



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

Second Series | Number 69
Summer 2021

SHFG
www.shfg.org

FEATURE YOUR PROJECT!

Want to spread the word about your work? *The Federalist* newsletter prints information about federal history projects and issues affecting federal history programs.

If you or your organization have news items related to federal history that you would like printed in *The Federalist*, or if you have a press release, feature article, or profile you would like to contribute, email the editor at shfgfederalist@gmail.com.

The Federalist welcomes contributors with information highlighting news of the profession, or who are willing to describe their projects for the SHFG audience!

Celebrating 20 Years of the Veterans History Project

By Kerry Ward

Every few generations, a global pandemic surfaces and causes the world to rethink the status quo and re-center around what is truly important. Despite the challenges of distance, time marches on, and through innovative practices, moments of togetherness and jubilation emerge.

The Veterans History Project (VHP) of the Library of Congress recently celebrated 20 years of collecting, preserving and making accessible the firsthand narratives of U.S. military veterans. In 2000, Congress unanimously signed legislation for the Project. The impetus was to ignite a national grassroots commitment to listen to and record veterans' experiences, so that these valuable perspectives would not be lost. A user-sourced archive of veterans' original materials, VHP provides volunteers (voluntary participants) with pedagogics and tools to assemble veterans' stories through oral histories, manuscripts, journals, letters, photographs and original artwork. By voluntarily submitting these memories to our national Library, individuals ensure these primary sources provide immeasurable value to historians, researchers and future generations. To date, "citizen historians" have preserved more than 111,000 veterans' original narratives, all of which are described online at <https://www.loc.gov/vets/>. To commemorate the momentous occasion of our 20th anniversary, VHP embarked on a year-long series of both in-person and virtual events and digital offerings.

Kicking off the celebration, VHP hosted a Veteran Art Showcase at the Library of Congress in



The Telling Project autobiographical theatrical performance in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress for the Veterans History Project 20th Anniversary. November 2019. Photo by Shaun Miller.

November 2019. As veteran stories can be told through various mediums, this series of cultural events highlighted artistic approaches with a focus on the myriad experiences of military veterans. The week-long Showcase featured ceramic demonstrations and discussion; occupational poetry readings; dialogue on paper-making and printmaking from military uniforms; an autobiographical theatrical performance entitled "She Went to War"; and concerts by Air Force veteran and metis fiddle player Jamie Fox and a Nashville songwriter with Operation Song. The ceramic potter portion was featured in the PBS "Craft In America" episode entitled "Democracy."

See "*Veterans History Project*" cont'd on page 5

INSIDE

Veterans History Project	1
President's Message	2
Editor's Note	3
Federal History: Call for Papers	3
Cryptologic History Symposium CFP	3
What do Historians Care About the Future?	4
Evolution of LOC Science and Technology Collections	6

About Time: The FBI at Lorton Prison	8
Documenting the Smithsonian's Pandemic Response	11
The First Resource	12
Call for Articles: The Journal of America's Military Past	13
Recent Publications	14
Making History	16
Calendar	20

The **FEDERALIST**

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

(ISSN 0736-8151)

Published Quarterly

The Society is a national professional organization open to all who are interested in federal history programs. Annual membership fee is \$55, \$35 students, \$100 institutions and includes a subscription to *The Federalist*, *Federal History* journal, and other periodic publications. Contributors are encouraged to submit articles, news listings, and photographs to the editors.

Current and back issues are available to members at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Federalist>. Content listings for all issues are posted at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/page-18090>.

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of *The Federalist*, the SHFG, or the agencies or organizations where the authors are employed.

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President's Message

Mattea Sanders

In April and May, I had the opportunity to spend five weeks at Maxwell Air Force Base attending Squadron Officer

School. We learned what it means to be a leader in today's Air Force and how military policy and strategy are made. One of the big lessons I took away was how to create a vision, mission, and purpose for an organization. With taking up the mantle of the Presidency of the Society for History of the Federal Government this month, my mind turned to solidifying SHFG's vision, mission, and purpose.

Beginning with our 2019 Hewlett lecture, the Society returned to our roots to think about why the organization was begun by our founding members. We thought through what we as an organization provide to our members and what our purpose is. Unfortunately, the global pandemic put so many of our plans for 2020 on the back burner.

