



**NATIONAL COUNCIL
ON PUBLIC HISTORY**

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Public History News

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National Home for
Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

2006 ANNUAL MEETING

Public history as vibrant field and practice was evinced, examined, and extolled at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, in April. More than 2,400 people attended our joint conference with the Organization of American Historians and enjoyed great weather and an abundance of cultural activities. Thanks to the NCPH cochair of the Program Committee, Marty Blatt, and NCPH representatives Jann Warren-Findley and Steve Lubar for crafting an engaging program. Thanks also to the NCPH cochair, Richard McCulley, and fellow NCPH representatives to the Local Resource Committee, Jeffrey Stine and Laura Kamoie, for the creative offsite venues and tours in the DC area. To read blog coverage of the conference, especially the several plenary



An adventurous group of NCPH members attended the Endowment Dinner at Teasem and gave the organization a fundraising boost. Gray & Pape, Inc., cosponsored the event.

sessions with a public history focus, or to hear an interview with Bob Weible shortly after his presidential address, visit the History News Network (HNN) site at <http://hnn.us/articles/24230.html>.

NCPH FUTURE SEEMS BRIGHT



by Bill Bryans
bill.bryans@okstate.edu

The first thing I wish to convey in my initial column is how humbled and honored I am to be serving as the NCPH president. I am not entirely

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

sure how I ascended to this lofty position. Prior to becoming the vice-president/president-elect last year, I never before served as an officer or board member. On several occasions, I was nominated for officer and board positions, but always lost the ensuing election. My only real qualifications for

the position I now hold are being an active member since 1988, serving on a number of committees over the years, and having a strong belief in NCPH as the umbrella organization for all practitioners of public history.

I mention this bit of personal history for two reasons. First, I come to the presidency with a very limited institutional memory of the day-day governance of NCPH. While this might be something of a handicap, I choose to view it as an asset. I am hopeful this circumstance will enable fresh ideas and approaches—mostly coming from you, the members—to take root and blend with our longstanding strengths, thereby making NCPH an even stronger and more vigorous organization.

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

Bill Bryans, President

Marianne Babal, Vice-President

Robert Weible, Past President

Patrick Moore,
Secretary-Treasurer

John Dichtl,
Executive Director

NCPH FUTURE SEEMS BRIGHT

> continued from page one

Second, I am aware that over the years some members have come to believe that NCPH tends to be run year-after-year by a handful of the same individuals. For those who harbor such sentiments, and especially for any who have let this belief diminish their commitment to NCPH, I hope my becoming president serves as proof that actually it remains an open and inclusive organization. Indeed, if I have one overarching goal for my presidency, it is to make NCPH as inclusive as possible. Public historians represent a rich diversity of people, professions, and talents. NCPH can only become stronger by serving as the professional home for all those who practice it.

Beyond being humbled and honored over assuming the presidency, I am also excited. Great things are happening at NCPH, and its future, in my opinion, never seemed brighter.

As you read this, we are on the brink of meeting the \$30,000 challenge grant awarded by the NEH in 2002. Once we meet this goal, our endowment will total more than \$250,000. This will also put us in a position, finally, to begin using earned income from the endowment to enhance NCPH services and programs. So, if you have not made a contribution recently, I urge you to do so before the July 31 deadline. Endowment pledge cards can be found on the NCPH web site.

Long range planning has always been a strength of NCPH, and we are at the juncture of needing a new plan. Many of the goals in Plan 2005 have been met, including the restructuring of committees and redefining the executive director position. But more needs to be done to carry NCPH into a promising future. One significant benefit of long range planning stems from the necessity it presents to think seriously about who we are and what we do as an organization. What exactly is our mission? Who exactly do we serve? How should we serve our membership and discipline? What are our goals and priorities? What tasks do we want to accomplish in order to make NCPH truly the premiere organization representing both the field and practice of public history? These are significant questions, deserving serious thought and answers. We have answered them before, but it is now time to take stock of where those answers have brought us and whether we need to address them differently

Successfully fulfilling the NEH challenge grant and putting the endowment to work, preparing a new long range plan, and putting together an exciting annual meeting in Santa Fe are just three things illustrating that exciting times are ahead for NCPH.

in the future. Sharon Babaian and Bob Weible, our immediate two past-presidents are co-chairing the current long range planning committee. I encourage you to share with them—or the executive offices or even myself—your answers, your vision of the goals and tasks that should guide NCPH over the next five years, and beyond. Quite simply, the more members that participate in the planning process, the better the results will be.

As the recent joint meeting with the OAH in Washington, DC, illustrated, our annual meeting is an enriching experience shared by NCPH members. By providing a forum to exchange ideas, meet new colleagues, and renew old friendships, it is one of the greatest benefits of being a NCPH member. I always come home from the annual meeting reinvigorated in my commitment to the importance of public history. I trust the same holds true for you. The upcoming meeting in Santa Fe promises to do all this, and more. The conference theme, “Many Histories, Many Publics—Common Ground?” was chosen to embody the multiple ways in which public history is practiced, the variety of audiences we serve, and the many venues in which we ply our trade. It also is meant to evoke consideration of a very fundamental question. Given the complexity and multiplicity inherent in the practice and presentation of public history, what is our common ground? What, if anything, binds us together as public historians? Since NCPH claims to be the umbrella organization for public history, this is a question very much worth asking, and I hope a meaningful dialogue on this topic will emerge in Santa Fe.

On a more practical level, you may have noticed that a “Call for Presentations,” not the traditionally worded “Call for Papers,”

was issued for the Santa Fe meeting. This was purposely done to solicit proposals and sessions transcending the typical format of history related conferences, namely the reading of papers followed by comments. A place for such sessions certainly remains, but Chair Rose Diaz and the entire Program Committee seek more. They also invite roundtables, pedagogical sessions, debates, visual and musical performances, films, and any other formats that reflect the rich and varied palate from which public historians work. We also hope that by extending the deadline for submissions to September 1, the resulting program will be more timely. Personally, I would like to make a pitch for workshop proposals. Past, workshops enabled members to share ideas and experiences on pressing issues, or acquire new professional skills and insights. Workshops certainly should remain a part of our annual meetings, and I especially invite members to organize and propose workshops for Santa Fe.

In all these ways, we are attempting to make the annual meeting in Santa Fe more interactive and representative than ever before. Jon Hunner and his Local Arrangement Committee also promise to provide attendees with interesting tours and activities highlighting the sizeable public history community and resources in Santa Fe and the surrounding region. You can find more information about the Santa Fe meeting, including the Call for Proposals, on the web site. I ask you to review it, talk with colleagues, and give making a proposal serious consideration. September 1 will be here before you know it.

Successfully fulfilling the NEH challenge grant and putting the endowment to work, preparing a new long range plan, and putting together an exciting annual meeting in Santa Fe are just three things illustrating that exciting times are ahead for NCPH. For these to realize their full potential, however, requires the support and engagement of you, the members. I sincerely encourage each and every one of you to be a truly active member of NCPH. Ask about serving on a committee, propose a session or workshop for the annual meeting, and share your thoughts ideas about the organization and its future. And by all means contribute to the endowment! I know it sounds too much like a cliché, but NCPH really is only as strong as its members make it. You are the ones who will ultimately make what promises to be an exciting future an even more exciting reality.

NCPH 2006 ELECTION RESULTS

Vice President/President Elect

Marianne Babal
Historian and Assistant
Vice President, Wells Fargo
Historical Services

Secretary/Treasurer

Patrick Moore
Director of the Public History
Program, University of West Florida

Board of Directors

Alexandra Lord
Acting Historian, U.S. Public
Health Service

Marla Miller

Director of the Public History
Program, University of Massachusetts

Robert Weyeneth

Professor of History and Co-Director
of the Public History Program,
University of South Carolina

Nominating Committee

Dwight T. Pitcaithley
College Professor of History,
New Mexico State University

Noel Stowe

Department of History Chair
and Director of the Public History
Program, Arizona State University

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2006 NCPH AWARD WINNERS!

ROBERT KELLEY MEMORIAL AWARD

Named in honor of one of the founders of the field of public history, this award recognizes individuals or institutions that have made a significant impact in making history relevant to the lives of ordinary Americans.

