

On the Road with George Washington

By Herbert M. Atherton

Editor's Note: In April of 1989 the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution staged a reenactment of George Washington's historic inaugural journey from Mount Vernon to New York City exactly two centuries before. This event took place in collaboration with the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, the Department of Defense, state and local Bicentennial Commissions, as well as other organizations and individuals. William Sommerfield of the Royal Pickwickians, Philadelphia, took the role of George Washington. David C. G. Dutcher, Chief Historian at Independence Hall Historic Park, Philadelphia, played Col. David Humphreys, Washington's aide-de-camp. Dr. Herbert M. Atherton, then Deputy Staff Director and Director of Education of the Bicentennial Commission, assumed the part of Charles Thomson, Secretary of Congress, and the man charged with the responsibility of notifying Washington of his election and escorting the President-elect to New York City for his inauguration. Dr. Atherton is now Staff Director of the Bicentennial Commission.

If history, as a wag once said, is to the ignorant the easiest of studies, then historical reenacting may seem the easiest of jobs. Quite the contrary, however, is the truth, or at least that is what I discovered during my brief foray into the profession

during the spring of 1989, when I took part in the reenactment of George Washington's inaugural journey two hundred years before. That historical adventure must surely be one of the most challenging, interesting, and fundamentally puzzling experiences of my life.

The art of the "reenactor" — as opposed to that of the historian or actor — is ambiguous and ambivalent, neither historiography nor acting, but something in between. The historian interprets events from a distance and with a measure of detachment from both his subject and his audience. He does not — or ought not to — confuse himself with his subject. The actor, on the other hand, may lose himself in his character, but he has the advantage of performing within certain clear parameters and expectations. He plays to a set script, within a defined period of time, and (usually) on a confined stage. In other words, both historian and actor in large measure control their scenes.

The historical reenactor, on the other hand, has no set script, cannot distance himself from his audience, must deal with the spontaneous and unexpected, and unavoidably confuses his true self with the character he is supposed to be interpreting. It is a calling not for the faint of heart and is perhaps best suited for those with schizophrenic tendencies.

For all its frustrating ambiguity, however, I highly recommend such role-playing as a once-only adventure. It's great



Herbert M. Atherton as Charles Morrison, Secretary of Congress; David C.G. Dutcher as Col. David Humphreys, Washington's aide-de-camp; and William Sommerfield as George Washington. Photo courtesy Herbert Atherton.

escapism and caters to the little bit of ham that is in all of us. Reenacting and interpreting the dour, gaunt Philadelphian, Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental and Federation Congresses, and the closest thing this country had to a Chief Executive until Washington's inauguration — and a man with whom I shared a scholarly bent and interest in politics, but otherwise resembled not at all — was not easy, but it proved far less of a challenge than the attempt to bring eighteenth-century mores and manners back to life. Men and women of the Georgian era moved in different ways, spoke differently, and carried out the daily social amenities after a fashion that would be unacceptable today.

Trying to play it straight became a problem. Almost immediately in our encounters with twentieth-century audiences we were confronted by the issue of whether or not to shake hands, the customary form of greeting in the present day, bound to cause offense if neglected, but rarely used two centuries ago when the courtly but more distant bow served the same

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purpose. After awhile, we accepted the anachronism and compromised, bowing to those whose minds and dress seemed to be attuned to the eighteenth century, shaking the hands of all the others who extended them.

Then there was the problem of eighteenth-century dress. I don't think that any of the three of us "historicals" (as we came to be called) — Bill Sommerfield, Dave Dutcher, and myself — will ever forget our eight or nine days in enforced "drag," transvestites in spite of ourselves. Bleary-eyed, hoarse-voiced, we struggled each morning in the dawn's early light with hose, hair curlers, and hair spray, slithered into skin-tight breeches, stuffy cravats, and flat-toed shoes for another day of elegant discomfort. Our hosiery (not unlike women's pantyhose, we discovered) did not conform well with unshaved legs. No reward imagined yet in Heaven compared with the sense of relief we felt in stripping ourselves of such trammels at the end of a long day.

There were other sacrifices. Fortunately, our carriage was spared the rigors of eighteenth-century roadbeds, whose ruts and potholes must have added many a traveler into insensibility. Providence mercifully, perhaps miraculously, spared us from the rain. The sun, in fact, proved a more insidious enemy, eventually requiring ample layers of twentieth-century "sunscreen" to prevent Washington and his companions assuming an inappropriate "Club Med" look.

There was, however, the cold of those last two days in New Jersey and the long treks without food or ready access to what we delicately referred to as "conveniences." The last deficiency proved to be a formidable problem for Dutcher, whose need of coffee and diuretic medication combined to produce several crises, but fortunately never required the plastic urinal we always carried with us in the bottom of our carriage; the device eventually saw service as a flower vase. I admired Dutcher, in a rueful sort of way, for his stubborn refusal to give up altogether the indulgences of modern life. His fondness for cigarettes rivalled his liking of coffee and led to several frantic episodes: fags furtively smoked on lonely stretches of road or the hasty stuffing of cigarette tobacco into his clay pipe.

The long days and short nights nagged us with fatigue, which our adrenaline could not always overcome. As the shadows lengthened each day, we would sometimes doze off to the rhythmic jostle of the carriage, recite off-color limericks, tell ribald stories, share trivia and otherwise pass the time. At the end of one wea-

ry day of acknowledging countless well-wishers along the route, in our fatigue Washington caught himself waving to a dog and I myself to an empty car.

As our odd little caravan snaked its way through city and countryside, over expressway and back road, along what is now called the "Northeast Corridor," it carried in its baggage a number of ironies and anachronisms. To create the illusion of an event that took place eight generations ago required the best efforts of a tireless support staff and a considerable amount of twentieth-century technology — walkie-talkies, an RV conveyance with microwave and TV, police cars and electric road signs, a helicopter, military equipment, even computer-generated scripts — all to keep a simple horse-and-four with its three foppish-looking passengers on the road and on schedule.

Ours was a journey through time and betwixt times. It began in the exquisitely preserved, bucolic refuge of eighteenth-century Mount Vernon and ended, perhaps appropriately, at that monument of the twentieth-century world: the gray, monolithic canyons of Wall Street. It was a journey of ironies. Washington's handsome Lipizzaner mare was called Revere, an odd coincidence that immediately inspired variations on Longfellow's poem. I wondered if Paul Revere's horse was called George or Washington. Our Washington's ablest coachman, and the man who retrieved us from Mount Vernon's inauspicious start, was a most English-looking of Englishmen from Cheshire, until recently in the employ of King George III's great-great-granddaughter.

On the third day of our journey we entered the Defense Department's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. Departing the installation, we travelled along what was supposed to be a remnant of the Old Post Road on which Washington himself may have passed two hundred years ago. As our coach-and-four made its way along the rutted dirt path, flanked by thick woods on both sides, we expressed our delight at finding ourselves, at last, in the midst of a rural America from days gone by. Our reveries soon ended, however, as we were rudely brought back to the twentieth century by the sound of a fusillade of small arms fire and other weaponry from the woods nearby, which outburst caused Washington to quip that there were evidently some Loyalist or Tory strongholds still about. The Army was testing its weapons, fully aware, we hoped, of our presence.

It was a journey of physical exhaustion and emotional highs, punctuated by enough sweet vignettes to crowd the memories of a lifetime: the pregnant pause that followed

our aborted start at Mount Vernon; the driver of the Rolls Royce who pulled alongside us on the George Washington Parkway to ask "Grey Poupon anyone?"; minuets and country dances at Maryland's Montpelier; the mists and first light near Federal Hill in Baltimore; our spontaneous stop at a school for retarded adults along the Old Philadelphia Road; the rounds of hearty huzzas and recitations of the Preamble of the Constitution; the Georgian elegance of Hampton and Mount Clare; our tricky crossing of the high bridge over the Susquehanna River; the tumultuous entry into Woodbridge, New Jersey and the *feu de joie* of that town's musketry salute; the chop and winds of New York harbor, threatening the curls in Washington's hair; the shower of confetti at New York's Federal Hall; the many escorts — proud military units like the horse dragoons of New Jersey, the City Troop of Philadelphia, the foot soldiers of Baltimore, and the rustic yeomanry of Alexandria. There were other, more spontaneous escorts as well: ghetto kids on their bikes and skateboards; mothers with their baby carriages; and frequently, crowds of people who just wanted to walk along.

And, of course, there was the endless panorama of faces along the roadsides, from every environment and circumstance, rich to poor, from the genteel ladies of Mount Vernon to the politicians of New York: each a part of this piece of Americana. I recall with special poignancy the crowds of school children who flanked our carriage at so many stops, or who simply came out to stand along the road as we passed by; we could feel their electric excitement. I shall remember from that first Sunday, as we passed through Washington, D.C., the Hispanic ghetto kids running alongside our carriage yelling "El Presidente! El Presidente!" And then there were the prep school boys at Lawrenceville, waving to us in the dusk from a golf course fairway. I'll remember the Quakers of Trenton; the proud townspeople of Havre de Grace; the newly naturalized citizens at Elizabeth; the many proud, if not always impeccably dressed, military units in their eighteenth-century uniforms, obviously pleased to pass muster and inspection by their Commander-in-Chief. And I shall remember a country road bathed in the yellow glow of sunset, when two elderly ladies hurried up to our carriage and waved to us with tears in their eyes.