One of the first items I will tackle is working on a strategic plan for the Society and determining the vision, mission, and purpose of our organization. As we begin, as a country, to look forward to returning to a new normal, SHFG must also look to the future of what we want our organization to be. What should our goals be for the next 5 to 10 years as an organization? I also believe we have struggled in the past to ensure active participation from our membership. I would like to create a structure of more active committees which are all stipulated in our By-Laws. These committees will allow a tiered system of participation for those without the ability to meet the time commitments of the full Executive Council. These committees will be charged with specific goals for the year. In addition to tasking my Executive Council I will also look to you, the membership, to assist in helping to develop both the strategic plan and the committee structure.

However, despite the global pandemic, we were still able to accomplish several goals last year. We improved our collaboration with

other historical professional organizations. We teamed up with the National Council on Public History for their virtual conference, and strengthened our long term relationship with American University's Public History program. We also completed a successful awards season highlighting the work of our colleagues across the field—congratulations to all this year's awards winners.

For these accomplishments and so much more I would like to thank outgoing President Elizabeth Charles. Her leadership through a tumultuous and ever-changing year, including having to navigate the organization through canceling a major conference, was nothing short of outstanding. I look forward to her continued leadership in the organization, and working with her and the rest of the council in the coming year.

This could not be more true today. Over the past few years, our membership numbers have dwindled. We work to do outreach to our colleagues, universities with public history programs, and agencies with large contingents of federal historians. I would urge you, as SHFG members, to promote the work and benefits of the Society within your offices and to your colleagues. Without our membership, we cannot succeed as an organization.

All in all, I think Holl's nine charges are certainly applicable to the Society in 2021 and moving forward. I am thankful that, even in a pandemic, the Society is finding ways to promote the work of federal historians and stay connected to our colleagues. I will look forward to the 2060-2061 Society president reflecting on these ideas in another 40 years.

GET INVOLVED!

SHFG is seeking enthusiastic members to serve on committees and to help with events.

For more information, please visit our website and fill out a questionnaire!

<http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Volunteer>

Editor's Note

Historical research requires making informed and critical assessments about the past, which is a process that makes the craft of history well suited to support social justice efforts and societal improvement. That is particularly true of federal history, since the reach of the federal government is wide, and the study of it encompasses many significant aspects of U.S. society. This issue of *The Federalist* features several federal history projects that strive to have a meaningful impact on our present and our future.

Kerry Ward describes the year-long 20th anniversary commemoration of the Veterans History Project, which highlighted the contributions to society made by veterans both during and after their active military service. **Karin McKie** tells the story of DC's federal prison at Lorton, which was closed in 2001 and is now the home of the Lucy Burns Museum, named for the suffragists who were imprisoned there in 1917 for picketing outside the White House. And **Historians for Future** outline how their new organization hopes to utilize the study of history to combat climate change.

Jennifer Wright highlights how Smithsonian Libraries and Archives is documenting the Smithsonian Institution's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Historian announces that the website for the venerable *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress* has undergone a major redesign. And the Head of the Science Reference Section in the Science, Technology and Business Division of the Library of Congress, **JJ Harbster**, tells the fascinating history of the Library's science and technology collections. I hope that future issues of *The Federalist* will have the opportunity to feature even more stories from the science collections, projects, and staff at LOC!

Comments and suggestions are welcome at shgffederalist@gmail.com or on Twitter [@faithtomfaith](https://twitter.com/faithtomfaith).

Federal History

CALL FOR PAPERS

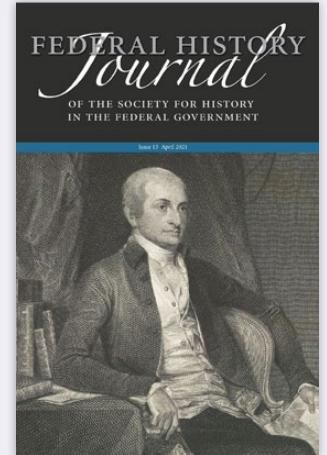
Federal History, journal of the Society for History in the Federal Government, seeks submissions for its April 2022 issue.

The journal promotes an interdisciplinary approach in its efforts to advance knowledge of the history of the federal government as well as of the professionals who produce historical work in government offices. It features scholarship on all aspects of the history and operations of the U.S. federal government, and of critical historical interactions between American society and the U.S. government, including the U.S. military, 1776 to the present.

It also publishes articles investigating contemporary issues and challenges in federal history work, including the areas of institutional history, interpretive work, museum work, records management, oral history, digital history, education, and library science. The journal highlights the research of historians working in or for federal agencies, in academia, and as independent scholars.