Dwight T. Pitcaithley, the winner of the 2006 award, has been a career member of a department that employs more historians than any other American institution and teaches more people than all the academic history departments in the United States combined. That history department, of course, is the National Park Service (NPS), and Pitcaithley worked for more than thirty years to improve its programs, personnel, and independence. From Santa Fe to Boston, from the Ozarks to Ellis Island, Dwight Pitcaithley has worked as a scholar, manager, advocate, and educator within NPS. For the past decade he has served as chief historian of the agency—a tenure marked by his tireless commitment to enhancing the quality of public history experienced by visitors to every historic house, site, and battlefield in the system. He also has been a committed colleague within the ranks of NCPH. He has served on the Board of Directors, the Editorial Board of *The Public Historian*, on numerous committees, and in 1998 as president.

G. WESLEY JOHNSON AWARD

Robert R. Weyeneth

The Architecture of Racial Segregation: The Challenges of Preserving the Problematical Past

The article describes an ongoing research project that raises important questions for public historians about the intellectual and practical relationships among cultural geography, preservation, historical interpretation, memory, and community identities. Weyeneth illuminates a challenge faced by nearly all public historians, but most certainly by public historians who seek to

identify, preserve, and interpret difficult pasts: sometimes preserving only a partial representation can be as misleading as failing to preserve a given history.

NCPH BOOK AWARD

Recognizes outstanding scholarship in the field of public history and is for works that address the theory and/or practice of public history or works that include the products of public history activities. A finalist is selected in each of three broad categories, then an overall winner from among these three.



Linda Scarbrough

Road, River, and Ol' Boy Politics: A Texas County's Path from Farm to Supersuburb
(Texas State Historical Association, 2005)

Scarbrough's book is the complex and fascinating story of the interplay between federal policy and local ambition in transforming a Texas landscape. When "ol' boy politicians" secured a federally-funded dam and an interstate highway route through rural Williamson County, north of Austin, they set the conditions for rapid development and population growth which in turn created massive, unforeseen changes. Excellent maps and photographs augment Scarborough's clear,

entertaining prose as she engages the reader in a richly detailed narrative made possible by extensive research and her knowledge of the area. Significant beyond its Texas locale, *Road, River and Ol' Boy Politics* raises questions about the ripple effects of individual decisions on the landscape that will intrigue public historians everywhere.

Finalists:

Katherine Johnson Ringsmuth

Snug Harbor Cannery: Beacon on the Forgotten Shore (U.S. Department of the Interior, 2005)

W. Fitzhugh Brundage

The Southern Past: A Clash of Race and Memory
(The Belknap Press, 2005)

STUDENT PROJECT AWARD

**Nancy Germano, Amanda Jones,
and Bethany Natali**

Indiana University-Purdue University
Indianapolis Public History Program.
*Cultural Heritage Trail Project: The West
Street Corridor*

NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

HRA New Professional Travel Award

Kate Navarra Thibodeau

Curator, Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke,
Massachusetts.

NCPH New Professional Travel Award

Stephen Light

Museum educator, Columbia County
Historical Society, Kinderhook, New York.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



by John Dichtl
ncph@ncph.org

Transition

The change in executive directors and my personal acclimatization proceeded smoothly thanks to help from administrative assistant Dana Ward during the seven weeks we worked together, ready answers from David Vanderstel, and the ongoing support and advice of Phil Scarpino, Liz Monroe, and Melissa Bingmann in the IUPUI History Department. Current and past officers, board members, and committee chairs were generous with their time, counsel, and enthusiasm via telephone and email.

Staffing

The small executive office staff—executive director, administrative assistant, graduate intern—will soon begin to grow. Various NCPH officers and IUPUI public history faculty have helped me to think about transforming the now long-vacant administrative assistant job from a clerical position to a professional one. Our idea is to hire an MA in public history who can assume greater responsibilities. In the meantime I have hired a freelance bookkeeper for a few hours each month, whose work will prepare us for an audit this summer. In late summer we will hire a membership assistant, a part-time position with responsibility for the membership fulfillment and the new database.

Membership

According to the latest circulation report from the University of California Press (UC Press), as of November 2005—the end of the 2005 volume year for the journal—NCPH total membership was 1,522. This figure is 4.1 percent down from the previous November and 8.7 percent down from November 2002. Individual memberships remained steady, i.e., 730 individuals versus 722 the previous November. There was a noticeable decline in the number of student memberships, 160 versus 223 the previous year. The overall “renewal rate” (members who have maintained their membership for two years or more), is a respectable 78.73 percent. Our “conversion rate” (members who renew after their first year with NCPH) was 55 percent among regular individual members, 40 percent among new professionals, and only 28 percent among students. We will be working hard in the office and with the Membership and other committees to improve the “conversion” rates.

This summer the UC Press will transfer the membership database back to the NCPH executive office. That is, our staff soon will be responsible for managing individual memberships by accepting membership payments, updating the database, and sending out renewals. The press will continue to manage subscription fulfillment for institutional subscribers, such as libraries. Once the new membership database is functioning smoothly in the office, we will begin a regular effort to contact individuals whose memberships lapsed within the past few years.

I would like to concentrate in two membership areas for the coming year. First, to build a strong base for an expanded membership, the office will

concentrate on working with the Program and Local Arrangements committees to create an even more dynamic, interesting, and useful annual meeting. Our goal should be to provide a conference that a majority of members attend at least once every two or three years. We can build on the current feeling that the NCPH meeting is convivial and demonstrate how the annual meeting is becoming an even more professionally rewarding and personally invigorating event where public history professionals, at all levels, gather to exchange ideas and approaches.

Second, I believe our efforts to build membership should also be directed increasingly at new professionals and graduate students. The highest turnover among existing members is in the student category where, currently, less than a third renew after their first year of membership. (In 2002 and 2003 this “conversion rate” was more than 50 percent.) If we are able to find ways to serve students and new professionals better, our numbers should increase and we would be inculcating early the good habit of membership in NCPH.

Web Site

We have implemented numerous small changes, and will continue to revisit the web site to integrate it better with NCPH programs and find new ways to assist members and others interested in the field. A key area of attention will be to provide ready answers to the question, “What is public history?” Currently, we tend to define public history by referring to the kinds of employment or the types of activities it encompasses. Visitors to our web pages who seek a more concrete idea are left to form an answer for themselves from vague hints. Is it applied history? Is it bringing historical scholarship to non-academic audiences? Is it history interpreted for or presented to a “popular” audience? NCPH’s web site should begin to answer more directly these and other basic questions about the field and practice of public history.

In addition, the NCPH web pages can begin to address the perennial undergraduate history major’s concern, “What kind of career options are available?” We might also anticipate a subsequent question, “What might I do with an advanced degree in public history?” The NCPH executive office will work to gather some answers. I also would like to see the information presented on the web in a form that is relevant for high school students who are wondering if history holds a vocational future for them. An NCPH member at the annual meeting made the excellent suggestion that the organization should place such information on the web in PDF files which individuals can print as posters, flyers, or brochures and share with local high school counselors and teachers, or even present themselves at “career day” events.

The Public Historian

Editorship of the journal will change hands when Anne Plane’s and Mary Hancock’s term comes to an end this summer. NCPH former president Sharon Babaian is chairing a committee, which includes Steve Lubar and Alexandra Lord from the NCPH Board of Directors, that will select the next editor. The committee also will renegotiate the memorandum of agreement between NCPH and the University of California Santa Barbara that governs the editor’s position and the editorial offices of *The Public Historian*. If you have suggestions about the specific content or general direction of the journal, please contact the committee.

Endowment

Summer 2006 marks the end of our 56-month National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Challenge Grant campaign. Thanks to a generous pledge from The History Channel this spring, we are much closer to our goal of raising \$90,000 by July 31. Alan Newell and G. Wesley Johnson, co-chairs of the Endowment Leadership Committee, are heading up the final push to raise the remaining \$8,850. Every three dollars NCPH raises will be matched by one from the NEH. If you are considering a year-end contribution in late 2006, giving it now instead would multiply its effect.