What was perhaps most extraordinary about this venture — beyond the fact that we were able to pull it off at all — was its almost uniformly positive impact. There were few negative reactions — at least few

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By Hammer and Hand: New York Trades Transformed, 1788-1842

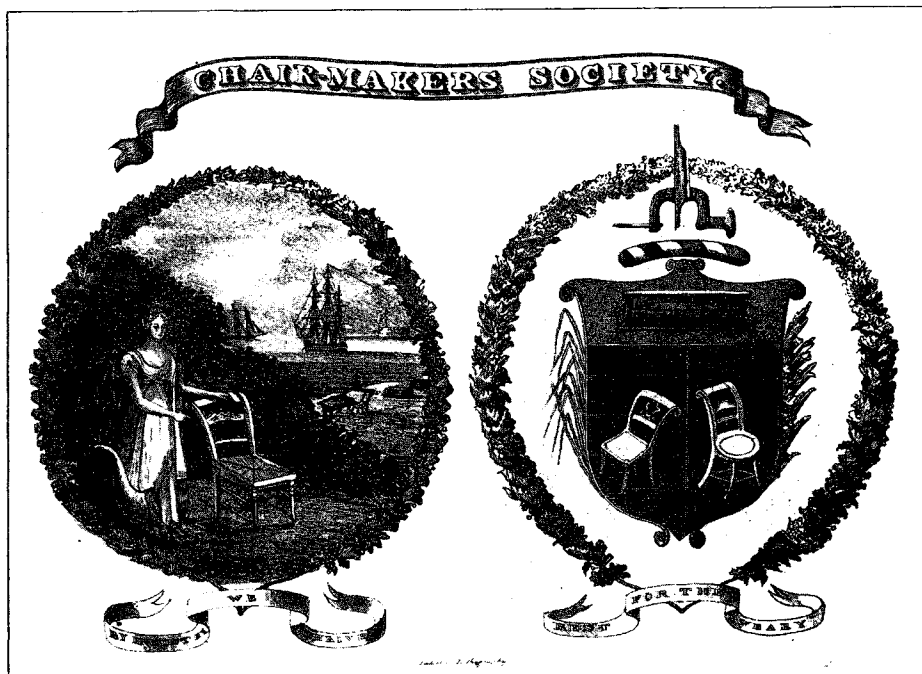
By Sally Yerkovich,

Director of Museum Programs, South Street Seaport Museum, New York

During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, workers' parades were major expressions of American artisan culture. "By Hammer and Hand: New York Trades Transformed, 1788-1842," an exhibition that appeared at the South Street Seaport Museum in New York City in the first half of 1990, explored these parades to document changes in the nature of work and artisan culture in the history of both the city and nation. Late eighteenth-century New York was a seaport city; artisans, merchants, and laborers alike worked to sustain and develop the city's lifeline, its maritime trade. Although only the nation's third largest seaport, the city's potential for growth was tangible, and the seaport's workers clearly felt their economic futures linked with those of the city and the young nation.

Often commemorated in lithographs and prints, artisans' parades and protests were occasions for projecting civic and social ideals. The first major public display of this spirit occurred in July 1788, when apprentices, journeymen, and master craftsmen alike — marching by craft — demonstrated their support of New York's ratification of the U. S. Constitution. The parade celebrated solidarity among the trades and expressed artisan optimism in the republican ideals of the new nation and increased opportunities for the individual workers. Similar demonstrations were numerous and significant, as Sean Wilentz in *Chants Democratic: New York City and the Rise of the American Working Class, 1788-1850* and Paul Gilje in *The Road to Mobocracy: Popular Disorder in New York City, 1763-1834* have shown. Both Wilentz of Princeton University and Gilje of the University of Oklahoma served as consultants to the project, as did Graham Hodges of Colgate University and Robert Rynder of Columbia University. The guest curator was Mina R. Weiner.

The rich descriptions of public celebrations, especially those surrounding ratification of the Constitution and the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 suggested the existence of visual sources to form the basis of the exhibition. Organized chronologically, the resulting exhibition conveyed the social and economic transformation experienced by journeymen during the nineteenth century. After exploring the ratification celebration — a moment of great optimism for workers, who believed



Courtesy Sally Yerkovich

that the Constitution would lead to economic expansion and prosperity — the exhibition showed how economic change and population growth in the early years of the century affected specific crafts, often shattering workers' hopes for an independent future.

Whenever possible, the exhibit displayed artifacts from artisans' lives, such as work benches and tools, but had to rely heavily on documents — broadsides, billheads, advertisements, petitions, trade cards, and newspaper articles — to convey the story. The exhibition concluded with a lithograph of the procession celebrating the completion of the Croton Reservoir in 1842. While artisans still had a major presence in this two-mile procession, few identified with their trade. The idealized notion of a camaraderie within the trades had vanished, as masters and journeymen now sought to protect their diverging interests. Most mechanics now marched with temperance groups, benevolent societies, or fire companies — voluntary associations that seemed to provide the support and assistance formerly sought within the traditional hierarchy of the trades.

Much of the material culture that tells the story of early nineteenth-century artisan life has not been preserved in museums. Still, the surviving artifacts display the same pride and optimism that was

evident in the lithographs of the era. For example, among the tools of Isaac Haughwout, a Staten Island shoemaker, is a small, two-handed sharpener proudly inscribed with his name and the date on which he completed his apprenticeship. After nine years as a journeyman, Haughwout opened his own shop but was not able to realize the freedom and prosperity he might have envisioned as a master. His account book reveals instead difficult times, and in the 1850s Haughwout abandoned his trade to become a carpenter. Other artifacts and documents in the exhibit depict the life of early nineteenth-century tailors, butchers, printers, furniture makers, and silversmiths demonstrating their varying circumstances.

Ancillary programs also helped explore in greater detail issues raised in the exhibition. These included an evening lecture series in which Deborah Dependahl, Curator of Decorative Arts at the Museum of the City of New York, provided an in-depth examination of the world of cabinetmakers, while historian Thelma Foote of New York University examined the ambiguities of freedom for African-Americans. Younger audiences enjoyed a participatory exhibition about "New York Trades/How Things Were Made" and a series of nineteenth-century craft- and trade-

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Professional Duties/Professional Rewards

By David E. Kyvig

Time flies when you are having fun! If you are skeptical about that old cliché, I recommend you get more involved in the National Council on Public History. It seems as if I have just unpacked from the NCPH San Diego conference in March 1990 and it is already time to head for Toledo and the 1991 conference on May 2-5. From the perspective of San Diego, a fourteen-month term as chair of the Council seemed practically endless, and now, although I am still finding my way around, it is nearly over. This may be another ugly sign of the aging process, or perhaps it is a commentary on the pace of modern life. However, I tend to think it has something to do with the NCPH board pulling the chair out from under me halfway through my term, changing the by-laws at our September meeting to rename the office I occupy. Seven months as chair and seven months as president somehow seemed to go much faster than I expected when I thought I had fourteen months to serve.

The upshot of this lament regarding the passage of time (admittedly a bit curmudgeonly considering that we historians would be out of business without it) is some observations about what has been learned and what has been accomplished since San Diego. Not surprisingly, there has been more of the former than of the latter. My last two newsletter columns have been devoted to reporting on the Council's unsuccessful application for membership in the American Council of Learned Societies, and so I will not cover that ground again. Suffice it to say that the process occupied a good deal of my time and attention as chair (that's right, most of the work was done in the early months of my term) and that I still believe it was a useful endeavor. Consciousness of public history was raised within the wider world of scholarship, and the self-study required for the application improved our own awareness of our membership. Even more important, a dialogue was stirred among public historians regarding the Council's purposes and priorities. For instance, Jim Williams' thoughtful objections to the ACLS application in the Winter 1991 newsletter deserves consideration and will no doubt receive it.

Likewise, the ultimate consequences of other undertakings during the past year remain to be determined. An *ad hoc* development committee chaired by Nick Muller has generated a plan for increasing our

financial resources that the board will be considering in Toledo. If implemented, the plan has the potential to strengthen the Council's resources. Other committees have also been endeavoring to advance the Council's interests and mission. Space only permits mention of a few. The accreditation and standards committee chaired by Jim Huhta has been very busy gathering information on public history training programs and preparing recommendations for the NCPH board's consideration. The publications committee chaired by Beth Luey has brought forth a new *Guide to Graduate Programs in Public History*. The committee chaired by Phil Scarpino, which had been preparing a video to explain public history to a broad audience, has finished its work. "Public History Today" will have its formal premier in Toledo, and I am confident that you will be impressed by it. These and other committee activities should enhance the training of public historians, the practice of public history, and the public's awareness of our craft. The nature of the impact cannot yet be measured, but impact no doubt there will be.