Federal History is an annual, peer-reviewed academic journal published both in print and online. It is indexed by Ebscohost. Read current and past issues at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/page-18340>, and submission guidelines at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Submission-Guidelines>.

Send a draft and CV to the editors at federalhistory@gmail.com for prompt consideration.



Cryptologic History Symposium CFP

The Center for Cryptologic History (CCH) and the National Cryptologic Foundation (NCF) invite proposals for papers to be presented at the 18th Cryptologic History Symposium, May 11-13, 2022. The Symposium will be held at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab Kossiakoff Center in Laurel, Maryland. The theme for the symposium is "Icons and Innovation."

Proposals are due September 7, 2021.

For more information visit, <https://cryptologicfoundation.org/what-we-do/educate/conferences/symposium.html>

What do Historians Care About the Future?

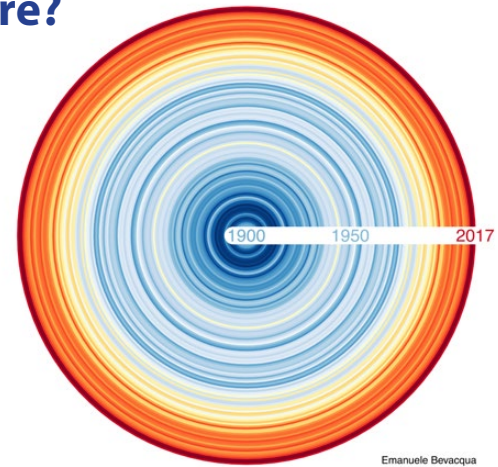
Historians for Future

While our climate has changed in the past, there is wide scientific consensus that the current, rapid change is anthropogenic and that our biodiversity loss, too, is caused by human factors. The Anthropocene, the proposed label for our current geological epoch of global human impact, poses epistemological challenges to us, since it undermines the boundary between nature and culture. It asks us to reconsider what it means to be human, at a time when we are also a force of nature. The ecological crisis we are facing is therefore not only a scientific issue but a complex social problem. It is deeply entangled with questions of social justice and human values. We believe that the humanities, and history in particular, can help us cope with this crisis. As historians, we study the causes and long-term effects of changing cultural and natural environments. We are therefore particularly well equipped to interrogate the current crisis and to help find sustainable ways of living that pay heed to scientific findings.

Historians study the long history of climate change, and how societies have adapted to changing environments in the past. We study the histories of scientific expertise, authority, and (the lack of) trust in science, histories of human-animal relations, environmental policy, diplomacy, and other ways of knowing climate, as well as histories that lay bare the colonial legacy and continuing global injustice of the Anthropocene. Importantly, the histories we write show that our current situation was not inevitable but, to a large extent, the result of our past decisions. History shows us that there are alternatives to today's production of goods, transportation, or our economic system. The world could be otherwise.

Historians also have analytical, narrative, and often didactic skills, which can help broaden public understanding of the crisis we are facing. We are able writers, speakers, and teachers, and we know that the language we use to communicate the climate crisis matters. We are professional critics of the historical narratives that shape our view of the world: from theological narratives of redemption or a liberal belief in progress and increased democratization, to apocalyptic prophecies of doom. We aim to create a deeper awareness of how such narratives guide our imagination — even scientific imaginations — of what possible climate futures might look like. And we seek to offer alternative stories to imagine that future.

At the same time, we have come a long way from using sources only to establish historical facts. While we remain convinced that some evidence is more trustworthy, and some observers are more reliable than others, we are interested in how and why people perceived historical events differently — and how and why some imagined climate futures were realised, while others remained distant. Historians are therefore well trained to help reconcile different perspectives, including views on how to address the climate emergency. We are also well placed to provide vignettes or 'historical moments' that



A Circular Warming stripe graphic, created by Emanuele Bevacqua, depicting mean global temperature since 1900 with concentric colored rings.

illuminate socio-political events in climate change history that have contributed to the current crisis.

We can help people understand past and present discourses around climate change and how they have been used to pass the blame, as well as the responsibility to act. We are also sensitive to the injustices of colonial histories that haunt the discourse of climate change, and we are committed to promoting empathy and solidarity with those worst affected by climate chaos: Indigenous communities, migrants, and the people of the Global South.

About a year ago, during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and national lockdowns, we made our first attempt at founding a Historians for Future climate group, drawing inspiration from the wider Fridays for Future movement. We come from many different countries and academic backgrounds, and welcome everyone, from professors to PhD students. From the start, we faced the challenge of wanting to develop activist strategies while not being able to meet in person or protest in the streets, and the pandemic exacerbated the precarious position of many of our members. This pushed us into finding people and collaborating in new ways. Through our online meetings, we have developed a series of public projects, including a resource list for people interested in finding out more about the climate crisis; a blog about climate histories and activism; and an upcoming podcast series.