Upcoming Annual Meetings

The historic La Fonda Hotel, built in 1922, will house our 2007 conference, April 12-15. President Bill Bryans appointed Rose Diaz (University of New Mexico Libraries) as program chair and Jon Hunner (New Mexico State University), who proposed Santa Fe as a site for the meeting, as local arrangements chair. Please consider submitting a session proposal.

For 2008, NCPH Vice President Marianne Babal has appointed Marla Miller (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) and Patricia Mooney-Melvin (Loyola University Chicago) program cochairs when we meet in Louisville. Donna Neary (Donna M. Neary, Inc. Historical Consulting), who proposed Louisville as the site, is local arrangements chair. The Brown, a historic hotel built in 1923, will house our conference, April 10-12, 2008.

Advocacy

During its meeting this spring, the NCPH Board of Directors agreed to join the Federal Formula Grant Coalition, a group launched by the American Association for State and Local History "to seek legislation for state-based federal formula grant programs that support all museums in carrying out their public service role of connecting the whole of society to the cultural, artistic, historical, natural, and scientific understandings that constitute our heritage...." Meanwhile, the Policy Board of the National Coalition for History (NCH) has been busy on a number of important issues during the past few months, as described in NCH Executive Director Bruce Craig's regular column in this and previous issues of the newsletter. Once the demands of the 2006 Annual Meeting, NCPH staff reorganization, and the new membership database have subsided, the NCPH office will be better positioned to participate in NCH and other advocacy activities, such as distributing email "action alerts" meant to mobilize the membership of NCH's constituent societies to take political action.

Collaborations and Outreach

National Park Service

We are in conversation with the NPS about a new Cooperative Agreement under which NCPH would administer cultural resource management and related projects. NCPH's existing NPS project, to assess the historical significance of eleven National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers properties, has made good progress. Suzanne Julin, an independent historian with whom NCPH contracted to be the project investigator, completed her site visits with Brian McCutchen, an NPS historian from the NPS Midwestern Regional Office. They are excited about the richness of their preliminary findings and will

make a presentation at the OAH Midwest Regional Conference this summer. Beth Boland and Carol Shull of NPS's new Heritage Education Services Office have issued a call for feedback on improving the Park Service's educational products and services. Their goal is to create a national heritage education plan and to establish new partnerships and collaborative initiatives. They recently approached NCPH seeking ways our organization and members might work with their office. We have begun talking about a role for NCPH in facilitating K-12 educational initiatives that bring together teachers and public historians.

Organization of American Historians

NCPH will be sponsoring two sessions at the OAH's 2006 Midwestern Regional Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, July 6-8. One is the above-mentioned presentation by Suzanne Julin and Brian McCutchen. The other is by Rebecca Conard, Noel Stowe, and Shelley Bookspan on "Public History as Reflective Practice," a version of their remarkable presentation at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

Teaching American History

NCPH member Martha Norkunas (Project in Interpreting the Texas Past, The University of Texas at Austin) has organized an outstanding summer fieldtrip to Texas historical sites for K-12 teachers who are participating in a U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History (TAH) project run by Indiana University-Purdue University and Brown County (Indiana) School District. NCPH will continue to seek involvement in existing grant projects and in proposals taking shape for the TAH competition next spring. There is now information on the web site encouraging TAH project directors to use NCPH as a collaborative partner.

American Council of Learned Societies

I attended the ACLS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in May along with Noel Stowe (Arizona State University), NCPH's delegate to the ACLS. The meeting was held jointly with the Association of American Universities to discuss "Reinvigorating the Humanities." Panels and individual presenters emphasized a theme long familiar to public historians—that scholars and scholarly societies should reach audiences outside of the university and communicate clearly and forcefully the relevance of the humanities in the public sphere. A high point of the day was hearing Representative Jim Leach (R-Iowa) and Representative David Price (D-North Carolina) speak with moving conviction about how the humanities, especially the discipline of history, can shape national debates. Leach and Price are cochairs of the House Humanities Caucus, which they founded last year "to ensure the continued vitality of the humanities programs that enrich American intellectual and cultural life." The caucus now includes more than seventy members of the House of Representatives.

Conclusion

2006 promises to be a year of continued restructuring as a new executive office staff takes form and we work to strengthen existing programs and operations. Our greatest challenge is likely to be creating a home for the membership database while serving current and new members

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NCPH CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT - CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBERSHIP

The National Council on Public History makes the public aware of the value, uses, and pleasures of history; advises historians about their public responsibilities; helps students prepare for careers in public history; and provides a forum for historians engaged in historical activities in the public realm.

For details, contact
NCPH Executive Director,
John Dichtl
327 Cavanaugh Hall-IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5148
(317) 274-2716
ncph@iupui.edu.

New members are welcome;
join at <www.ncph.org>.

For change of address, write UC
Press, 2000 Center St., Suite 303,
Berkeley, CA 94704-1223; (510)
643-7154; journals@ucpress.edu.
Or visit <www.ucpress.edu>

We welcome submissions to *Public History News* sent to John Dichtl, Editor, at the above address. Articles 400-800 words in length; announcements and bulletin items up to 100 words. NCPH reserves the right to reject material that is not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization.

by David Neufeld and Rebecca Conard

Modris Eksteins describes a twentieth-century transformation in history. From delivering a vision of an ordered world he notes there are now a multiplicity of histories. "[T]he notion of a variety of histories... is to be celebrated... for our own era, such visions of diversity can be interpreted as appeals for humility and respect... (We must) write histories with layers of suggestion, so that history evokes, history conjoins, it involves. History... should be a vehicle rather than a terminus." (*Walking Since Daybreak*, Toronto, 1999)

Eksteins's observations describe the purposes of public history. The recognition that individuals and communities, as well as institutions and countries, have histories is where our professional practice lies. The engagement with these many different searches for meaning has transformed historians from being the interpreters of the past to being partners in the production of history as groups, communities, institutions, and whole societies look for meaning in an increasingly complex world.

The current NCPH Code of Ethics <<http://www.ncph.org/ethics.html>> was published in winter 1986. Some twenty years of practice has altered the organization's understanding of the many developing roles that public history plays and the numerous elements of society that call upon public historians for assistance. In 2005, at the request of Sharon Babaian, outgoing president and chair of the Long-range Planning Committee, the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee initiated a review and revision of the 1986 Code of Ethics. The committee now proposes a new version. This document is available at <<http://www.ncph.org/>> Please review and send your comments to the committee at <ncph@iupui.edu> before December 15, 2006. We hope to present a new code to the Board of Directors at our spring meeting in Santa Fe. Thanks.

David Neufeld is chair of the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee and Rebecca Conard is chair of the Educational and Professional Practice Coordinating Committee.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK > continued from page 5

without interruption. Goals for the months ahead include the following:

- 1) to join with innovative Program and Local Arrangements committees to sketch out a dynamic new shape for the annual meeting
- 2) to work with the Membership Committee, president, and vice president to engage new professionals and graduate students more deeply in the life of the organization
- 3) to develop ways of introducing more K-12 teachers and undergraduate history majors to public history

- 4) to work with NCPH committees in providing professional development curriculum guidance, and other resources for the public history community

- 5) to reinvigorate our organization's outreach and advocacy efforts.

These initiatives will occur alongside a new long-range planning initiative that begins with a fall retreat November 2-3 here in Indianapolis. I look forward to working with the Long Range Planning Committee, and I thank the board for the opportunity to serve our membership.

NCPH FINANCE REPORT

by Harry Klinkhamer, Secretary-Treasurer, 2003-2006
and Patrick Moore, Secretary-Treasurer, 2006-2009

2005-2006 Budget

During the first eight months of fiscal year 2005-2006 (July 2005 to February 2006) actual income was \$29,279 and budgeted income for same period was \$75,777. Actual expenses were \$69,964 and budgeted expenses were \$75,166. Note that expenses are slightly below budgeted amounts. Income is low because the University of California Press revenues came in immediately after the reporting date and income from the annual meeting had not yet been received.

