or other volunteer. For nomination information, call 301-314-9739 or visit the National History Day web site at

www.nationalhistoryday.org  
Contact information: National History Day, 0119 Cecil Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; phone: 301-314-9739; fax: 301-314-9767; email: National.History.Day@umail.umd.edu

## BOOKNOTES

**The South Carolina Department of Archives & History** has just released a new book entitled, *South Carolinians in the War for American Independence*, written by Alexia Jones Helsley. The author used the S.C. Archives' collection of Revolutionary-era records to create a very personal account of the lives of South Carolinians during and after the war. Much of the information provided in the book is taken from citizens' petitions to the General Assembly that included requests for pensions or military service and compensation for property, goods and services provided to the Revolutionary cause. The book contains a facsimile of each document accompanied by a transcript and an essay placing the document into the context of its day. Maps and images of people and places help illustrate the documents' contents. A bibliography offers suggestions for further study. The book is available for \$13.50 plus \$2.25 shipping and handling from the S.C. Archives and History Center. For more information or to order, contact Carrie Bassett at (803) 896-6191, email [bassett@scdah.state.sc.us](mailto:bassett@scdah.state.sc.us), or logon to [www.state.sc.us/scdah](http://www.state.sc.us/scdah).

**Discovery Books** announces the release of a new book entitled, *The Infinite Journey: Eyewitness Accounts of NASA and the Age of Space*, written by William E. Burrows. The book provides a behind-the-scenes overview of the U.S. space program and the people who took part in it. *The Infinite Journey* is filled with personal insights and anecdotes from more than one hundred astronauts, scientists, engineers, and other eyewitnesses. The book highlights thirty missions spanning more than four decades.

## CALL FOR PAPERS/PROPOSALS

**"Consolidating Our Gains: Strategizing for the 21st Century: the 2nd Wilberforce International Conference on Slave Narratives,"** to be held 11-13 October 2001, invites papers on any aspect of the slave narrative (authors, works, genres, the slave family, theories, themes, history, pedagogy, slavery in contemporary Africa and the diaspora; slavery in the 21st century, etc). **The deadline for submission is 15 May 2001.**

For individual presentations, send two (2) copies of a 250-word abstract, and two copies of presenter's bio-data to: Olabisi Gwamna, convener, Wilberforce International Conference on Slave Narratives Wilberforce University, PO Box 1001, Wilberforce, OH 45384 (937) 708-5615; fax (937) 879-1009 <[ogwamna@wilberforce.edu](mailto:ogwamna@wilberforce.edu)> .

For panel proposals, send two (2) copies of names and bio-data of panel chair and presenters, along with three (3) copies of the abstract to: Muriel Wright Brailey, convener, Wilberforce International Conference on Slave Narratives African/African American Studies Department Wilberforce University P.O.Box 1001, Wilberforce, OH 45384 (937) 708-5642; fax (937) 708-5793 <[mbrailey@wilberforce.edu](mailto:mbrailey@wilberforce.edu)> .

**The American Society for Environmental History** invites proposals for papers and panels for its conference, "Producing and Consuming Natures," to be held 20-23 March 2002, in Denver, Colorado. The conference seeks to explore the various ways humans have historically drawn nature into their lives. Papers on the history of nature as a symbol and as a substance, in popular culture and consumption as well as production and extraction are encouraged. Also invited are topics that engage a diversity of views about what nature is or should be, within or across cultures. The program committee strongly encourages proposals for complete panels with two or three individual papers, a chair, and a commentator.

Panel proposals should contain a cover sheet with the title of the panel; a 250-word abstract for the panel; the title of each paper and the full name, title, and affiliation of each presenter; the name, title, and affiliation of the chair and commentator; and the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the contact person for the panel. Each paper proposal (including those on an organized panel) should include a 250-word abstract of the paper. A short (2 page maximum) c.v. should be submitted for each participant. Five copies of the above information should be sent by **1 June 2001**, to: Christopher Sellers, Department of History, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794, (631) 632-7514. For additional information, contact