Our activism can serve to generate research interests and bring to the fore issues that would otherwise go unheard. We are aware of the apparent tension between our academic historical work, which many continue to hold against a standard of objectivity and disinterestedness, and our activism. However, as histories of science have shown time and time again, it is impossible to disentangle research from personal interests and politics, even if the ideal of objectivity is worth holding in high regard. Every historian chooses to turn their attention to one topic and not another, or chooses some sources over others, while only some research projects receive funding in the first place. And in cases

where only a few historical sources remain, these are often the result of politically informed decisions about which sources are worth preserving, as historians of U.S. politics well know.

We do not think that wanting to keep our planet habitable, and having compassion with the people who are worst affected by the climate crisis, is an ideologically fraught issue, or that it threatens our integrity as researchers. On the contrary, we owe it to our historical profession, our colleagues, students, and the rest of the world, to make sure we can continue to study history in a world

that is habitable and sustainable. It is impossible to separate knowledge from politics. All action has normative and intellectual aims; it is our duty to bring these to the fore and recognise how they influence our own work and action. Given the multifaceted, all encompassing nature of climate change, we cannot remain on the fence concerning climate and environmental activism.

If you want to find out more about Historians for Future or get involved, you can find their website at <https://historiansforfuture.org/> or email contact@historiansforfuture.org

“Veterans History Project” from page 1

With the closure of the Library buildings to the public and a shift to virtual formats during the pandemic, VHP continued to engage with current and prospective participants through collaborative workshops, radio media tours and presentations, including the National Book Festival. The annual Post Traumatic Stress discussion panel focused on veteran entrepreneurship, including information on available resources and the ways the panelists were overcoming pandemic challenges.

In addition, VHP was able to leverage the archival side of the Project by launching three Experiencing War website features, curating VHP collections around the themes of “End of World War II: 75th Anniversary,” “First, Serve: Athletes in Uniform” and “Celebrating 20 Years: VHP Staff Favorites.” Also, VHP collaborated with the Arsenal of Democracy to host a flyover to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II. Approximately 100 World War II aircraft were planned to fly over the skies of Washington, D.C. monuments in an effort to educate the public and pay tribute to our “greatest generation’s” contributions. The flyover was cancelled due to weather, however, VHP was still able to connect veteran collections to the aircraft and formations through seventeen “Aviator Log Books,” which were distributed to the various originations, aircraft crew, airport staff, local libraries and museums and online via the Folklife Today blog series.

During the pandemic extended telework period, VHP staff relayed what the shift to a remote environment was like for them, and what they were working on at home through a six-part blog series, “Working Together Apart.” The articles ranged from introspective to humorous.

The yearlong festivities culminated in November 2020 with a virtual musical performance and discussion panels. The intent was to inspire conversations around the collection as both an archival resource and a diverse repository of veterans’ experiences — a mission VHP has met for the past 20 years. Participants wrote and performed musical pieces relating to being a Vietnam War “Gold Star sister,” and the pride of military legacy within their families. Operation Song paired songwriters with veterans to share their experiences surrounding Post Traumatic Stress after Iraq deployments, and a veteran’s voyage from Vietnamese orphan, to U.S. Navy Military Assistant, to the Deputy Under



Social Media event banner from “Conversations on Conversing: Veterans Discuss VHP Participation” one of VHP’s 20th Anniversary events.

Secretary of Defense and veteran advocate. Panel discussions brought together veterans to share their experience with participation, organizational benefits and interviewer best practices.

Over the past two decades, individuals and organizations have engaged in the rich and rewarding experience of listening and learning from the veterans in their lives and communities. In doing so, they unearthed stories from those who may never have shared before despite having had a front-row seat to some of our nation’s most pivotal historical moments. More than 7,000 hours of audio and 9,000 hours of video have been digitized and made available on VHP’s website. Through these efforts, educators, researchers, students and scholars have used these primary resources to understand the human aspect of scholarly works and classroom instruction. Exhibits, documentaries and at least 500 books or scholarly articles have cited VHP collections to inform their work. These materials will be accessible to generations to come, to remind them of what veterans have accomplished through their service and sacrifices. While these efforts are notable, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that there are more than 18 million veterans in the U.S. today. Each one of these veterans has a story to be told, represents a lesson to be learned, a perspective to consider. Those interested in taking part in this historical endeavor and/or who are interested in future VHP programs can head to loc.gov/vets to learn more.