2006-2007 Budget

At the NCPH board meeting held April 20, 2006, the board approved the fiscal year 2006-2007 budget presented by the finance committee. This budget reflects some of the changes and initiatives instigated by the NCPH office and discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

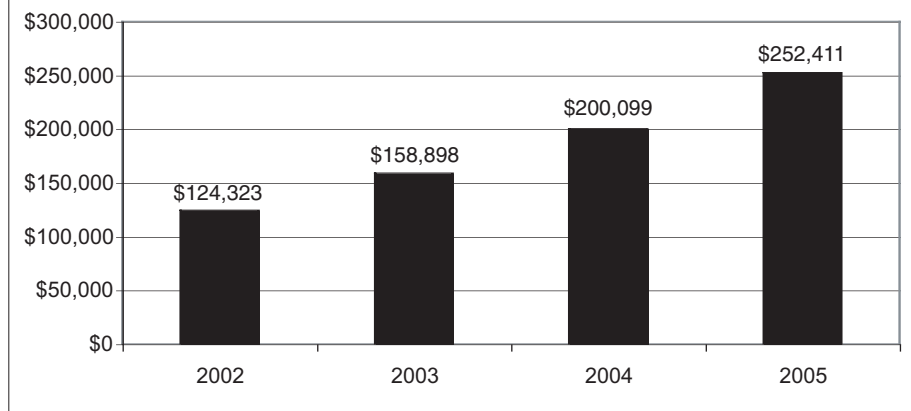
Budgeted Income, 2006-2007

Membership	\$83,397	65.4%
Annual Meeting	\$37,168	29.2%
Miscellaneous	\$6,800	5.3%
Publications	\$100	0.1%
Total	\$127,465	

Budgeted Expenses, 2006-2007

Administrative	\$65,014	51.0%
Annual Meeting	\$26,945	21.1%
Public History News	\$15,280	12.0%
Membership	\$7,450	5.8%
Dues	\$6,325	5.0%
Board Meetings	\$3,900	3.1%
Committees	\$1,500	1.2%
Awards	\$1,050	0.8%
Total	\$127,464	

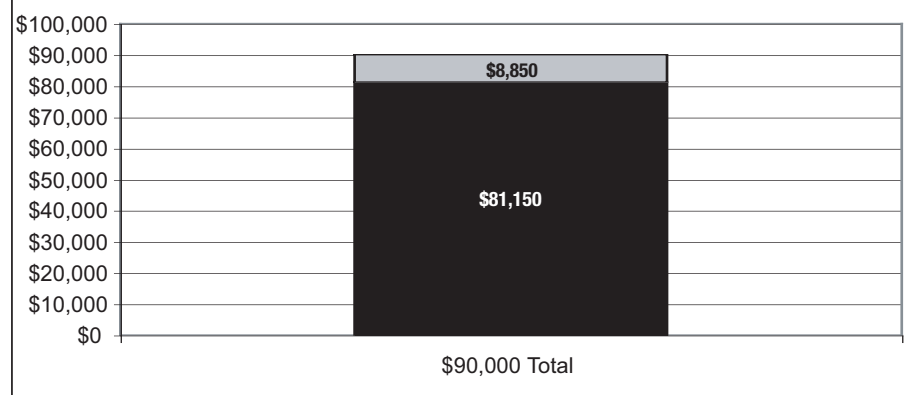
NCPH ENDOWMENT



Endowment

As of December 31, 2005, the NCPH endowment funds housed at Vanguard total \$252,410. Growth is a result of reinvesting dividends, capital gains, and donations to the NEH Challenge Grant (figure 4). NCPH's portfolio consists of 15.2% short-term investments, 22% bonds, and 62.8% stocks.

NEH CHALLENGE GRANT



NEH Challenge Grant

In 2002, the NEH awarded the NCPH a \$30,000 Challenge Grant to help raise funds for its endowment. In order to receive the money, NCPH was challenged to raise \$90,000 by July 31, 2006. To date, we have raised \$81,150.

Overall, NCPH is in sound financial shape, prepared to take on upcoming changes and challenges, and poised to benefit from its fundraising and endowment in accordance to long-range plans and the goals of the staff and board of the organization. The scheduled audit for this year was postponed due to the staffing transitions in the office. But an audit will be scheduled for the upcoming fiscal year to get the organization back on schedule.

Thanks go to members of the finance committee, Diane Britton, Bill Bryans, John Dichtl, Alan Newell, and Dwight Pitcaithley.

2006 NCPH AWARD WINNERS

Student Project Award

Amanda Jones, Bethany Natali, and Nancy Germano

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Public History Program

Our project began in the fall of 2004 with an assignment in our Introduction to Public History course at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). Create a proposal for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization incorporating public history into a Cultural Heritage Trail planned to encircle the downtown area and connect with the existing greenway system in Indianapolis. Our assignment focused on the West Street corridor of the heritage trail.

Research helped us identify four themes that characterized the West Street corridor and influenced the cultural history of Indianapolis: diversity, community spirit, entrepreneurship, and social change. Based on these identified themes and the goals voiced by the clients sponsoring the Cultural Heritage Trail project, our proposal included an overview of the corridor's historical significance to Indianapolis, suggestions for ways in which the city could share and interpret its rich cultural history with the public, educational programs to enhance visitors' experience, thematic walking tours, and a budget for the design and implementation stages of the proposed project.

Funding from an Interdisciplinary Community Partnership grant received by IUPUI enabled us to continue our work beyond the fall semester and bring to fruition some of our ideas. During the summer and fall of 2005, we completed five oral interviews of African Americans with connections to the West Street corridor, developed two programs for the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, created a slide presentation to assist artists in creating public art to appropriately reflect the city's history along the heritage trail, completed additional research into land use along the West Street corridor, and began the process of applying for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Amanda Jones and Nancy Germano were able to attend the 2006 NCPH Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The conference enabled us to rub elbows with current professionals in the public history field. We especially enjoyed hearing the panel of speakers for the session titled "Public History as Reflective Practice" and hearing firsthand accounts of public history practices, concerns, and joys.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit and share a project that has been inspiring to us. We are also grateful for the opportunity to attend the national conference. Many thanks to the NCPH for recognizing student work and to our professors at IUPUI, Dr. Melissa Bingmann and Dr. Paul Mullins, who initiated this project and encouraged us every step of the way.



Top Madame Walker Theatre at the corner of West Street Bottom and Indiana Avenue. Bottom Bethel AME Church on West Street. (Courtesy of the authors.)

NCPH New Professional Travel Award

Stephen Light

Columbia County Historical Society, Kinderhook, NY

An Eye Opening Experience

Upon returning from this year's annual meeting—which marked my first professional conference—I found myself bombarded with questions from family, friends and coworkers. All wanted to know if I had fun, what kinds of activities the conference offered, and most importantly, whether I learned anything new. I reflected for a while on how I could sum up the whole conference without giving a detailed day-by-day account each time. Finally, I came to my answer: this year's Annual Meeting provided a tremendous opportunity to network and to share new ideas with professionals who deal with similar questions on a daily basis.

Two opportunities encouraged my application for the NCPH New Professional Travel Grant. The first was the chance to see the variety of jobs available to public historians. I am new to the field, and I am always looking to better my understanding of the career paths it offers, especially as I get set to attend the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies this fall. In Washington I met and

conversed with people from all over the country coming to the conference with different backgrounds and professions. They were from places such as Boston, Houston, and Independence, Missouri, and with jobs as diverse as high school history teachers, college professors, archivists, curators, museum educators, librarians, and more.

The second reason to apply for the grant was the unique opportunity to present at the meeting. Until its cancellation due to lack of pre-registrants, I had hoped to participate in the workshop, "Many Hands Make Light Work: Developing a Successful Collaborative Project." In my year at the Columbia County (NY) Historical Society as a museum educator, I have worked with our Director of Education and four other area historic sites to develop a web site and traveling kit that educates middle school students about Columbia County's historic figures and land use. This project served as the basis for the workshop.

There were other opportunities the meeting offered that I did not expect. The wide array of sessions offered allowed the chance to pick and choose those that I knew would interest me. In every session I found something that I could

directly relate to my current work at CCHS. In particular, almost all of the sessions offered valuable information that I have since put to use in an ongoing project to create a new interpretive plan for one of the historic sites that we own and operate. We are trying to widen our interpretation of our Dutch farmhouse to include not only the generations of family members who lived there, but also their slaves and the Mohicans who first inhabited the site.