One achievement of the past year is already evident. The transition to a new executive secretariat at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis was carried out smoothly and successfully, thanks in large measure to the extraordinary efforts of our new executive secretary Elizabeth Monroe. Well supported by the IUPUI history department, POLIS and the Indiana Humanities Council; and assisted by an energetic staff, as well as by Phil Scarpino and NCPH treasurer, Diane Britton; Liz has handled the Council's business with care and dispatch, supervised an audit of our finances, produced a quality newsletter on schedule, and on several occasions gone far beyond her contractual obligations out of her strong sense of professional responsibility. All of this has been done with good humor and quiet grace. It would be in character for her to use her newsletter editor's pencil to strike out this paragraph, but I will insist that it be kept so that the Council's great fortune in having her services will be known.

During the first weekend in May, the NCPH annual conference, the high point of the public-history year, will be held in Toledo. It will be the result of much hard work by many people over the past year. Program chair Diane Britton and her committee have put together a splendid program focused on the theme of "The Audi-

ences of Public History." David Thelen, the editor of *The Journal of American History*, and others will discuss fascinating new research on how the American public acquires its historical knowledge. Archivist of the United States, Don Wilson, the director of the Ford Motor Company Fund, Leo Brennan, Jr., and the Executive Director of the Indiana Humanities Council, Ken Gladish, will explore the complex issues of corporate funding for public-history exhibits. And a current policy maker, Representative Thomas Sawyer, chair of the U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee on the census, will be one of the respondents to historian Margo Anderson's discussion of the U.S. Census. These and a host of other sessions, the premier of "Public History Today," and an imaginative range of social activities should make the Toledo meeting a stimulating exploration of how historians connect to their various audiences.

No one is more aware than I how many people share responsibility for the successes of the National Council on Public History during the last year, as well as throughout its history. I would not want to end this column without expressing my deep appreciation to those who have carried forward the work of the Council. Elizabeth Monroe, Diane Britton, vice-president Brit Storey, nominating committee chair Richard Baker, and the board of directors have all given of themselves. Committee chairs and members too numerous to mention here have devoted great effort to a variety of matters. The editorial board of *The Public Historian*, together with editor Otis Graham and associate editor Lindsey Read have rendered great service. Those intrepid fundraisers and film makers Philip Scarpino, Daniel Walkowitz, and Gerald Herman have put all public historians in their debt by their efforts in bringing "Public History Today" to the screen. Those named and many others unnamed characterize the sense of professional duty I have found throughout the public-history community.

The acceptance of responsibility to and for one's profession is, I believe, a mark of true and mature professionalism. Taking up professional duties makes a statement: "This is important in my career, in my life, in my set of values; and therefore, this is where I will invest my resources and expend my energies." Fortunately, as those who have shouldered the burdens know, with the duties come commensurate re-

Death of Former Executive Secretary R. Wayne Anderson

R. Wayne Anderson, until 1989, Executive Secretary of the National Council on Public History, died on Friday, February 15, 1991 after a long and degenerative illness. He was forty-eight years old. Dr. Anderson was born in Fulton, Kentucky and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1964 from Murray State University, his Master of Arts from Tulane in 1966, and his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky in 1974, writing his dissertation on "The Abandonment of British Naval Supremacy, 1918-1920." Before coming to Northeastern University in 1974, Wayne taught at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, at Bellarmine College and at the University of Kentucky. He also worked as a writer and editor at the *Fulton County News*.

Dr. Anderson served on the faculty of the Northeastern University History Department from 1974 onward. Beginning in 1980 he assumed the administrative responsibility for the Department's Oral History Archive and for its freshman Western Civilization program. Under his supervision, the Oral History program grew in size and reputation, building ma-

job holdings on such topics as the New England fishing industry, local history, World War I experiences, and immigration history. It received several outside grants and awards and formed a basis for the training of students and professionals in Northeastern's graduate public history program.

Dr. Anderson published widely in the field of oral history, served as President of the New England Association of Oral History, as an Editorial Board member of the Oral History Association, and from 1987 to 1989, as the Executive Secretary of the NCPH, as editor of this newsletter.

During his term as Executive Secretary of the National Council on Public History, Wayne took it upon himself to strengthen one of the primary means of maintaining communication within the scattered national network of public historians. He devoted great effort to improving the quality of this newsletter by applying his sense of taste and design to making it a more attractive publication. He used sound judgment to improve the quality of its pages with each successive issue. In

doing these things, he brought public history to the attention of a larger audience and sent a message that a high level of quality could be expected in the work of public historians. Perhaps the best testimony to the effectiveness of Wayne's efforts can be found in the membership roll of the National Council. While Wayne was Executive Secretary, it grew to more than twelve hundred individual and institutional members.

Outside of work, Wayne was a devoted orienteer and nature guide and rose to the presidency of the Chiltern Mountain Club. At the time of his retirement, Wayne was working on a book about early twentieth-century passenger liners and on the official oral history of the Dukakis Presidential Campaign.

The R. Wayne Anderson Memorial Fund has been established at Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115. Contributions in his name may also be sent to the Hospice West, Inc., 254 South Street, Waltham, MA 02254, or the Chiltern Mountain Club, Box 407, Boston, MA 02117. ■

Professional — from opposite page

wards. A sense of satisfaction is gained from having participated in something larger than yourself, something with an impact, perhaps unseen, on many lives, something that raises an individual's efforts from the category of a job to that of a contribution to the community or society. Other pleasure derives from collaborating with people who share one's values and interests. In the course of carrying out professional responsibilities lies the reward of important acquaintanceships and friendships.

We might all think of these professional duties and rewards the next time we encounter a public historian who is not a member of the National Council. Such people have a professional responsibility to join NCPH, and they will be amply rewarded if they do so. Both arguments ought to be made to them in encouraging them to join. I have been much impressed by the current membership of our organization, but I am aware that we could accomplish much more if our ranks were larger. As I have suggested before, if we would collectively take upon ourselves the responsibility to "each one enlist one," we could strengthen the Council in many

ways. Considering the link between professional duties and professional rewards and articulating that linkage on appropriate occasions, will profit both the individuals involved and the public-history movement as a whole.

I intend to speak further about historians' professional responsibilities and rewards in Toledo. At the moment, I want to make clear that the rewards of serving as chair/president of the National Council have been more than ample in terms of the responsibilities involved. I have had the opportunity to work with a splendid group of people. And I have been privileged to participate in the strengthening of our organization, as well as the raising of consciousness concerning public history. I want to convey my appreciation to the membership of NCPH for the opportunity to occupy temporarily the position I have held, whatever it has been called. I wish Brit Storey well as he takes over the presidency following the Toledo meeting. I know he will carry out his responsibilities conscientiously and with distinction. I hope he will derive the rewards and satisfactions that I have enjoyed in serving the National Council on Public History. ■



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

Submissions to *Public History News* should be sent to Elizabeth Monroe, Editor, at the address above.

Fort Mose: Colonial America's Black Fortress of Freedom

The story of Fort Mose, Florida, America's first legally-sanctioned free black community, has been brought to life in a 1,500-square-foot traveling exhibit. Historical and archaeological research conducted by a team of specialists headed by Dr. Kathleen Deagan of the Florida Museum of Natural History has unearthed fascinating details about Fort Mose. Centuries-old documents recovered in the colonial archives of Spain, Florida, Cuba and South Carolina by Dr. Jane Landers tell who lived at Mose and what it was like to live there. While the exhibit centers on Fort Mose and its archaeological discovery, its scope also explores the African-American colonial experience in the Spanish colonies, from the arrival of Christopher Columbus to the time of the American Revolution. This little-known story offers an alternative image to slavery as the dominant theme in African-American history.

More than 250 years ago African-born slaves risked their lives to escape from slavery on English plantations in South Carolina. Word had spread that the Spanish colonists to the South promised sanctuary to all runaways if they made their way to Florida and converted to Catholicism. In 1738, when more than 100 African fugitives had arrived in St. Augustine, the Spanish established the fort and town of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, the first legally sanctioned free black community in what is now the United States.

The story of Fort Mose began thousands of miles away in West Africa, where many of the people who settled Mose were born. They came from a variety of West African cultures and were enslaved by Europeans for labor in the Americas. The Spaniards were accustomed to the idea of slavery because the Moors, who occupied Spain for 800 years, had enslaved all non-Islamic peoples, including Africans. Although Africans were taken to America against their will, they retained some of their rich cultural heritage. This heritage, combined with the heritage of American Indians and Europeans, helped to shape life on the colonial frontier.



Excavator Jean Claude Selime. Photo courtesy Florida Museum of Natural history.