Kerry Ward is the Liaison Specialist at the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress.

Evolution of the Library of Congress Science and Technology Collections

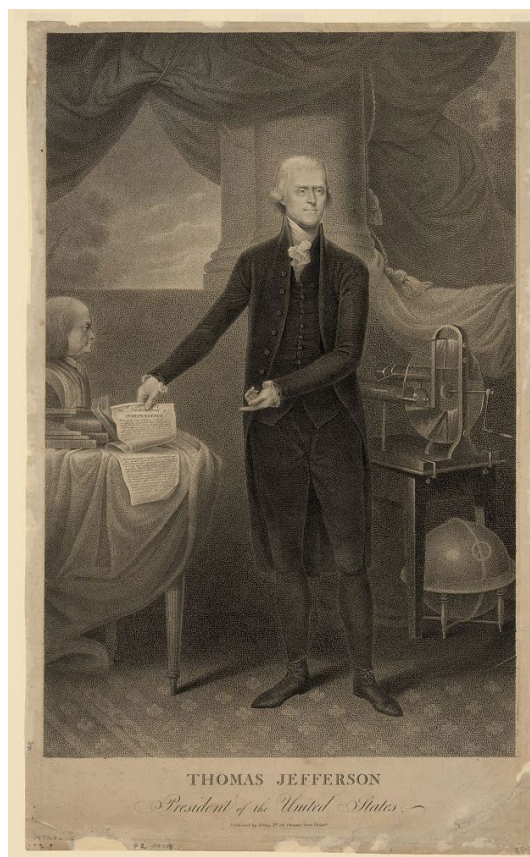
By JJ Harbster

The Library of Congress has a long tradition of collecting material relating to science and technology, beginning with Thomas Jefferson, who had a strong interest and knew the importance science would bring to our developing country. His personal library included all that was “chiefly valuable in science and literature generally, extends more particularly to whatever belongs to the American statesman.” (Letter: Thomas Jefferson to Samuel H. Smith, September 21, 1814). Jefferson influenced the early collecting of the Congressional Library by providing desiderata lists and donating books which often included titles on a range of science subjects and, in 1815, the purchase of his personal library by Congress solidified the role of science at the Library. Close to 500 items of the 6,487 titles focused on fields in natural philosophy, agriculture, chemistry, zoology, and technical arts. The books were purchased by the Congress as a replacement for the original parliamentary library which had been destroyed in 1814 when the British burned down the Capitol.

Another significant milestone in developing the Library of Congress (LC) science collections was the Smithsonian Deposit. In 1865, a fire in the Smithsonian Castle made it clear that their collections were in jeopardy of being destroyed and lost. Secretary Joseph Henry sought permission from Congress to deposit the Smithsonian books in the fireproof quarters of the Library of Congress. The Smithsonian’s collection was especially abundant in scientific memoirs, transactions, and periodicals of learned scientific societies and museums, exploring expeditions, and observatory reports from across the world. The transfer of material from the Smithsonian Deposit greatly broadened LC’s science collections and permanently influenced their development. By 1867, the Library acquired around 40,000 volumes from the Smithsonian, and when all was said and done, it is estimated that 500,000 items were added via the Smithsonian Deposit.

The science collections grew at a steady pace with the help of the Copyright Act of 1870 reinstated by Librarian of Congress Ainsworth Rand Spofford. It mandated that material registered for copyright in the U.S. required the deposit of two copies that could ultimately be acquired for the Library’s collections. The Library does not acquire all published materials, but selects from copyright deposits and other sources based on Collections Policy Statements designed to ensure that the Library acquires important and scholarly works.

In the beginning of the 20th century, the country had their sights on the potential aviation science and technology could bring to the commercial, military, and civil domains. In 1929, the Library established an Aeronautics Division with a grant from the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics. This funding would ultimately centralize aeronautical collections, creating a national aeronautical library within the Library



Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States by Cornelius Tiebout, engraver and Rembrandt Peale, portrait painter (1801). <https://www.loc.gov/item/96522974/>

of Congress. It also provided funds to acquire large historical aeronautical collections and hire staff dedicated to work specifically with this growing collection. When the division was formed in 1929, it held 3,113 titles in its aeronautical collection, and by April 1930, the aeronautical collections contained 9,327 volumes and pamphlets. Because of the efforts of the Aeronautics Division, the Library has one of the largest historical aviation collections in the world.