Many sessions dealt with issues that arise in completing similar projects. Wednesday's plenary session on the Smithsonian, Thursday's session on public history as a reflexive practice, Friday's session "Diversity on Display," and Saturday's "South vs. South" were especially useful. These sessions, along with Robert Weible's NCPH Luncheon address "The Blind Man and His Dog," all dealt with the difficulties of changing traditional historic interpretations held by our audiences while keeping them involved and invested in the site. In the week since I have returned from the meeting, I find myself referring to the knowledge I gained in these sessions nearly every day. I hope to attend next year's meeting.

Historical Research Associates New Professional Travel Award

Kate Navarra Thibodeau

Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke, MA

Reflections of a New Professional

By looking at the contents of my OAH/NCPH conference tote bag, it is clear that history is multifaceted. The conference program is stuffed in the tote with other goodies picked up throughout the conference: fliers for new DVD collections on African American Perspectives, a brochure for LexisNexis, a session handout depicting photographs of a newly interpreted house as an illustration of collective memory, a Call for Presentations for next year's NCPH Conference, a National Park Service publication, an order form for Temple University Press, a mid-term examination from Mr. Hyder's United States History & Geography class requiring the use of census information, and of course, several books on local and oral history purchased in the exhibit hall.

These conferences are a good place to delve deeper into historical theories, but more

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The spinning department at the Farr Alpaca Mills in Holyoke showing women working as doffers and spinners. (Courtesy of Wistariahurst Museum Archives.)

CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING SITE PROPOSALS

The National Council on Public History seeks site proposals for its annual meetings, beginning in the year 2009.

Proposals should include the following information:

- A statement of why the site is appropriate for the NCPH annual meeting.
- Information regarding support from local individuals, institutions, and agencies that could work together to plan a successful conference. Letters of intent would strengthen the proposal.
- Potential arrangements for meeting facilities, hotels, and transportation, with approximate costs.
- Proposed dates for the meeting, generally between 15 March and 1 May.
- Any other details that might strengthen the proposal.

Since the NCPH Board of Directors considers proposals at its spring and fall meetings, a representative or representatives of the host institution(s) should plan to present and discuss the site proposal.

For more information, contact the NCPH Executive Offices at 317.274.2716 or by email: neph@iupui.edu

Send completed proposals to:
NCPH Executive Office
327 Cavanaugh Hall—IUPUI
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140

2006 NCPH AWARD WINNERS > continued from page 9



Irish day laborers provided the first immigrant work force in Holyoke, having arrived in 1847 to construct the new dam and mill buildings. This photo is of mill workers in Holyoke, c.1850s. (Courtesy of Wistariahurst Museum Archives.)

importantly the conference provided me with examples of ways to present history that is sometimes contested. These new ways to present history are directly relevant to my work as Curator at Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Holyoke, best known as “The Paper City,” was built using immigrant labor. Immigrant groups like the Irish, French Canadians, Polish, Germans and Italians have left a permanent mark on the city. These traditions of the immigrants endure in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, the Franco-American Club, and Polish Folk Dancing. A more recent migrant group are the Puerto Ricans, who have been struggling to find a sense of belonging and sense of themselves as citizens of Holyoke and as mainland Americans. However, the traditions of these immigrants and migrants endure in the cultural life of Holyoke with their enclave communities, ethnic churches, organizations, and celebrations.

Wistariahurst Museum received a Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities grant to research and develop a series of four exhibits on immigration and migration to Holyoke. I began researching photographs, documents and material culture at several area collections, aiming to answer questions about why immigrants came to Holyoke and what they found and created when they arrived. The exhibits will encourage the public to think about how their family history fits into the history and culture of Holyoke and the region, and will include the voices of the immigrants and migrants themselves through oral histories and video documentaries.

Along with the exhibit series, the National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded Wistariahurst Museum, as lead organization, a consultation grant. This work will build upon our work researching documents, photographs, and other sites’ programming to tell Holyoke’s unique story in a comprehensive and provocative way. The final project envisioned will have exhibits at several sites throughout the city linked by programming, walking and driving tours, program brochures, guidebooks, maps and promotional material for adult, family and school group visitors.

The 2006 NCPH Annual Meeting theme provided me with a glimpse into what other sites and other scholars are researching in terms of immigration into America and how immigration has changed the nation or community’s identity. The concept of *Nuestra América*, of encouraging a dialogue between groups of people, and of creating an identity, is important and relevant to Wistariahurst Museum as we embark on fostering stronger relationships with the Latino community in Holyoke.

The most poignant moment of the conference for this new professional was when Robert Weible, outgoing NCPH President, stated that rather than focusing on who we are—Academic Historians or Public Historians—we should define ourselves by the work we do and the difference we make. This year’s annual conference illuminated that regardless of what we call historians, they certainly are making a difference as producers, publishers, teachers, scholars, researchers, students, and curators.

DOCUMENTARY EDITING AS PUBLIC HISTORY

by David Hochfelder
david.hochfelder@rutgers.edu

Since their inception some fifty years ago, documentary editing projects have uneasily straddled the line between public history and academic history. On the one hand, the mission of documentary editions is to make documents widely accessible. Projects publish documents which, if left as archival manuscript collections, would be available to only the most determined researchers. On the other hand, we documentary editors regard ourselves as scholars. At the same time, many editors are unsure who our audiences ought to be.

A way out of these dilemmas is to reflect on some basic issues about the nature of documentary editing. The purpose of our enterprise is to add value to the documents we edit, and in the process, to broaden the audience who can—and want—to use them. At the most fundamental level we add value to the documents simply by publishing them and making them more widely available. By publishing them we ensure their permanence; if the original manuscript collection is somehow destroyed, the documents will still survive in book or microfilm form. Our editions are for the ages: we assume that they will remain the standard reference on our subjects for centuries, a longevity no monograph can match.

We also add value to our documents by consciously seeking broader audiences for them. For example, the Edison Papers publishes three editions. Our oldest project is our microfilm edition. When completed in about five years, it will contain over two hundred reels encompassing about ten percent of the roughly five million pages in the Edison archives located at the site of his West Orange, NJ laboratory (now a National Park Service site). Despite its quality and comprehensiveness, our microfilm edition is probably not widely used. Because of its expense, only a few dozen libraries have bought the latest publication.

Our book edition is more widely used because it is packaged in a convenient form and provides a wealth of information about the documents. Each of the fifteen highly selective final volumes will contain roughly

four hundred documents, less than ten percent of the material in the microfilm edition for that given period. Our annotation not only describes and explains the documents, some of which are quite technical, but also points the reader to related documents found in our microfilm and on our web site. We deviate from accepted practice at most other documentary editions regarding biographical notes. Most editions only identify significant historical figures; we attempt to give identifications for every person mentioned in the documents. We provide an exhaustive bibliography of sources used in the annotation, as well as a detailed chronology of Edison's activities during the period covered by the volume. Finally, we include several appendices in every volume. For example, in volume 5 we included an appendix containing the name, employment date, and job of every employee at Edison's Menlo Park laboratory. While we reach a much broader audience through our book volumes, their expense also imposes a fundamental limit on the size of our readership. Our publisher sells perhaps two thousand copies of each volume.

Our newest edition is digital and it reaches the broadest audience. The digital edition found on our web site at <http://edison.rutgers.edu> contains some 180,000 document images to date. When completed, it will be an exact copy of the microfilm edition, along with documents we have collected from outside repositories, and will have an excellent search engine. The Edison Papers web site generates so much traffic that it is one of the most widely used web sites in the Rutgers University system. I anticipate that 21st century digital technologies—digital cameras, scanners, web pages, etc.—will revolutionize documentary editing. Not only will these technologies help existing projects to deliver documents better, but they will make it easier for more people to publish projects. If the past fifty years has been the golden age of documentary editions, the next fifty may well witness the democratization of documentary editing.

The Edison Papers staff is confident that the digital edition will continue to expand our audience. Before our web site went online, academic researchers were our main user group. The digital edition has inspired a new generation of popular writers as well as scholars. Recent trade books by Jill Jonnes and Mark Essig, among several others, make



A 1914 advertisement commemorating the 35th anniversary of Edison's invention of the incandescent lamp. (Courtesy of the Thomas A. Edison Papers project, Rutgers University.)

extensive use of our digital edition. In addition, our web site has attracted National History Day contestants, business writers, management consultants, and television producers. In 2005 alone, our director Paul Israel has appeared in two History Channel documentaries and contributed to an episode of *History Detectives*; I myself am featured in an August 2005 *Modern Marvels* episode on the History Channel.