Fort Mose was established in 1738 by escaped slaves from English Carolina who were granted their freedom in Spanish St. Augustine. The men were made members of the Spanish militia, and the fort served as Florida's first line of defense against the English to the north. The black militia was not unique, as Africans were regularly enlisted in colonial militias throughout the Spanish colonies. These black militias became an important source of defense as early as the sixteenth century, and the Mose militia served in a number of significant battles. The fort was abandoned in 1763 when Spain gave Florida to England and the entire colony moved to Cuba.

The community of Fort Mose stands as a monument to the African Americans who risked, and often lost, their lives in the long struggle to achieve freedom. For more than 150 years, Fort Mose was buried on a remote island in the Florida marsh. It has required the combined efforts of many different scientists, historians and legislators to rediscover Fort Mose and bring to light a long-lost and little-

known chapter of our colonial past.

Although Fort Mose was a military installation, it was also a community of families. About 100 men, women and children farmed the nearby fields and lived much like the Spaniards in St. Augustine. Historical documents have revealed the names of the people and the composition of their households. Archaeology has revealed remnants of the fort and its interior buildings, as well as bits and pieces from everyday life. Evidence suggests that life at Fort Mose was filled with attending to the basic necessities, such as food, shelter, clothing and defense. Yet, Fort Mose would have been very rich in other ways. These people, born in Africa and in the Americas, had lived with the English, Indians and finally Spaniards. Their legacy is one of tremendous daring and effort, and one that made important contributions to our colonial past.

For more information contact: Darcie A. MacMahon, Fort Mose Exhibit Coordinator, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. ■

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related workshops and demonstrations.

The New York Council for the Humanities, the state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, provided support for the exhibition and lecture series. The council funded the search for artifacts and documents, as well

as honoraria for consultants to the museum. Perhaps most importantly, the council saw the museum through the difficulties of the research for the project and showed considerable understanding and moral support. This kind of support and encouragement was critical to the success of "By

Hammer and Hand." And it will continue to be needed as history museums take a more active role in public education, striving to develop effective means for combining their resources with the fruits of current historical scholarship. ■

WASHINGTON UPDATE

By Page Putnam Miller,
Director of the National Coordinating
Committee for the Promotion of History



President Presents FY 92 Budget Recommendations

On February 4, the President presented to Congress recommendations for the FY 92 budget. Basically this \$1.4 trillion budget for the next fiscal year offers only minor modifications of current spending levels. Under the President's budget, funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) would increase slightly from \$170 million to \$178.2 million. Most of the increases are slated for programs to strengthen humanities education. NEH's preservation funding, which in recent years has received special increases, went down from \$22.5 million to \$20.8 million and state programs had only a slight decrease.

The Administration recommended a \$14 million increase for the National Archives for FY 92, an increase from \$138.2 million to \$152.14 million. On close examination, however, money for basic operations will remain fairly constant. Most of the additional money will go for sizable increases on records storage facilities, pay increases, inflationary costs, and preparations for the move to Archives II, the new archival research facility in College Park, Maryland, which will be opening in 1994. As a part of the National Archives' budget, the President recommended only \$4 million, a decrease, for the grants program of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The current funding level for grants is \$5.25 million.

The Administration recommended level funding for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a slight increase for the state historic preservation fund, and a 15 percent increase for the Smithsonian Institution.

Legislation Introduced to Reverse Ban on Honoraria for Federal Employees

On January 1, 1991 the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 went into effect prohibiting all federal employees from receiving payment for any speech, article, or appearance. Since the intent of the original legislation was to ban honoraria for members of Congress and political appointees, there has been an accelerating effort to amend this law. On January 3, Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) introduced H.R. 325, which states that the honorarium ban would not apply if the subject of the appearance, speech, or article "is unrelated to that individual's official duties or status as such officer or employee" or if "the party offering the honorarium has no interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of that individual's official duties." On January 17, Senator John Glenn (D-OH) introduced S. 236, which would basically exempt from the ban, given certain conditions, all career federal employees, applying the ban only to noncareer employees.

Library of Congress

James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, recently testified before the Legislative Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee on the FY 92 budget request for the Library of Congress. In requesting a \$51.5 million net increase over fiscal 1991, Billington stressed the challenges of the Library of Congress to stay abreast of expanding knowledge and to share this knowledge more widely with the American people. "The 1991 budget request," Billington stated, "reflects what our Library of Congress should be doing to become the national information base for Congress and the American people in the twenty-first century." In seeking expanded use of the Library's resources, Billington requested \$7.6 million for automated projects to modernize the technology that will permit the Library to organize, retrieve and inform users of its 97 million items. The budget request also includes \$4.9 million for deacidification of deteriorating library materials. Billington noted in his testimony that the newly renovated and restored Jefferson Building Main Reading Room, with an increased seating capacity, will be opening in June. He requested funds for 30 additional positions to staff this and other reading rooms because, as he stressed, adequate staff are necessary for

providing reference and research assistance.

National Archives Revises Fee Schedule of Copy Costs

On March 1, 1991 a new fee schedule for reproduction of archival records went into effect. Paper to paper copies, up to 11 inches by 17 inches, remain \$.10 if the researcher makes the copy on a self-service copier. If the National Archives makes the copy, the fee has been reduced from \$.35 to \$.25. There has been an increase from \$5 to \$10, however, for use of order forms for passenger arrival lists more than 75 years old and for military service and pension files 75 years or older. The federal census requests on order forms, which were previously \$5, are now \$6. Fees for order form requests had not changed since 1981.

Oversight Hearing on National Park Service FY 92 Budget

On February 21, I testified before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, chaired by Representative Bruce Vento (D-MN), on the Administration's FY 92 budget recommendations. Although the President's budget did emphasize the importance of the American heritage and the need for increased funds for America's parks, there was no mention in the budget of funding for the Study of the Underground Railroad or the revision of the National Park Service's (NPS's) historical thematic framework. Both of these initiatives are mandated by Public Law 101-628, which President Bush signed November 28. Within three years of the enactment of Public Law 101-628, the Director of the NPS shall prepare and publish an interpretive handbook on the Underground Railroad, and within eighteen months of enactment, the revisions of the NPS's historical thematic framework shall be transmitted to the Congress.

Besides addressing specific programs, this testimony also dealt with an assessment of historical research in the NPS. Not only is historical research important for preserving and interpreting historical resources, but it also provides a comprehensive and accurate knowledge base for good management. The rich legacy from our past that is commemorated in so many of our National Parks can not be protected unless there is accurate and informed background material on which to base management decisions. Yet over one-third of the units of the NPS have not prepared

an historical resources study or have not revised their study in the last 20 years. These studies provide an overview of historic resources and identify and evaluate historic resources in sufficient depth and scope to support both the interpretive program and the general management plan. The administrative histories of the individual parks will also be a valuable management tool. However, only 83 of the 357 units of the NPS have administrative histories and 37 of these are over ten years old and need updating. NPS administrative histories examine how the park came into being, the legislation that created the park, and the establishment and evolution of the various park activities — including acquisitions of land. The failure of the NPS to place a priority on historical resource studies and administrative histories is now hampering its ability to undertake informed planning based on accurate information.

In addition to the lack of historical studies, the quality of many existing studies presents a major problem. Professor Jim Williams, who recently reviewed the NPS's Yosemite Park historic resources study for the *Public Historian*, noted that the inadequacies of this study reflect basic problems with the way the NPS undertakes historical research. He identified as problems the shortcomings of NPS personnel supervising research, and the practice of assigning complex projects to staff without the research and analytical experience gained through advanced degrees.

The concerns expressed by Williams have been raised for many years by respected historians inside and outside the NPS. Thus, during the February 21 hearing, I focused on this issue and recommended three steps for improving the standard of NPS historical research. First, the development of a research grade evaluation process, which would bring historical research in line with the level of research required by the NPS's natural scientific research program. The ability to present the most accurate historical perspectives requires that park historians engage in research and keep abreast of their scholarly fields. Unlike the scientists employed by the NPS, almost none of the historians are regarded as researchers, despite the fact that both the scientists and the historians have graduate degrees and pursue specialized scholarly disciplines. Thus, I urged that those NPS employees who spend fifty percent or more of their time in historical research or supervising historical research be required, as are the NPS scientists, to be evaluated by a process that involves a review of their research performance and consideration of their participation in the profession.

Second, and related to the first point, there is a need to develop a peer review process for the NPS's historical research. Most of those inside the NPS and on the NPS Advisory Board do not have the expertise in very specialized fields that can provide the kind of peer review that brings to bear current scholarship in particular fields. Review of research by peers who are knowledgeable in current scholarly literature, sources and methodologies is an essential part of both historical and scientific research.