- Christopher Sellers, [csellers@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:csellers@notes.cc.sunysb.edu)
- Dale Goble, [gobled@uidaho.edu](mailto:gobled@uidaho.edu)
- Don Hughes, [dhughes@du.edu](mailto:dhughes@du.edu) or
- Jennifer Price, [jjprice@ucla.edu](mailto:jjprice@ucla.edu)

## CONFERENCES, INSTITUTES, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS

Schedules for the **National Preservation Institute's 2001 Seminars in Historic Preservation and Cultural Resource Management** are now available. Topics covered in the seminars include Cultural Resource Management Basics; Laws and Regulations; Issues of Design and Application; and Curation, Conservation, and Stewardship. For a schedule or more information, contact the National Preservation Institute, P.O. Box 1702, Alexandria, VA 22313, (703) 765-0100, [info@npi.org](mailto:info@npi.org), or <http://www.npi.org>.

Contingent on funding, the thirtieth annual **Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents** will be held 18-23 June 2001, in Madison, Wisconsin. Sponsored jointly by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and the University of Wisconsin, the Institute provides detailed theoretical and practical instruction in documentary editing and

publication.

The 2001 faculty and their topics are: Michael Stevens (State Historical Society of Wisconsin), introduction to documentary editing; Leslie Rowland (Freedmen and Southern Society Project), transcription; Esther Katz (Margaret Sanger Papers), choosing for a selective edition, selecting a copytext, promoting an edition, and fundraising; Richard L. Leffler (Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution), annotation; John P. Kaminski (Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution), indexing, and publishing an edition; and Robert Rosenberg (The Papers of Thomas A. Edison), electronic publishing.

There will be no charge for tuition. Single accommodations for interns are provided at no cost in the Wisconsin Center Guest House on the University of Wisconsin Campus. Application to the Institute is competitive. Further information and application forms are available from the NHPRC, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408; phone (202) 501-5610; e-mail: nhprc@arch1.nara.gov. **The application deadline is 15 March 2001.**

The **Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History** has announced that twelve seminars in the summer of 2001 will be targeted to middle and high school teachers and the National Park Service rangers. Public, parochial, and independent school teachers are eligible. Seminars last about a week and stipends, books, room and board are all provided. Instructors for this year's seminars include Gordon S. Wood, Alan Brinkley, Daniel P. Jordan, Kenneth T. Jackson, James McPherson, Ira Berlin and others. For more information and applications visit the institutes website <<http://www.gliah.org>> or call (212) 867-1170.

## EXHIBITS

The **Library of Virginia** is pleased to announce a major new exhibition, "Pleasure in the Garden," which features artifacts, books, prints, landscape

drawings, and other works of art and items from the collection of the Library of Virginia depicting the long history of gardening and landscape in Virginia. Admission is free, and the exhibition will remain on display until 12 May 2001. A preview of the exhibit is available on the Library of Virginia's Web site <http://www.lva.lib.va.us> For more information on this or other programs of the Library of Virginia, visit the Library's Web site or call (804) 692-3592.

## INTERNET SOURCES

The **New York State Archives** announces the developments of a new Web site, "Rediscovering New York History and Culture," located at [www.archives.nysed.gov/](http://www.archives.nysed.gov/)

The site includes a statewide catalog of archival/historical collections and finding aids found in the statewide Historic Documents Inventory and a directory of historical repositories in New York State. The site also provides a multitude of information on special topics and areas of interest. Arranged topically, each page provides listing of projects, links to finding aids, digitalized images, on-line exhibits and publications, and links to other resources. Under documented topics include: African Americans, Latinos, Mental Health, Environmental Affairs. Special areas of interest include: genealogy, military, transportation, and community history.

The **US Senate Historical Office** announces the on-line publication of its 1979 interview with Ruth Young Watt, Chief Clerk for the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations from 1947 to 1979. This new resource may be found at: [www.senate.gov/learning/learn\\_history\\_oralhist.html](http://www.senate.gov/learning/learn_history_oralhist.html)

Since 1976, the Senate Historical Office has conducted oral history interviews with former senators and retired members of the Senate staff. Both biographical and institutional in scope, these interviews include personal recollections of careers within the Senate and discussions of how Congress has

changed over the years.