World War II brought a surge of scientific and technical literature to the Library. In 1946, the Library became the official repository for the wartime Office of Scientific Research and Development (OSRD) reports. The Science and Technology Project, sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, was established at the Library to catalog the technical literature that included the 30,000 OSRD titles. In addition, the Publications Board (PB) of the Department of Commerce began to issue unclassified research, and the Library had the responsibility to distribute reports through its Publication Board Section within its Photoduplication Service. It became apparent to Library administration that there was a need to establish a separate science division whose sole responsibility would be to amass, process, describe, organize, and service newly acquired science and technical literature. The Library’s budget presented to Congress for



Science and Business Reading Room, John Adams Building, Library of Congress. Photograph by Carol M. Highsmith, 2007. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2007687090/>

fiscal year 1947 contained a request for a dedicated Science Division, and in June 1949, by General Order No. 1403, the new Science Division was created within the Reference Department, ultimately adding the Aeronautics Division as the Aeronautics Section in 1950.

In 1958, the Science Division changed its name to the Science and Technology Division, incorporating its former activities and adding new ones. For the next four decades the Science and Technology Division evolved and grew. It carried out several large-scale research contract projects for the U.S. Navy, Army, and Air Force and specialized research services such as the Cold Regions Bibliography Projects, which published the *Antarctic Bibliography* (1965-1998), sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the *Bibliography on Cold Regions Science and Technology* (1969-1999), sponsored by the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory. In 1998, the Division's focus was dramatically expanded when the Science and Technology Division and the Business Reference Section (originally established as a part of the Library's Humanities and Social Sciences Division) were merged to form the Science, Technology and Business Division (ST&B).

Today, the ST&B Division provides specialized reference and information services, research orientations, lectures, special programs, resource guides, and curated displays, along with developing the Library's general, electronic, and web archive collections in all areas of science, technology, business, and economics. In addition, the Division develops, maintains, and services its own specialized collections of technical reports, standards, and international gray literature in the subject areas mentioned above.

The seminal core of Jefferson's science and technology material has been embellished and enlarged through purchases, copyright deposit, the Smithsonian Deposit, and other programs, and today comprises what is now over 40 percent of the Library's general collections. The Library's technical reports and standards collection is one of the largest and most accessible collections of this type in the world. This collection currently includes more than 3 million technical reports and half a million national, international, and foreign standards. Science can be found throughout the Library — in its manuscripts, rare books, prints and photographs, maps, moving images, recorded sound, and international collections. I am looking forward to sharing more about the Library of Congress science collections, programs, and staff with SHFG members in future newsletter issues.

Selected Library of Congress Web Links:

- Ask a Science Librarian <https://ask.loc.gov/science>
- Using the Science and Business Reading Room video <https://www.loc.gov/item/webcast-9070>
- Technical Reports and Standards <https://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/trs/trsover.html>
- Science Reference Service <https://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech>
- Aeronautics at the Library of Congress: Forty Years of One User's Experience <https://www.loc.gov/item/webcast-4217> — A nationally known aviation historian and biographer of the Wright brothers, Tom Crouch, has been mining the treasures of the Library of Congress for more than four decades.

JJ Harbster is the Head of the Science Reference Section in the Science, Technology and Business Division of the Library of Congress.

Donate to SHFG

Support New SHFG Events

Please donate to SHFG's current efforts to organize and promote new events and workshops. These events will provide opportunities for professional development: to meet colleagues, exchange ideas, and learn more about the federal community. We urge you to contribute to our General Fund. You can donate the amount of your choice, either by check or online payment (at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Donate>).

Your donations also support all activities of the Society, including publication of *The Federalist* newsletter, *Federal History* journal, and stories and news for our website; our annual conference, the Richard G. Hewlett Lecture; and programming such as occasional tours, workshops, and social events that help students and historians develop in their careers.

About Time: The FBI at Lorton Prison

By Karin McKie

The Wall, The Hill, The Hole, and The Quack were nicknames for incarceration zones in the DC Correctional Facility at Lorton, a now-repurposed microcosm of 20th century American social, political and carceral history. Decades before those colloquialisms arose, the prison workhouse was built at the urging of President Theodore Roosevelt's District of Columbia penal commission. In 1910, reform advocates sought a kinder and more effective rehabilitation system than what was happening at DC's jail. Lorton inmates constructed their own housing from bricks made on the premises, as well as operated the on-campus Lorton and Occoquan Railroad. The complex was nearly self-sufficient and initially raised its own crops and animals, including a dairy: "Saving souls and soils, that is the work this remarkable prison is doing" (Young Persons Weekly, 1927).