Archaeologists in the NPS have been proponents and practitioners of peer review for a number of years. NPS archaeologists recognize that a peer review process that involves specialists outside the NPS provides a more comprehensive evaluation process that includes an assessment of the competence and efficiency of the projects. As a result of the peer review process, the NPS archaeologists create a network for communication between government and academic archaeologists that improves their work, increases the mutual respect of NPS and academic archaeologists for each other's work and provides them with professional credibility with their managers and the academic community. The peer review process is needed not only for historical resource studies but also for the park brochures, handbooks, exhibits and talks given by interpreters in the parks. Currently there is no review by outside specialists before these information products are disseminated to the public. A procedure of quality control and accountability needs to be built into the preparation of all information materials distributed to the public. Such a procedure would undoubtedly help to bridge the current gap that exists between the research and interpretive programs.

Third, the historical research of the NPS can be strengthened by providing leave time, travel funds and research time for NPS historians to be active participants in the historical profession. Park professionals need to attend professional meetings, to present papers and to engage in dialogue on current research. Funding in the FY 92 budget for the NPS's cultural resource program should reflect a commitment to preparing needed historical studies and to advancing procedures for strengthening the quality of the historical research.

National Archives

In mid-March the U.S. Archivist, Don Wilson, testified before the House Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government on the Administration's budget request for the National

Archives and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for FY 92. For most of the forty-five minute hearing, only the Chairman of the subcommittee, Edward Roybal, was present. Roybal, a Democrat and long-time chairman of this subcommittee, is seventy-five years old. He represents the Los Angeles area and has been a member of Congress for twenty-eight years. Wilson submitted his full statement for the record but spoke briefly about Archives II, the Center for Electronic Records, the NHPRC, and the public outreach programs commemorating World War II. Roybal's questions focused on the status of preservation, fire safety, Archives II (particularly the issue of the division of records), and the Presidential Libraries (asking basic questions about how they are funded and maintained and whether they are worth the cost). Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA), the ranking minority member who was present for the last ten minutes of the hearing, also asked a few basic questions about Presidential Libraries. Since I spoke to all of the subcommittee members' legislative aides prior to the hearing, I am hopeful that some substantive questions may be presented in writing. The House hearing for outside witnesses, at which the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History will be represented is April 17. Senator DeConcini (D-AZ), the Chairman of the NARA appropriations subcommittee in the Senate, has announced that he will not be holding hearings this year on the NARA FY 92 budget for either NARA officials or outside witnesses. The most crucial stage of the appropriation process, however, are the committee mark-ups, when votes are taken on the amounts for agency budgets. At the Organization of American Historians meeting in Louisville we will plan our strategy for influencing votes at the House and Senate mark-ups and I will hand out "Fact Sheets."

State Department

Legislation on the *Foreign Relations* series and thirty-year declassification of State Department records is on track. Revised copies of the legislation are circulating, and the leadership in the Senate and House are expected to introduce identical bills next month. Instead of a stand-alone bill as in the last Congress, this will be part of the State Department's reauthorization legislation.

No legislation has yet been introduced in the 102nd Congress to amend the copyright act to clarify the "fair use" of unpublished material but discussion among interested parties is progressing. ■

BULLETIN

Awards and Fellowships

The Naval Historical Center and the Naval Historical Foundation announce the opening of the sixth annual competition for the U.S. Navy Prize in Naval History, to be awarded to the author of the best scholarly article on U.S. naval history published during 1990. The prize consists of a \$500 cash award to encourage the research and writing of American naval history. Nominations for articles published during 1990 should be sent to: Director of Naval History, Naval Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, Bldg. 57, Washington, DC 20374-0571. All nominations must be received by June 30, 1991.

Old Sturbridge Village, the outdoor history museum in Sturbridge, MA, announces one or more Research Fellowships in New England history and culture. At least one Fellowship will be awarded this year for research into the history and material culture of African Americans and Native Americans in rural New England between 1790 and 1860. The fellowship project need not be limited to this region or this period, but must relate primarily to both. Fellows will be in residence for six to twelve weeks, preferably in the fall or spring semester. Candidates should have significant work and accomplishment in historical, archaeological or material culture scholarship and be strongly committed to publishing the results of their research. A stipend of up to \$2,500 will be awarded. Deadline for applications is July 1, 1991. For application information please contact Dr. John Worrell, Director of Research, Old Sturbridge Village, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge, MA 01566; (508)347-3362.

The National Endowment for the Humanities announces grants for travel to collections. Grants for this program assist individuals in traveling to use the research collections of libraries, archives, museums, or other repositories. Awards help defray such research expenses as transportation, subsistence, lodging, photoduplication, and other reproduction costs. Stipend is \$750. Application deadlines: July 15, 1991 for travel after December 1, 1991; and January 15, 1992 for travel after June 1, 1992. For more information: Division of Fellowships and Seminars, Room 316, NEH, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506.

The National Endowment for the Humanities announces NEH Fellowships that provide support for six to twelve months of full-time study and research

that will make significant contributions to the humanities. These fellowships are awarded through two programs. Fellowships for University Teachers and Fellowships for College Teachers and Independent Scholars. The program to which an applicant applies depends on the applicant's institutional affiliation or circumstance. Maximum stipend: \$30,000. Application deadline: June 1, 1991 for 1992-93 awards. For more information contact: Division of Fellowships and Seminars, Room 316, NEH, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506.

The National Endowment for the Humanities announces NEH Summer Stipends that support two months of full-time study and research. An applicant's project may be one that can be completed during the tenure of an award, or it may be part of a long-range endeavor. In most cases, faculty members of colleges and universities in the United States must be nominated by their institutions for the Summer Stipends competition, and each of these institutions may nominate three applicants. Prospective applicants who will require nomination should acquaint themselves with their institution's nomination procedures well before the October 1 application deadline. Individuals employed in nonteaching capacities in colleges and universities and individuals not affiliated with colleges and universities may apply directly to the program. Stipend: \$4,000. For more information contact: Division of Fellowships and Seminars, Room 316, NEH, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506.

Notices

Brit Storey, President-Elect of the NCPH, is interested in members' ideas and desires to serve on NCPH committees. Please send your suggestions and statements of your willingness to serve to Brit at D5530 Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225; (303)236-8723 or FTS 776-8723.

The Public Historian is preparing to transfer its back files to the National Council on Public History archives at the University of Colorado at Boulder. In compliance with standard practice at many other journal archives, manuscript files containing reviewer evaluations will remain closed for fifteen years from date of creation, after which they will be made available to researchers. Any manuscript reviewers who wish for comments made on manuscript evaluation sheets to remain

permanently anonymous must send a letter to that effect by July 1, 1991 to: Lindsey Reed, *The Public Historian*, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

A substantial number (223) of NCPH members have completed and returned the membership questionnaire sent with renewal notices. We have reviewed responses to "What would you like to see in PHN?" and found comments ranging from "I don't remember seeing it" to "I look forward to reading it." Suggestions for improvement included requests for a greater number and wider variety of announcements, regular committee reports and summaries of public history papers presented at professional meetings. Comments conveyed the general theme of a need for more exchange of ideas and advice among members. A collateral theme expressed the desire to know what other members are doing. Therefore we propose to initiate in the next issue of this newsletter an expanded bulletin, which will add notices of achievements and new positions to those categories of information already included. As a first step, we have already requested each committee chair to prepare a brief report for PHN. As a second step, please make sure your institution is sending us their news releases, publications announcements and other routine mailings. As a third step, please send us notices of your professional activities and accolades.

The Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) is seeking a sponsoring institution to edit and publish the Living Historical Farms *Bulletin*, which is ALHFAM's bi-monthly magazine. ALHFAM is an international service organization interested in living historical farms, agricultural museums and outdoor museums, with programmatic interests in history, folklife, agriculture, rural life and the methods of interpreting these to the public. The sponsor should be prepared to provide institutional support and an editor for the *Bulletin*. Copies of the request-for-proposal materials may be obtained from David A. Donath, Director, Billings Farm and Museum, P.O. Box 489, Woodstock, VT 05091; (802)457-2355. To be considered, potential sponsors must make initial application by June 7, 1991.

The Indiana Historical Society seeks an author to write volume 6 of *The History of Indiana*. The Society has already published *Indiana to 1816: The Colonial Period* (1971) by John D. Barnhart and Dorothy

Riker; *Indiana in the Civil War Era, 1850-1880* (1965) by Emma Lou Thornbrough; *Indiana in Transition, 1880-1920* (1968) by Clifton J. Phillips; and *Indiana through Tradition and Change: A History of the Hoosier State and its People, 1920-1945* (1982) by James H. Madison. The projected volume 6 will cover Indiana since 1945, with terminal date to be determined. Preliminary research has resulted in the compiling of some photocopied documents. The Society seeks a historian with an established publication record, knowledge of recent Indiana history and its documentation, and a proven ability to conceive a research project and carry it to a successful conclusion. The Society is prepared to offer a one-year salary replacement, reasonable expenses and research assistance, and a lump-sum commission to be paid on completion of the project. The Society expects the author to generate matching funds and/or sabbatical leave in addition to the Society's support for this project. Send cover letter, vita, and proposal (three pages maximum, outlining how the candidate would approach the project) to: Dr. Robert M. Taylor, Jr., Director, Research Projects and Grants Division, Indiana Historical Society, 315 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-3299. Applications received by July 1, will be assured consideration, but the search will continue until the appointment is made.