Our most promising initiative is educational outreach. Using our digital edition and supplemental material from our web site, we hope to launch an annual series of workshops for teachers from the elementary to high-school levels. We have received funding from the General Electric Foundation and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers to set up our Edison Across the Curriculum program. By drawing on the power of both Edison's reputation and the Internet we plan to reach broader audiences, especially grade-school and high-school students, and to perpetuate Edison's relevance and legacy well into the 21st century.

David Hochfelder is an Assistant Editor at the Thomas A. Edison Papers and Assistant Coordinator of the Public History program, both at Rutgers University. He has advanced degrees in both electrical engineering and history and is currently writing a book-length history of the American telegraph industry.

JRP HISTORICAL CONSULTING AT 25

Founded in Davis, California, in 1981, JRP Historical Consulting is flourishing as it reaches the quarter-century mark. JRP was founded to provide archival research and expert opinions on historical matters relevant to public policy and natural resource management and its principals have served as expert historians regarding Native American and federal reserved water rights, historic navigation, and flood control issues on many important cases throughout the western United States. Rand F. Herbert and Stephen R. Wee, along with the late UC Davis Professor W. Turrentine Jackson, started the company, and Rebecca Meta Bunse, who has been with JRP since 1990, joined the partnership in 2002.

JRP's litigation support work continued as its services expanded to cultural resources management and environmental compliance documents during the 1980s. This work includes inventory and evaluation of historic architectural resources, as well as effects analysis and mitigation development in compliance with the implementing regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act and California Environmental Quality Act. In addition to extensive historic architectural surveys located throughout California, JRP has



Rand Herbert, Meta Bunse, and Stephen Wee, JRP partners. (Courtesy of JRP Historical Consulting.)

produced three major statewide thematic studies since 1997: water conveyance systems; metal truss and concrete arch highway bridges; and California military installations.

The high quality of JRP's cultural resources management work has earned several awards, including: the Annual Governor's Award for Historic Preservation (2000), the California Council for the Promotion of History's

Certificate for Meritorious Service (2001), and the prestigious Superior Accomplishment Award (2003) from the California Department of Transportation. JRP supports careers in public history through its active paid-internship and recruiting programs at the University of California, Davis, and the graduate Public History Program at California State University, Sacramento.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC. IN TRANSITION

Historical Research Associates, Inc., (HRA) has completed an ownership transition. Alan Newell, a former president of the NCPH and the 1974 founder of HRA, and Lisa Mighetto, a current member of *The Public Historian* editorial board, are among the owners who have sold their shares to a new group of employees. The new owners, all senior HRA staff members, include Emily Greenwald, a member of the NCPH Board of Directors. Newell and Mighetto remain as employees of HRA and are assisting in the ownership transition.

"Over the past five years, we have been working on a plan to keep management and ownership within the company," said Newell. "I'm very pleased that we have been successful in providing this ownership opportunity to our senior employees. We

all feel strongly that it will assure that HRA will continue to provide quality services to our clients and growth opportunities for our staff."

HRA is a consulting firm that provides expert witness services in environmental, land use, and Native American rights litigation; research services for cultural resource inventory and permitting; compliance with archaeological and historic resources regulations; historic preservation planning; and research and writing of corporate and government history publications.

HRA's 45-member staff is headquartered in Missoula, Montana, and has branch offices in Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon. The company also has an ownership interest in a Houston, Texas, firm and is affiliated with offices in Cincinnati, Ohio; Richmond, Virginia; and Wakefield, Rhode Island.



Top - Emily Greenwald, representing the next generation at HRA. Bottom - HRA founder Alan Newell and Lisa Mighetto. (Courtesy of HRA, Inc.)



NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

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BUILDING A HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS

By Suzanne Julin
sjulin@earthlink.net
and Brian McCutchen
brian_mccutchen@nps.gov

Beginning in 1866, the eleven branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers provided domiciliary and medical care to veterans with disabilities. Until it was absorbed by the newly created Veterans Administration in 1930, the National Home was the primary source of these benefits for veterans. Now the National Home branches are the subjects of a study to assess historical significance and possible National Historic Landmark nomination. The Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Park Service have developed an Interagency Agreement to oversee the project. The National Park Service has also established a Cooperative Agreement with the National Council on Public History under which the NCPH has contracted for the production of an assessment of significance of the National Home's eleven branches and one or more National Historic Landmark nominations.

Congress created the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, originally the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, in 1865. The establishment of the institution addressed the needs of disabled volunteer soldiers returning from the Civil War without the ability to support themselves. The National Home's Board of Managers, a group of volunteers who answered directly to Congress, held the responsibility for the development and operation of the system.

In 1866, the Board acquired a defunct health resort in Togus, Maine, to house the Eastern Branch. In 1867, they established the Northwestern Branch in Milwaukee after a group of women who served Wisconsin veterans during the war donated money they had raised to the National Home. The Board located the Central Branch in Dayton, Ohio, in the same year. The Central Branch became the National Home's largest unit and eventually its administrative center. In 1870, the board added the Southern Branch in Hampton, Virginia, on the property of a former women's school.

All honorably discharged Union veterans disabled as a result of their service were eligible to enter the National Home. The



The Central Branch is in Dayton, Ohio, and is now the Dayton VA Medical Center. Memorial Hall (left) no longer stands, but the Home Chapel, built in 1868, remains on the grounds. (Courtesy of the National Park Service.)



Built in 1907, the hospital at Battle Mountain Sanitarium in Hot Springs, South Dakota, includes this beautiful central court. Battle Mountain was the only branch established as a medical facility rather than a residential facility. (Courtesy of the National Park Service.)

Board of Managers initially assumed that population of the institution would decline as veterans regained their strength and returned to active life. However, in 1884 Congress expanded eligibility to Civil War veterans disabled for any reason, including age, and the broader standards led to increases in membership. The Board of Managers subsequently established additional branches: the Western Branch in Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1885, the Pacific Branch near Santa Monica, California, in 1888, the Marion Branch in Marion, Indiana in 1890, and the Danville Branch in Danville, Illinois, in 1898.

Congress again broadened eligibility requirements in the early 1900s, allowing veterans of the Spanish-American War,

World War I, and other conflicts to enter the National Home. The system continued to grow until 1929, when the last branch was added at Bath, New York.

Members of the National Home received housing, meals, clothing, and medical care. The men abided by military regulations, lived in barracks, wore uniforms, and ate on a regimented schedule. The Board of Managers insisted that membership in the National Home was a reward for service to a grateful nation, not an act of charity, and the architecture of the branches reinforced that message. Each facility constructed under

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BRANDING SURVEY

We want to hear from you! NCPH's broad diversity of membership—from archivists and bibliographers to historical consultants, college professors, museum specialists, and writers, historical administrators, classroom educators, policy advisors, and cultural resource managers—creates an exciting dynamic within the organization. It also can present challenges in communicating the organization's activities, programs, and mission. With this in mind, the Membership Committee has been developing a new, more sharply defined visual and contextual "identity" for NCPH in serving such a wide-ranging membership.

We are interested in your perceptions of the organization and its mission, whether or not you are a member. Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire at www.ncph.org/brandingsurvey.html. Responses will be used by the committee in an ongoing process for a branding of the organization. This exercise will be finalized into a new family "look" for brochures, other publications, the website, stationery, press releases, and all other aspects of NCPH communication with members, potential members, other associations and institutions, and the general public. Responses also will be considered by the Long Range Planning Committee this fall.

www.ncph.org/brandingsurvey.html

BUILDING A HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS > continued from page 15



The dining hall at Mountain Home in Johnson City, Tennessee, was built in 1903 and designed by New York architect John H. Freedlander, who won a competition to design the thirty-six original buildings of the Mountain Branch. (Courtesy of the National Park Service.)

the oversight of the board featured distinctive buildings and expansive grounds. Veterans enjoyed the benefits of hospitals, libraries, theaters, recreation halls, chapels, and designed landscapes.