In 1914, the DC government built an adjacent reformatory, and then added a penitentiary in 1936. The entire reservation came under DC Department of Corrections administration in 1946. Lorton was also a civil defense site starting in 1959, secretly housing a Cold War emergency communications center for the District, as well as a large Nike anti-aircraft missile site with six magazines of four launchers. Those facilities became a showcase for national security practices.

In response to the Federal Youth Corrections Act, the Youth Center opened in 1960 (ironically, the only part of the prison *not* policed by federal agencies), to help prisoners aged 18-22 learn a trade or earn a high school equivalency degree in order to get their records expunged. Those buildings were designed to resemble a college campus, and implemented open plan dormitories. But eventual overcrowding caused older adult felons to be locked up next to the younger ones, in a prison with a growing national reputation for unaddressed recidivism, unprecedented corruption, violent drug gangs, and crumbling facilities that would cost almost a billion dollars to update. A landfill was also located next to the lockup, so the entire area was considered unsavory. The understaffed and underfunded prison, deemed increasingly dangerous within a growing suburban community, was permanently closed by Congress in 2001.

When Lorton closed, the District lost both the right and responsibility to control its prisoners and prison system, a constitutional power enjoyed by other states. Hundreds of employees lost their jobs, and prisoners were relocated to other facilities that were often much further away from loved ones, contributing to inmate isolation and desperation, and impacting rehabilitation.

Fairfax County Virginia purchased more than 2,000 acres from the General Services Administration when the prison shuttered. Some of the land was developed into residential properties but the majority was used for two parks, a public golf course, plus an elementary, middle and high school. The Workhouse Arts Center repurposed the former Workhouse as artists' studios, a



**LUCY BURNS
MUSEUM**
**91 YEARS OF PRISON
HISTORY AT LORTON**

theater, and community events facilities.

The Lucy Burns Museum opened in 2020, during the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment legalizing American women's right to vote. The museum is named for and commemorates the suffragists imprisoned there in 1917 for picketing outside the White House.

* * *

Located 20 miles south of the Nation's Capital, Lorton Prison was under federal oversight because the facility was on federal land. Crimes committed in a federal prison were federal offenses, not under the auspices of Fairfax County or the Commonwealth of Virginia. Those prosecuted in US district courts were federal prisoners, who were then sent to either the DC Jail or to Lorton, one of the few nationwide facilities to house minimum, medium and maximum security prisoners in one place.

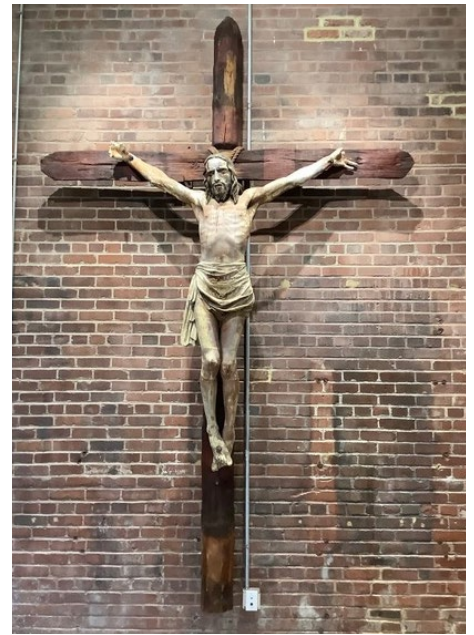
Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were summoned to handle any onsite crimes, including those committed by inmates as well as by corrections officers and prison employees, like corruption, theft or other misconduct. Any prisoners who failed to return from "work release" or who outright escaped were charged with the separate federal crime of "escaped federal prisoner." The Former Agents of the FBI Foundation funded an exhibit within the Lucy Burns Museum to highlight the unique relationship between the Bureau and Lorton.

Former FBI agent and Watergate burglar G. Gordon Liddy was incarcerated at Lorton, but most FBI agents fought crimes there rather than perpetrating them. Notable federal crimes committed at Lorton include the stabbing murder of Correctional Officer Michael Francis Hughes on February 13, 1958, when he tried to separate two inmates in the day room; the off-campus assassinations of FBI Special Agents Anthony Palmisano and Edwin Woodruffe, the first African-American agent to be killed in the line of duty, perpetrated while the pair was trying to apprehend escapee Billie Austin Bryant after a DC bank robbery, on January 8, 1969; and the inmate murder of CO Michael Roy Kirby on November 30, 1973, when he discovered



Above: Formerly a prison workhouse built in 1924 and renovated from 2004 to 2006, the Workhouse Arts Center is now home to the Lucy Burns Museum. Photo by Alan McKie.