Calls for Papers, Upcoming Meetings and Symposia

The National Archives will sponsor the first major scholarly conference on the role of the World War II intelligence agency, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), on July 11 and 12, 1991. It was on July 11, 1941 that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt appointed New York attorney William J. Donovan as the Coordinator of Information. This office became the Office of Strategic Services in 1942 with Donovan remaining as the head throughout the war. This two-day meeting will be held at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The panel will comprise prominent historians, members of Donovan's organization, and students of military and intelligence policy. Participants will include Walt Rostow, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., the Countess of Romanones, Robin Winks and William Colby. In conjunction with the conference, the National Archives will feature a film series on intelligence and a small exhibition on the OSS. The conference proceedings will be published. Advance registration for the conference is required. Registration fees are \$150 for the

two-day conference, \$100 for one-day attendance and a special student rate of \$50. Registration opens April 1, 1991. For further information, contact Conference Director George C. Chalou at the National Archives at the Office of Records Administration (NI), National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408; (202)501-6000.

The New York Historical Society presents "Why History," a series of programs concentrating on the interconnected issues of race and class in New York City. "Why History" seeks to remind New Yorkers of the constant interplay between the city's history and its contemporary problems. This year's spring program will focus on issues such as unequal access to public and private resources, restricted opportunities for advancement and the limited resources available to meet the city's housing, health care, educational and employment needs. For further information contact the New York Historical Society, Office of Public Programs, 170 Central Park West at 77th Street, New York, NY 10024-5194; (212)873-3400, ex. 246.

The Thirteenth Annual North American Labor History Conference, sponsored by the Walter P. Reuther Library and the Department of History of Wayne State University, will be held October 17-19, 1991 in Detroit, Michigan, on the theme of "Men, Women, and Labor: Perspectives on Gender and Labor History." This year's conference will explore the ways in which gender — the ideas, practices, roles and expectations of manhood and womanhood, masculinity and femininity, men and women — illuminates, deepens, or adds to the understanding of labor history and the labor movement. Specific panels planned include "The Uses of Gender in Labor History," "The State and the Unions Revisited: Gender and Labor Law," and "Rethinking Categories in Labor History: The Relationship between Production and Reproduction." For information please contact: Elizabeth Faue, Department of History, 3094 Faculty Administration Building, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202.

The Oral History Association will hold its 1992 Annual Meeting October 15-18, 1992 at the Stouffer Tower City Hotel in Cleveland, OH. Proposals for papers, panels, media presentations, or entire sessions should be sent by December 1, 1991 to Dr. Donna M. DeBlasio, Program Chair, Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor, P.O. Box 533, Youngstown, OH 44501; (216)743-5934.

The American Military Institute calls for papers for its 1992 annual meeting, which will be hosted by the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Quantico,

Virginia (35 miles south of Washington, D.C.), April 10-11, 1992. The theme of the conference will be "Joint, Combined, Ambiguous, and Expeditionary Operations." This focus is all-inclusive, i.e., irrespective of era, nationality, culture, or location. Proposals for individual papers and for complete sessions are solicited. Scholars and graduate students who are commencing work on new research projects are encouraged to submit proposals for "works-in-progress" sessions. Send proposals by October 5, 1991 to Dr. Donald F. Bittner, A.M.I. Program Chairman, P.O. Box 307, Quantico, VA 22134-0307. Telephone inquiries are encouraged: (703)640-2746.

The National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators announces its annual meeting, July 24-27, 1991. The theme of the meeting will be "Managing Information Resources." The meeting hotel is the Westin Hotel, North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL. For more information call Gaye Horton, the Council of State Governments (606)231-1887.

Workshops

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania announces a new series of Saturday workshops starting May 11, 1991. Among the new sessions will be a paper conservation workshop, May 18; paper conservation clinic, June 1; paleography (old handwriting) workshop, June 8; and biographical sources workshop, June 15. The Historical Society will also repeat genealogical workshops, May 11 and June 22 and a photography workshop, June 29. Each Saturday workshop will be held from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. The \$10 fee (\$5 for members) for each workshop includes admission to the Society's library and museum. Pre-registration is advised. To pre-register call (215)732-6201.

Publications

The Office of the National Archives will publish a quarterly "Researcher Bulletin" to inform the public of developments relating to the move of records to the new Archives II facility in College Park, MD. The bulletin will also include information about the division of record groups between the downtown Washington building and Archives II, regionalization of records, and other news for researchers planning to work in the records of the National Archives. The first issue will be published this spring. For free copies, contact the Textual Reference Division (NNR) National Archives, Washington, DC 20408.

The National Archives announces a new release, *Guide to the Holdings of the Still*

Picture Branch compiled by Barbara Lewis Burger. This guide provides summary information about nearly 6 million photographic prints, negatives, transparencies, posters and other visual images that are now in the custody of the National Archives Still Picture Branch. These images, created mostly by the federal government, document the military, political, economic, social and cultural history of the United States. From photographs taken by Mathew Brady during the Civil War to slides produced for the Environmental Protection Agency during the 1970s, the panorama of America's past unfolds. Among the photographers and graphic artists represented are such familiar names as Howard Chandler Christy, Lewis Hine, William Henry Jackson, Ansel Adams, and Dorothea Lange. The guide describes the content of the records and the medium, paying particular attention to the identification of subjects, events, and individuals that may be of interest to researchers. Hardcover only: \$25.00.

The Office of the National Archives will publish a quarterly "Researcher Bulletin" to inform the public of developments relating to the move of records to the new Archives II facility in College Park, MD. The bulletin will also include information about the division of record groups between the downtown Washington building and Archives II, regionalization of records, and other news for researchers planning to work in the records of the National Archives. The first issue will be published this spring. For free copies, contact the Textual Reference Division (NNR) National Archives, Washington, DC 20408.

The National Park Service published "Abandoned Shipwreck Act Guidelines" in the *Federal Register* on December 4, 1990 with editorial corrections on December 14, 1990. The new guidelines provide advice on a wide range of activities concerning the management of publicly-owned shipwrecks, from how to establish and fund a state or federal agency shipwreck management program to how to create a state underwater park. They will assist the states and federal agencies in developing legislation and regulations to carry out their responsibilities under the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987.

The Mexican American Studies and Research Center (MASRC) announces Working Paper #17, "El Orgullo de Ser Latino Public History: Applied History Programs, Exhibitions and Museums" by Dr. Antonio Rios-Bustamente. The paper is available from MASRC at the University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721. Cost: \$4.00.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has issued *Balancing Historic*

Preservation Needs with the Operation of Highly Technical or Scientific Facilities. This publication recommends ways in which the continual need of scientific and technical institutions to upgrade or modify their facilities or equipment should address the historic nature of many such institutions. The Council, which administers the Section 106 review of the effects of federal and federally supported undertakings on historic properties, encourages the consideration of preservation values early in an agency's planning process, and the issues raised throughout the text illustrate this. Single copies are available without charge while supplies last. To order, contact the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Suite 809, Washington, DC 20004 or call (202)786-0503.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania announces that the *Guide to the Manuscript Collections at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania* will be published in May. This guide will contain numbered summary descriptions of the 2,170 collections comprising some 12 million documents preserved in the Historical Society's Manuscripts and Archives Department. The work has been in progress for 13 years. It will update researchers on the collections the Society has received since 1949 when its previous guide was published. The hardbound, more than 300-page volume printed on durable, quality paper summarizes manuscript collections ranging in quantity from a single document to some 500,000 items. The collections include unpublished articles, personal and business papers, letters, diaries, financial records, autograph books, military orderly books and account and meeting-minute books of organizations. They span the period from 1630 to 1970. For more information write the Society at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

University Microfilms International (UMI) recently announced the publication of *History*, a catalog of selected doctoral dissertations. The catalog contains citations to 1,780 selected doctoral dissertations and masters theses published between 1982 and 1990. It is available free to scholars and libraries. Specific interest areas included in the catalog are: anthropology, Black history, economics, history of science, literature, modern history, political science, religion, sociology and women's studies. The catalog also has listings by geographic location. Included are listings for Africa, Canada, Europe, Latin America and the United States, etc. Contact UMI at 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1346 or call toll free 1-800-521-0600, ext. 736.

Exhibition

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum announces a new exhibit "Meddling with Peddling: The Pushcart Wars" beginning April 12 and running through January 5, 1992. Using photographs, illustrations, cartoons, letters and artifacts, "Meddling with Peddling" recounts the battle waged between the City of New York and the pushcart peddlers of the Lower East Side. peddling has always existed in New York — as early as the eighteenth century vendors selling all types of food and goods worked with little or no regulation. By the turn of the twentieth century, with the area's population growing so rapidly, many newly arrived immigrants took up the trade as peddling did not require training, full command of English nor large amounts of capital. "Meddling with Peddling" concludes with photographs of today's street peddlers, once again mostly newly arrived immigrants trying to earn livings. The public remains eager for bargains and city officials still complain. For more information contact the museum at 97 Orchard Street, New York, NY 10002, (212)431-0233.