As Chief Clerk, Ruth Watt worked closely with subcommittee chairmen from Joseph R. McCarthy to Henry "Scoop" Jackson, and with staff members who included William P. Rogers, Roy Cohn, Robert F. Kennedy, Pierre Salinger and Carmine Bellino. She also offers candid reminiscences of such colorful witnesses as Howard Hughes, Jimmy Hoffa, and Joe Valachi.

Other interviews on the site include: Senator George A. Smathers (D-Florida), who served in the Senate from 1951 to 1969; William Hildenbrand, Senate staffer from 1961 to 1981, and Secretary of the Senate, 1980 to 1981; Jesse R. Nichols, Clerk & Librarian for the Senate Finance Committee, 1937 to 1971, and the first African-American hired as a clerical staff member for the U.S. Senate; Howard E. Shuman, Senate Administrative Assistant to Senators Paul Douglas and William Proxmire, 1955 to 1983; George Tames, Washington photographer for the New York Times, 1945 to 1985.

For more information about this and other publications of the Senate Historical Office, please contact: Betty K. Koed, Assistant Historian, U.S. Senate Historical Office, [Betty\\_Koed@sec.senate.gov](mailto:Betty_Koed@sec.senate.gov)

The **U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum** announces that its Learning Center website is now accessible at <http://wlc.ushmm.org>. It can also be reached via the Museum's home page (under "Features" - "Historical Topics: Explore the History of the Holocaust"). The site offers many resources, including about 140 brief articles written in-house; 41 artifact images; 103 documentary film footage clips; 162 oral history testimony segments; 202 maps; 28 thematic chronologies; and 917 historical photographs.

The **Plymouth Colony Archive Project** presents a fully searchable collection of original texts and analysis papers on the Plymouth Colony, 1620-1691. The site has been updated with an extensive array of historical maps,

topographic and demographic analyses, a plan of the fortified town in 1622 projected onto current USGS maps and aerial photos, fully searchable texts of early laws, court records, wills, and probates; individual biographical information; and assorted research compiled by the late James Deetz. The Plymouth Colony Archive has received awards for academic excellence and has been selected as a featured link by The Study Web, AnthroTech Site Reviews, The Library of Congress, NCPH, The Scout Report, ArchNet, About.com Guides, UCSB's Anthropology Web Sites, Seeking Sites Afar, Education World, The Open Directory Project, and Surf the Net with Kids, among others. The updated version of the Plymouth Colony Archive Project may be found at:

<http://www.people.virginia.edu/~jfd3a>

On January 10, 2001, the **Library of Congress** announced that it had reached its goal of placing 5 million American historical items on its National Digital Library "American Memory" website. There are 90 online collections on the website that cover the breadth of U.S. history; it receives more than 18 million

"hits" a month. To access the collection tap into: <http://www.loc.gov>.

#### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**Executive Director. The National Museum of Forest Service History, Inc.**, a non-profit corporation with no direct ties to the USDA Forest Service, is advertising with the intent to hire a dynamic team player to fill the full-time position of Executive Director. The Executive Director is responsible for all aspects of the daily operations of the museum; grant writing; coordinating public relations for exhibits, and activities; editing the museum's quarterly newsletter; maintaining the collections database; managing membership, property management; as well as other duties as may be required from time to time. Salary range is in the low \$30K plus benefits, commensurate with experience. The museum is currently in the development stage and continues to evolve.

The successful candidate will hold an M.A. in an appropriate museum-related field; possess strong interpersonal, organizational and communication skills;

at least two years' related experience; and be familiar with computer database, word processing and desktop publishing applications. Competitive benefits and salary, plus one of the most beautiful locations in America in which to work are available in this position.

**Application deadline: 1 March 2001.**

Send resume, letter of interest and three references with phone numbers to: Gary G. Brown, President, NMFSH, P.O. Box 2772; Missoula, MT 59806-2772; 406/728-6049. The National Museum of Forest Service History is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Call for Annual Meeting Site Proposal

The National Council on Public History seeks site proposals for future annual meetings. Proposals should include a statement of why the site is appropriate for the NCPH meeting; information on support from local individuals, institutions, and agencies; potential arrangements for meeting facilities; and other details that might strengthen the proposal.