After the turn of the century, the aging population of the National Home and the influx of Spanish-American War and World War I veterans presented new demands for medical care. Consequently, the National Home developed special facilities on existing branches that addressed musculoskeletal problems, respiratory diseases—particularly tuberculosis—and neuropsychiatric conditions. In 1930, Congress created the Veterans Administration and consolidated all federal programs providing veterans' benefits, including the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

The Department of Veterans Affairs continues to oversee the eleven branches of National Home, now components of the DVA's medical system. Although some of the historic buildings have been demolished, many others have been adapted for alternative purposes or leased to outside entities for compatible uses. Some historic buildings stand empty awaiting decisions about their fates; others continue to serve their original functions. A number of the original branches have retained only a few of the National Home-era buildings, while others contain historic cores that recall the institution's past.

The surviving architecture of the NHDVS helps to tell the story of the institution. The Main Building at the former Northwestern Branch in Milwaukee speaks of the initial

attempt to include all of the functions of the National Home under one roof. The chapel at the former Central Branch in Dayton, Ohio, illustrates the support given to veterans' spiritual needs. At the former Western branch in Leavenworth, Kansas, "Barracks Row" provides a picture of the way veterans' lived in their institutional "home" and surviving physical plant buildings portray the day-to-day operations of the facility. The conservatory and the bandstand at the former Battle Mountain Sanitarium in Hot Springs, South Dakota, recall amenities that contributed to disabled veterans' relaxation and repose. These and dozens of other buildings and complexes of buildings constructed during the NHDVS era convey the political, social, and economic factors that created the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and demonstrate the benefits that the institution provided to veterans.

The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers project will be the subject of an NCPH-sponsored presentation at the Organization of American Historians' regional meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, in July 2006. "Building a Home: Discovering the Architecture of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers" will discuss the architecture of the National Home and illustrate its ability to reflect the history of this significant institution.

Suzanne Julin, an independent historian working in Missoula, MT, is the principal investigator and Brian McCutchen, an NPS historian, is her collaborator on the NCPH project to assess the historical significance of NHDVS sites for the National Park Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs.



by Bruce Craig
rbcraig@historycoalition.org

RECLASSIFICATION AUDIT REPORT

On 26 April 2006 National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) officials released an audit report of what has been characterized as a “secret” NARA-sanctioned document reclassification effort by the CIA and several defense-related federal agencies. The report reveals the reclassification of about two-thirds of the documents pulled from NARA’s public shelves was technically justified, but that of a third—some 25,315 historical documents—was “clearly inappropriate” and involved materials that did not contain sensitive information. Auditors deemed another 12 percent of the documents “questionable” candidates for reclassification.

The report demonstrates reclassification was far more extensive than what had been previously disclosed, raises serious questions about NARA and ISOO oversight of re-review efforts, and brings to light new concerns about overclassification and the integrity of ongoing classification programs currently being conducted by federal agencies. Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein, who had ordered a moratorium of the covert reclassification program as well as the audit, said “More than one of every three documents removed from the open shelves and barred to researchers should not have been tampered with. That practice, which undermined the National Archives basic mission to preserve the authenticity of files under our stewardship, must never be repeated.”

Next steps? According to NARA sources, affected agencies have agreed in principle to creation of a pilot National Declassification Initiative to create a more reliable executive branch-wide declassification program. Perhaps of most concern to researchers, NARA has pledged to work with agencies to insure that documents removed improperly from open shelves “will be restored to public access as expeditiously as possible.”

SMITHSONIAN SHOWTIME DEAL

Independent documentary filmmakers, historians, and others who make use of Smithsonian collections, archives, and staff expertise have raised concerns about a semi-exclusive commercial agreement between the Smithsonian Institution (SI) and Showtime Networks Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of CBS Corporation that operates a premium cable service. The SI and Showtime have entered into a joint venture that seeks to develop, launch, and operate a Smithsonian television programming service called “Smithsonian on Demand.” Asserting that “no filmmaker has done programs about the Institution’s objects in more than 20 years” the SI’s goal in cutting the deal is to create more than 100 branded, original content programs a year about the Smithsonian’s collections and research. The arrangement also seeks to bring in an undisclosed amount of new revenue to the financially strapped institution. The SI hopes to have about 40 hours of

programming available to about 25 million households by December 2006. Critics protesting what appears to be a near-exclusive deal contend it unreasonably restricts access to the institution’s scientists, archives, objects, and collections.

Clearly, the motive behind the deal is twofold: the Smithsonian is looking for a way to develop its own film and television materials at no cost to the institution, and it wants to boost its non-federal revenue stream. Smithsonian officials recently stated the stark truth—in addition to the \$644 million requested federal appropriation it needs to operate the museums under its jurisdiction, an additional \$90-plus million is needed to reduce a backlog of repairs. One way to raise funds is to expand the Smithsonian Business Ventures division activities.

At this writing, several national organizations representing the history, archival, library, researcher, and humanities communities have set out a national strategy to address the issue. Congress has also let its views be known: The House Appropriations Committee has ordered a review of the agreement, forbidden Smithsonian officials to make any other agreements without Congressional review; they reduced the Smithsonian’s budget by \$15 million and added language in the appropriations bill to reduce the salaries of key Smithsonian officials. The Senate has not yet addressed the Showtime deal.

CLINTON BIRTHPLACE HOME

On 8 March 2006, by a vote of 409 to 12, the U.S. House of Representatives granted approval to the Secretary of the Interior to designate President Bill Clinton’s birthplace in Hope, Arkansas, as a National Historic Site. The legislation (H.R. 4192) was introduced by Representative Mike Ross (D-AK) with other members of the Arkansas Congressional delegation on 1 November of last year.

The legislation provides that the Hope residence located at 117 South Hervey Street will be established as a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) and given the name the “President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site” once the Clinton Birthplace Foundation donates the house and related property to the federal government. Figures provided by the NPS and Congressional Budget Office estimate the costs of preparing and operating the site would be about \$1 million a year. Congressional supporters maintain that “While there are numerous residences associated with Clinton, this property is the one most closely identified with his youth and early development.” The designation also has the support of President Clinton.

NPS insiders report that there was no contextual study to assess and compare the “suitability, feasibility, and historical significance” of this site with others associated with President Clinton. The NPS was not requested by the committee to comment on the proposal. NPS policy discourages designations of birthplaces as NPS units and instead favors designations of other sites more closely associated with a president’s historical significance.

Bruce Craig is the Director of the National Coalition for History.

AWARDS, GRANTS AND INTERNSHIPS

The **American Historical Association** has expanded the scope of the Herbert Feis Award for Distinguished Contributions to Public History. Formerly for outstanding literature by historians working outside of academe, other types of public history work will now be considered. This includes public history groups or agencies and museums. For more information contact the Book Prize Administrator at aha@historians.org.

The **Oral History Association** offers an award for a published article or essay that uses oral history to make a significant contribution to contemporary scholarship; and/or significantly advances understanding of important theoretical issues in oral history; and/or is an outstanding example of sound oral history methodology. For contact information and dates for application, visit http://www.dickinson.edu/oha/org_aw_06.html.

The **William P. Clements Center** for Southwest Studies and DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University invite applications for \$500/ week research grants to use the DeGolyer's special collections. Visit <http://smu.edu/swcenter/clemdeg.htm> or contact Andrea Boardman, Executive Director, at swcenter@smu.edu.

CONFERENCES AND LECTURE SERIES

The **Indiana Association of Historians** seeks workshop, roundtable, paper, and session proposals for its 27th annual meeting, at Indiana University, Bloomington, February 23-24, 2007. "Historians in Public: Sources, Interpretations, Audiences." Historians in all fields of specialty, as well as those working outside the academy, are especially welcome, as are proposals that vary from the conventional prepared-paper-and-comment format. In keeping with this year's theme,

the program committee particularly encourages the presentation of research exploring the public dimension of historical research and practice. Send a brief description (250 words max) and one-page c.v. for each presenter, to the IAH Program Committee, c/o Eric Sandweiss, Indiana University (sesandw@indiana.edu). All proposals must be received before September 15, 2006.