The Department of Historic Resources of the City of Roanoke, Virginia and the Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau will cosponsor a Heritage Tourism and Economic Development Conference in observance of National Historic Preservation Week. The Conference, scheduled for May 15 in Roanoke, supports Governor L. Douglas Wilder's recent directive to increase rural economic development through stronger state promotion of tourism and tourism-related products in rural Virginia.

The conference will be held at the Patrick Henry Hotel (1925) in downtown Roanoke, which is currently being nominated to the National Register of historic Places and undergoing rehabilitation. The program will feature Randall Cooley, Director of the American Industrial Heritage Project in Pennsylvania, a highly successful venture to attract visitors to the rural industrial region of western Pennsylvania. Other presentations will focus on the tourism potential of less traditional historic attractions such as rural landscapes and villages, well-preserved small town historic districts and lesser-known Civil War battlefields, as well as historic industrial complexes. The conference will conclude with a guided walking tour of the Roanoke market area and a reception at the Marketplace Center.

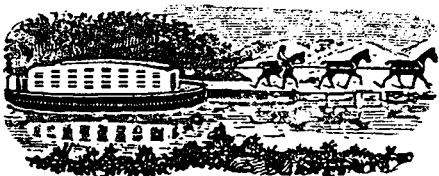
Cost for the conference, lunch and the reception is \$20.00. For additional information and reservations, contact John Kern, Roanoke Regional preservation Office (703)857-7585. ■

"Always A River" Begins to Sail

The "Always a River" exhibition-on-a-barge will travel down the Ohio River from May to September 1991, stopping at twenty-one sites along the way. The barge is part of the multifaceted project, "Always a River: The Ohio River and the American Experience." The project, which has been developed by the state Humanities Councils of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, consists of six components in all, including a book discussion-reading program, a public history and folklore conference, educational programs, publications, a watercolor exhibit and the barge.

The eleven sections of this 5,000-square-foot exhibit explore the river's geography, prehistory, surveying and mapping, navigation, settlement, environment and ecosystem, commerce, the arts, institutions and local cities and towns. Captain Dana Young, an Ohio pilot for fifty years, will greet visitors at the entrance to the barge and invite them to participate directly in the exhibit. For example, visitors may assume the role of river pilot in a reproduction pilothouse after mastering a minicourse in river language, navigation and chart reading. For those visitors with a flair for drama a stage area complete with costumes and scripts provides the opportunity to act in traditional melodramas. Mrs. Mary Lou Young will bid visitors farewell next to a photo mural of the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

A special section of the exhibit has been reserved for local displays. Craft demonstrators, story tellers and folk musicians will share their lore, and at on-shore oral history stations, visitors can share their own stories. All displays of pictures, artifacts and text in this section will change from site to site. After its 981 mile voyage, the exhibit will make its permanent home at the new Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center in Clarksville, Indiana. For more information contact the Indiana Humanities Council, 1500 North Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN 46202. ■



Road — from page 2

expressed, a fact that is surprising in view of the massive traffic tie-ups our little caravan generated. Some spectators were puzzled, but most of the bystanders and fellow travellers we encountered knew who we were and wished us well, sometimes in good-natured waves, sometimes with more emotional expressions of patriotism.

The last phenomenon was perhaps the most surprising dimension of the reenactment. I believe that all of us involved were caught off guard by the emotional impact we generated. There are several plausible explanations of this. Part of it had to do, I think, with the high level of seriousness and historical fidelity with which the reenactment was carried out. I suspect that a great many spectators along the way and among the media had been expecting something else, something lighter, more tongue-in-cheek, perhaps even "hokey." The dignity of our approach took many by surprise and caught them up emotionally in the event. Bill Sommerfield deserves credit for most of this, in the grace, elegance, and savvy with which he presented Washington to the public. He very much looked the part and carried it out with exceptional skill. Jack Seabrook, former President of the American Carriage Association, also earned praise for martialling carriages of studied elegance and several magnificent teams of horses, most of which were well handled by their drivers. As we in the carriage eventually became aware, our little caravan, clopping along at its leisurely pace, with its well-groomed and caparisoned teams and liveried coachmen, cut an impressive figure.

There was also, perhaps, a certain appeal in the preposterously anachronistic nature of what we were trying to do. Sending a coach-and-four with bewigged characters from Mount Vernon to New York City seemed a quixotic undertaking, a faintly ridiculous exercise in knight errantry. But it was also quixotic in the nobler sense as well. To judge from the reactions of many along the way, our little carriage, moving along the highways and byways, keeping its schedule against all obstacles, building its momentum of excitement, was in a very special way honoring the memory of Washington and the founding of our national government. If patriotism is the common religion of the American people, then our journey was very much in the nature of a pilgrimage, an act of piety and reverence and obeisance, similar in some respects to wending one's way to Canterbury or Lourdes or Mecca or retracing the stages of the Cross.

Overcoming all difficulties to retrace Washington's journey, we were paying homage to him in a way that the crowds seemed to understand.

Perhaps most eerie was the way in which all this affected people, including those of us directly involved. I mentioned emotions. If one looked into the eyes of the many who reached out to touch Washington or who just stood clapping along the roadside — adults as well as children — one sometimes had the feeling that they believed, if only for a moment, they were in the presence of George Washington, they were caught up in history. In what the literary types refer to as the "willing suspension of disbelief," past and present, fantasy and reality magically merged. We brushed the edges of history in a very profound and personal way. And perhaps herein lies the most important message of this experience.

The Italian philosopher and historian, Benedetto Croce, once remarked that all history is contemporary history. By this he meant that what we sometimes call "history" is not some body of knowledge stored away in libraries and archives, still less a reality that somehow exists independent of the present. All history resides in the present, in whatever meaning or connections we make between the cold facts of chronicle and our present-day lives. Through history, present and past are inextricably connected with whatever meaning our understandings and our imaginations can give them. It is an exercise that lends meaning, inspiration, and purpose to our lives.

This journey through time reminded me — and I suspect others as well — that the past is more accessible than we sometimes realize; we carry it within ourselves, in our capacity to imagine and to understand. History is a matter of hearts and minds, and the best of it, like our Washington inaugural journey, can provide:

a Revocation of the Edict of Destiny; so that Time shall not utterly, not so soon by several centuries, have dominion over us. A little row of Naphtha-lamps, with its line of Naphtha light, burns clear and holy through the dead Night of the Past; they who were gone are still here; though hidden they are revealed, though dead they yet speak. There it shines, that little miraculously lamp-lit Pathway; shedding its feebler and feebler twilight into the boundless dark Oblivion . . . on which miraculous little pathway we can still travel, and see wonders.

Thomas Carlyle ■

Launching a New Historical Journal

By Thomas A. Mason

Editor's Note: A slightly longer version of this article appeared in *Editing History*, Fall, 1989. It is reproduced here with the permission of the editor and author. The author is Director of Publications, Indiana Historical Society.

Since the complexities of starting a new journal are at once challenging and rewarding, an account of how the Indiana Historical Society launched *Traces*, its illustrated quarterly, may be of some interest to historical editors. Founded in 1830, though defunct for much of the nineteenth century, the society has regularly published books since its revival in 1886. For more than eighty years its members have received the *Indiana Magazine of History*, a scholarly quarterly edited and published for most of those years by Indiana University at Bloomington. Yet the society wanted a periodical publication of its own that would enhance its institutional identity and increase membership. A recent survey revealed that more than half the members are retirees, and the society's leadership hoped that the illustrated quarterly would attract more demographically diversified new members.

For the past decade, members of the Board of Trustees have been seeking ways to reach an audience beyond the society's membership and, in the process, to increase that membership. The staff and trustee members of a search committee for a new executive director communicated to the candidates the society's desire for a new journal that would accomplish those goals. Peter T. Harstad, appointed executive director in 1984, made the launching of such a journal a major priority for the society. As the former executive director of the State Historical Society of Iowa, he had experience with *Palimpsest*, the popular history magazine which that organization has published since 1920. Harstad retained the services of a consultant, Charles L. Phillips, formerly on the staff of the American Association for State and Local History. Phillips prepared two reports, one on the Indiana Historical Society's publications program as a whole (including books and several periodicals), the other on proposals for the new journal. The recommendations in these reports, thought not in every case implemented, provided a useful framework for discussion and planning.

Launching the journal required reorganizing the society's publications program.

The chairman of the Board of Trustees appointed a new standing committee and charged it to "recommend to the board for its approval the formulation and execution of a policy for its publications." At first this committee functioned as a search committee for the newly created position of director of publications, to which it appointed me in 1987. From the outset I considered the illustrated quarterly as an integral part of the society's larger publishing program. J. Kent Calder, who had previously edited several of the society's books and the newsletter, became the journal's managing editor.