For more information, contact:  
**Patrick O'Bannon**,  
NCPH Vice President  
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transformation of Canadian society. The Museum is committed to preserving that valuable historical record and improving intellectual access to the collection. For example, over the next five years, the Museum will post 5,000 images from the collection on a dedicated web gallery within the Museum's own web site, [www.nmstc.ca](http://www.nmstc.ca) (select Science and Technology, English or French, then CN Gallery). At the same time, research inquiries are welcomed and the fundamental finding aids that accompanied the donation permit access to the majority of images. Researchers may direct inquiries to: A. Pacey (613) 991-4975 or by e-mail: [library@nmstc.ca](mailto:library@nmstc.ca)



### Hurricanes under Construction, Fort William (Thunderbay), Ontario, c. 1942

Credit: Canada Science and Technology Museum/CN Collection x 14720

*David Monaghan is the Curator of Land Transportation at the Canada Science and Technology Museum, Ottawa, Canada.*

# Workshop at Grand Portage on the History of the Fur Trade: A Participant's Reaction

by Clarice M. Ritchie Werle [claricew@fcpotawatomi.com](mailto:claricew@fcpotawatomi.com)

[Editor's Note: Ms. Werle was a recipient of an NCPH scholarship to attend this workshop.]

My first reaction to this workshop was that it did not speak about the actual "history" of the fur trade. It seemed that the workshop dealt more with the history of the fort at Grand Portage and the fort at Fort William. My second reaction to the forts was that the exhibits did not portray the history or to the Native Americans, the Indians', involvement.

If I were a visitor to these forts, I would want to know more about the actual reason for the establishment of the forts and at least some history of the fur trade. It seemed that at both forts highlighted at this workshop, there was a greater emphasis on the life in the forts and interactions within the forts than the history of the fort's being. The brochure for Grand Portage indicated that Simon McTavish ran the most profitable fur trade operation on the Great Lakes from 1784 to 1803. The fur trade in North America began almost as soon as the Europeans began their explorations of the North American mainland. Furs were already leaving New France for Europe in the early 1600s. There was a great deal of fur trading that took place long before the establishment of Mr. McTavish's fort. I believe that the visitors to the site should be given an overview of this and what developed to eventually have forts in this area and further West.

While I heard and saw some interactions with the Native Americans at the workshop, let's face it--there would be no fur trade if it were not for the Indians. Little was said about them, however. Had it not been for the acceptance of the

Europeans by the Indians; the Indians' skills, their knowledge of the lands, as well as the food provided through their hunting and gathering skills, those voyageurs probably never would have survived the wilderness, let alone obtain the numbers of hides needed to make the trade profitable. True, the dependence, turned necessity, upon the Europeans for the "new" trade goods that were brought to the Indians through the fur trade encouraged the Indians to participate in the trade, the knowledge and skills taught by the Indians was essential to the Europeans and to the success of the fur trade's existence.

There also was an absence of discussion regarding any negative relationships that most certainly occurred. We know that there were "Slave Indians" sold to the fur traders by other tribes. We also know that voyageurs took Indian women as wives. Nothing was depicted to indicate the difficulties that those Indians had when they were no longer needed or when their white men left to return to their white women. Nothing was said of the difficulties their children may have had. Often tribes did not accept a woman and her children back if she had been the wife of a white man. After living as "white children," was it difficult for these mixed blood children to try to again live as Indians? I also did not know if these families lived within the fort or outside the fort with the rest of these Indians.

I do not wish to sound entirely negative about this workshop experience, however. I did enjoy the visits with fellow professionals and the workshop as a whole. I was pleased to hear Dr. Laura Peers' presentation that addressed some of the issues that I have written about.

I enjoyed and was somewhat surprised to see what luxuries that some people enjoyed at that time and place in history. Most importantly, I appreciated the opportunity to express my opinions and I hope that they might be considered in future planning at the site. I consider myself to be a historian, so I always enjoy participating in studying any part of the past, especially when it involves the history of my people.

*Clarice M. Ritchie Werle is a researcher with the Forest County Potawatomi Community of Crandon, Wisconsin.*



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