JOBS AND POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The **Kentucky Historical Society** seeks an associate editor to serve as an integral member of a publications staff that publishes *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, the commonwealth's scholarly historical journal; *Kentucky Ancestors*, the genealogy quarterly; and one or two books a year. Requirements: MA in American history, English, or related field, with some background in Kentucky and/or southern history; editing experience and knowledge of the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Send letter, resume/vita, writing sample, and list of references to Ken Williams, editor of *The Register* at Ken.Williams@ky.gov or Kentucky Historical Society, 100 West Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601-1931

Leavenworth County Historical Society and the Carroll Mansion Museum is soliciting motivated, self-directed candidates for its director position. Bachelor's degree in history, social sciences or management required. MA preferred. Salary DOQ. Qualified candidates shall demonstrate fundraising, community relations and management abilities. Visit www.leavenworthhistory.org for a complete job description or email leavenworthhistory@sbcglobal.net with inquiries.

The **Alabama Historical Commission** is seeking candidates for the position of executive director. Submit a resume and certified official academic transcript to John Powell, Alabama Historical Commission, 468 South Perry Street, Montgomery, AL 36130-0900;

Tel: 334-242-3184 ex. 654; jpowell@preserveala.org Details are at <http://www.preserveala.org/employmentopps.html> Applications considered until position is filled.

Tsongas Industrial History Center seeks a director to be responsible for strategic planning, leadership, partnership activities, and oversight of the center. Director also teaches one class per year and serves as a member of appropriate university councils and committees. PhD in history or a related field and ten years relevant experience. Send letter, resume, and names of three references to: Tsongas Center Director Search Committee c/o Human Resources, University of Massachusetts, Lowell 883 Broadway Street, Room 101 Lowell, MA 01854. Position remains open until the ideal candidate is chosen.

The **Montana Historical Society** seeks a full-time, permanent reference historian responsible for providing public access to a variety of archival and published collections found in Montana's oldest library, as well as responding to inquires by mail, email, and phone, regarding Montana history and genealogy. History MA with a working knowledge of Western American history; or an MA in library science, or an equivalent amount of experience in public history and specialized reference. Position will remain open until the ideal candidate is chosen. Contact: Mary Ann Bannon, P.O. Box 201201, Helena, MT 59620 or at <http://www.discoveringmontana.com/statejobs/statejobs.asp>

Turtle Bay Exploration Park in Redding California seeks a Director of Cultural Programs to oversee and develop art and history public exhibitions and programs, supervise and oversee the management, care, and maintenance of art and history collections used for programs, exhibitions, and education activities. MA or PhD in the field, or equivalent years of experience, and five or more years in related senior-level experience. Position will remain open until the ideal

candidate is chosen. Send letter, resume, salary history, and professional references to: Jacqué Holden, Director of Human Resources, Turtle Bay Exploration Park, P.O. Box 992360, Redding, CA 96099-2360.

Pasadena Heritage seeks a Program Director to develop and implement educational programs including architectural tours, Old Pasadena walking tours, and programs for private groups, and to coordinate oral history program. Position will remain open until the ideal candidate is chosen. Send resume and salary history to: Susan N. Mossman, Executive Director, Pasadena Heritage, 651 South St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105 or email as a Word attachment to preservation@pasadenaheritage.org with "program director" as the subject.

Western State College of Colorado seeks director for the Colorado Water Workshop to work with a regional advisory board in planning a 3-day conference on topical water issues facing the West. Includes half-time faculty appointment in the college's Environmental Studies program. MA or equivalent experience and experience in the western water field required. Position will remain open until a candidate is chosen. Send letter of application with full resume, transcripts, either a general statement of philosophy on water education for 21st century America or outline of 16-week course introducing undergraduates to "Water in the West," and have 3 current letters of reference sent to: Chair, Colorado Water Workshop Search Committee, Kelly Hall 112, Western State College of Colorado, Gunnison, CO 81231.

JRP Historical Consulting is hiring research assistants. Level I require upper division coursework in history or architectural history with majors in those subjects preferred. Experience with computer graphics and data bases a plus for all positions. Levels II and III Research Assistants require at a minimum a BA in history or architectural history, and research skills are criteria in the selection of candidates. Positions remain open until ideal candidates selected. Send resume and letter

of interest to rherbert@jrphistorical.com, or fax to 530-757-2566, or mail to JRP Historical Consulting, 1490 Drew Avenue, Suite 110, Davis CA 95616. Submission of a writing sample by mail is strongly suggested.

The **Maryland Historical Society** seeks a full-time School Resources Coordinator to develop and implement student research programs. Other duties include work with primary source kits and teacher training programs. Experience in teaching, museum education and primary source research preferred. A BA in history or education required, MA preferred. The position will remain open until a candidate is chosen. Send resume, letter, salary requirements, and writing sample to: MD Historical Society, 201 W. Monument St., Baltimore, MD 21201. Attn: HR. EOE.

Historic Cold Spring Village, Cape May County, NJ, seeks creative individual for the position of deputy director/curator for the Early American Open-Air Living History Museum who is highly motivated, detail-oriented, works effectively in a team-oriented environment as well as with advisory boards and community organizations, experienced in fund-raising, and skilled in grant-writing. MA degree in American studies, American history, historic preservation, public history or museum studies with a minimum of 5 years related experience is required. Send letters of interest, resumes and references to HCSV Foundation, c/o Anne Salvatore, 720 Route 9, Cape May, NJ 08204 or email to salvatop@hcsv.org.

C-SPAN is seeking a history producer to research, generate and produce public affairs programming with a concentration on American history. Producer will be responsible for creating programs that can air on the C-SPAN television, radio and online networks and will help develop, produce, and maintain a "History on C-SPAN" web site. Bachelor's degree in related field with minimum four years related work experience. Strong knowledge of and interest in American political history and public affairs. Ability to be a flexible team leader who can work

under deadline pressure. Willing to travel when necessary. To submit cover letter, resume and salary requirements, please visit our web site at www.C-SPAN.org then click "Jobs."

City of Sacramento, California, History and Science (Archives) Manager performs professional administrative and historical services in the direction and implementation of programs of the History & Science Division. Requires bachelor's degree with specialization in history or a related field and four years of experience in administrative work involving management of a historical agency. MA or PhD in a related field may substitute for the required experience. Salary Range: \$58,959 - \$88,439. For details or to apply online visit www.cityofsacramento.org/personnel

LexisNexis Historic Collections Project Manager to apply vision and business acumen to develop historic collection products for sale in the North American academic market. Responsibilities include identification of archival collections suitable for microform and digital imaging in topical areas including American studies and history, international studies, and social science. MA in history (PhD preferred) plus 3 years of relevant job experience. Applications will continue to be accepted until the position is filled. To apply visit www.lexisnexis.com/employment and reference Requisition #217854.

History Associates Incorporated (HAI) is seeking qualified researchers and archivists to join its team. HAI is a professional historical services firm in Rockville, Maryland, providing customized historical, archival and records management services to industry, the professions, government, and non-profit organizations for over 25 years. Salary is competitive; excellent benefits package includes holidays; annual and sick leave; medical, dental, life insurance; disability insurance; and a 401(k) plan. Learn more at <http://www.historyassociates.com/about/> about current openings.

National Council on Public History Annual Meeting

April 12-15, 2007
Santa Fé, New Mexico



MANY HISTORIES, MANY PUBLICS— COMMON GROUND?

Visit www.ncph.org for information
about submitting a proposal.

Proposal deadline is September 1, 2006.

Santa Fé stands as a place celebrated for its recognition of distinctive communities rooted in traditional societies and ancestral landscapes with the intended purpose of maintaining a continuity of cultures. Such commitment to continuity has often been at odds with the growth and progressive nature of both Santa Fé and much of the continental United States where issues are framed by conflict, negotiation, and adaptation. This place fittingly provides a unique environment to consider the theme “Many Histories, Many Publics—Common Ground?” As public historians we support the belief that there is value in the discipline of History and in the application of the discipline for a wide range of audiences. Our members come from a variety of places and ‘practice’ in a multiplicity of venues. The 2007 meeting invites exploration of the work generated by the full variety of public historians and welcomes presentations that challenge or support this idea of ‘common ground.’

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