The basic concept, running from Charles Phillips' reports through subsequent planning, was for a journal containing articles that are solidly researched, engagingly written so as to reach a wide audience, and amenable to illustration. It was to be in an 8-1/2 by 11-inch format, glossy, well illustrated, with considerable use of color reproduction. Such state journals as *Vermont Life*, *Montana*, *Virginia Cavalcade*, *Michigan History*, the Missouri Historical Society's *Gateway Heritage*, and the Ohio Historical Society's *Timeline* have used this format successfully. Four decades before, the American Association for State and Local History had begun publishing *American Heritage* in that format and had reached a national audience.

The society had always contracted out the design of its publications, and the new illustrated quarterly presented special requirements and challenges of design. Listenberger Design Associates, and in particular Tony Woodward, a designer on the staff of that Indianapolis agency, handled the design of the journal during its first year of production. His design and graphic elements contributed significantly to the journal's success. The Indiana Historical Society subsequently hired Woodward as art editor with responsibility for the design and production of all its publications.

The first task of planning was to select a title. The editors could not credibly solicit articles or publicize the journal without one. They organized a contest to name the journal and make the general reading public aware of it. The society announced the contest in its newsletter and fifty newspapers statewide, thanks to the efforts of its public relations coordinator, Ray E. Boomhower. Attracted by a prize of \$100

worth of the society's publications, more than two hundred people submitted approximately seven hundred titles, including many duplicates and such inspired choices as *Indiannals* and *Hoosier Heritage*. This response revealed much about the level of public interest in history and the potential market for the magazine. A staff committee quickly sifted through the entries, settled on *Traces*, and awarded prizes to three contestants, each of whom had independently proposed that name. The full title, expanded to help define the journal, became *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*. The public relations effort continued. Thirty-four Indiana newspapers covered the launching of *Traces*, and the editors made five radio and three television appearances. Having chosen a title, the editors set out to attract articles. They produced a prospectus announcing the journal and providing guidelines for authors. They appealed for articles and distributed the prospectus at the March 1988 meeting for the Indiana Association of Historians at the University of Notre Dame. They wanted to accumulate a slight backlog of articles by the time the first issue was published in January 1989. Their ability to pay authors helped to attract articles. They expected that the first issue's appearance would itself attract the submission of more articles, and fortunately that expectation has been borne out.

Enough acceptable articles have been submitted to fill the 48-page issues, but it has not been easy to find authors who can strike the balance between a research basis and popular appeal. Academics who are skilled at research do not necessarily write in an engaging style. Journalists who are accustomed to reaching a wide audience do not always base their conclusions on intensive research. Yet part of the exercise of producing *Traces* has been to bridge the gap between academic and journalistic authors. The journal's editorial board consists of the society's Publications Committee and four other members. It is composed of five academics, three journalists, and two lawyers. Despite their diverse backgrounds, they are united by their interest in history. The helpful collaboration between the board and the editors has resulted in some creative decision making and problem solving. Among other functions, board members often serve as referees

See next page

for articles. Review by persons outside the staff has for the most part functioned well, enabling the editors to improve acceptable articles and to identify problems with articles that might otherwise escape their notice. In some cases the editors have received articles from academics who would not have submitted their work to a journal that was not refereed.

The planners of the new illustrated quarterly were fortunate that they could make it a benefit of society membership. With more than 6,000 members, the society could realize certain economies of scale, notably a reduction of unit cost to acceptable levels. In order to reach an audience beyond the members, the journal has been sold at bookstores and newsstands, but such sales account for only a small part of its circulation. The society is selling not only publications but also memberships. The Publications Committee determined that, although individual issues would be sold beyond the membership, annual subscriptions would be available only through membership. The \$5 price of an issue—not excessive for a color quarterly—made the \$15 annual membership dues (raised to \$20 in 1990) seem an attractive alternative. During the first year of the journal's publication, membership grew by more than 1,000.

Sales at bookstores and newsstands, however, have been rife with difficulty. Local independent magazine distributors have monopolies over their exclusive territories, and in order to cover the entire state the society's staff would have to deal with twelve different distributors. The distributor places the magazine in retail stores. According to the custom of the magazine business, when a new issue arrives, the retailer removes the old issue from the shelves and tears off the cover with the universal product code symbol. The retailer then presents the cover to the distributor and destroys the rest of the issue. The distributor eventually pays the publisher

fifty percent of the retail price of copies sold.

The editor of a popular history magazine in a neighboring state told me that a sale of half the copies at newsstands is the best he could hope for, so the publisher will at most recover twenty-five percent of the retail price of copies placed in distribution. The independent local distributor can easily place a magazine in grocery stores and drugstores, but getting it into bookstores is another matter. Each individual bookstore manager must request the title from the distributor. The editors expect that *Traces* should sell better at bookstores than at newsstands in grocery stores, but getting a bookstore manager to request a new title involves sending a sample copy (sometimes taking it in person) and usually following up by telephone or a personal visit. Thus it is particularly difficult to get a new title placed where it is likely to sell. The Indianapolis regional distributor's report indicates that, of copies placed with retailers, 16.2 percent of the first issue and 19.9 percent of the second issue sold. That is a heavy price to pay for reaching beyond the society's membership. Yet it is a price that the society has been willing to pay, at least in the early stages. The journal's editorial board has decided to review its distribution policy after two years. If sales continue to increase as the journal becomes better known and as problems are resolved, then newsstand distribution could be an excellent vehicle for attracting new members.

Compounding these difficulties are the distributors' sales reports, from which it is often impossible to tell in what stores the journal is placed, or which issue is being reported on. For all these reasons the editors may eventually consider contracting with a national distributor rather than local distributors. Until then, it is slight consolation that the distributors frustrate publishers and retailers generally, as Susan Schwartzman noted in "Magazines: Ups and Downs," *Publishers Weekly* 235,

no. 13 (31 March 1989): 21-28.

How can the results of specialist research be communicated to a nonspecialist audience? The narrowing of the audience for the results of historical research is a problem to which many thoughtful historians have recently turned their attention. David Thelen, editor of the *Journal of American History*, addressed that problem in a lecture in Indianapolis four years ago. Since then the *Journal of American History* has expanded its reviews from monographs to include not only microforms, research guides, and reference tools, but also museum exhibitions and movies on historical subjects. The *Journal of the Early Republic* has also begun to review exhibitions. The *Indiana Magazine of History* now uses more illustrations than it did; it used color reproduction for the first time in 1988. The *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* is also more heavily illustrated and has undergone some design changes.

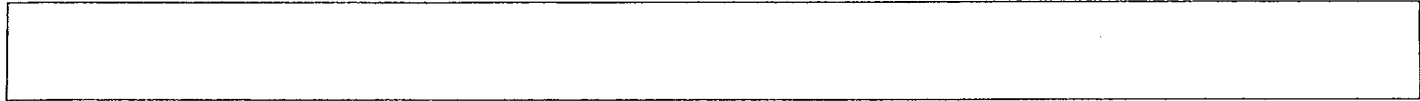
Definitions of popular history are probably as diverse as the definers. The editors of *Traces* asked Howard Peckham to contribute the lead article, exploring the means and ends of popular history, in the inaugural issue. Peckham was ideally suited to the task, since he had served as secretary of the Indiana Historical Society from 1945 to 1953 and associate editor of *American Heritage* in its early days. In "Popular History and the Search for Common Ground," he recounted how he and his colleagues had "sought ways to provide a history that was both accurate and appetizing, one that would speak to the world of today as it interpreted the past." Articles in more recent issues included an excerpt from James H. Madison's biography of Eli Lilly (published by the Indiana Historical Society), and Thomas A. Hendricks's reminiscences of growing up with Cole Porter in Peru, Indiana. What is popular history? *Traces* is gradually providing an answer to that question.

To Catch a Thief

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* recently described the public history activities of Sgt. J. Stephen Huntsberry, a Washington State University campus police officer who helped convict rare-book thief Stephen C. Blumberg. Sgt. Huntsberry, who majored in history at the University of Arizona, had traced books valued at \$500,000 stolen from his own campus. His research was used by the U.S. Attorney's office in Des Moines, Iowa to secure a warrant to search Blumberg's home, and

led to the discovery of neatly displayed books and manuscripts from 140 libraries in 45 states and Canada. Rare-book dealers estimated the "Blumberg collection" at more than \$20 million. But Blumberg was not in "business" for the money. In his insanity defense at his trial, he claimed that he was the "keeper of the Victorian era". Evidence at the trial, however, showed him to be a sophisticated and exacting thief. He was found guilty and will be sentenced this month.

Huntsberry has been commended by the Society of American Archivists and the Association of College and Research Libraries. His article in *Library and Archival Security* describes Blumberg's research techniques and how campus police can foil similar activities. According to Huntsberry libraries will have to become more security-conscious because people who steal books are "stealing our historical heritage." ■



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