Right: A crucifix created by a Lorton prisoner; now on display at the Lucy Burns Museum. Photo by Alan McKie.



prisoner-made contraband. Kirby's body was found stuffed in a manhole at the prison.

Former counterintelligence and espionage agent Ted Edwards recalls that the FBI's Washington Field Office had an entire squad dedicated to investigate "Lorton case" crimes, mostly scenes of prison violence where inmate disputes ended with a stabbing by a homemade weapon. The WFO assigned probationary special agents to gain experience working on criminal cases. Newer agents would enter the prison grounds and walk among the population to gather evidence, then take witness and victim statements.

"Lorton was essentially a 'throw away' for every entity that had a stake in it," says retired Special Agent Daniel E. Lund. Virginia authorities wanted nothing to do with the site, and the DC Department of Corrections was poorly staffed and managed. He adds that it didn't help that Lorton was never constructed to be a full penal facility, coupled with the fact that some inmate leadership grew so strong that they dictated policy to the administrators, rather than the other way around.

Many inmates had grown up together in the District and nearby, notes former agent Jim Hammock, and continued to run their criminal enterprises inside the facility. Retired agent Charlie Prouty adds that since most inmates came from DC, their pecking order was already established. Inmate leaders held tight control over the prison population and easily coordinated criminal activity like contraband smuggling, retaliatory violence and murder.

Hammock recalls that inmate Ian Thorne ordered another inmate to murder someone to prove his power within the prison, and that Darryl Stokes stabbed prisoners and officers who didn't show him respect. "When I had to work a homicide on his tier, I wore a suit because I knew I would have urine and feces thrown at me if I appeared to be an investigator," Hammock says. "I put on the suit to appear to be an attorney in order to process the scene. Inmates asked me for my business card, but I told them I was working pro bono."

Agent Richard Lack remembers that "the Lorton team and administrators treated us great because they wanted us to come back," including to play baseball versus the prison team. "The prisoners would attend the games and were quite vocal," he adds. "Lots of betting going on, and some even bet on our FBI team," despite the fact that, at one game, the FBI pitcher hit the prison's lead batter in the head. That inmate was doing life for murder, but laughed off the painful pitch.

* * *

Retired FBI Special Agent and Judge Hal Neilson says the DC administration was under constant investigation, and doesn't think they cared too much about what happened at Lorton. After making prison arrests, the FBI would make suggestions that were ignored, likely due to understaffing. "Lorton was a horrible place to be incarcerated due to the lack of management and lack of reform," he says. "A lot of stabbings and murders could have been prevented. Lorton turned most people into animals instead of helping them to prepare to re-enter society. Poor administration is absolutely to blame for the crime inside and likely for its closure."

Neilson also remembers the limited education and rehabilitation programs, leaving "only hardened criminal inmates educating everyone on how to be better criminals."

Neilson worked Lorton's violent crimes, including escapes (some inmates wore officers' clothing to slip out), murders and stabbings by a variety of shanks, which were handmade weapons made of plastic, wood and metal, that were hidden in clothes, slippers, wall cracks, heaters and mattresses. At the time, surveillance cameras were limited and inmates knew where they were located so they didn't help prevent such assaults. Neilson would interview inmates who were more likely to cooperate if they were moved to better facilities or received sentence leniency. But

See "*Lorton Prison*" cont'd on page 10

“Lorton Prison” from page 9

he had to be careful to protect the interviewees, because snitches could get stitches, or worse.

A Lorton informant aided the high-profile prosecution of the murderer of civil rights activist Medgar Evers, Lund remembers. In exchange for an earlier release, prisoner Lester Paul Hockman shared conversations that he had with Byron De La Beckwith when they were both in Angola State Prison. Klansman De La Beckwith murdered Evers in 1963 but was acquitted twice by all-white hung juries. Hockman’s information identified new witnesses that helped secure a 1994 conviction, as recounted in the film *Ghosts of Mississippi* and the book *Never Too Late: A Prosecutor’s Story of Justice in the Medgar Evers Case*.

Judge Neilson was also an FBI case agent on numerous undercover sting operations, working with inmate informants to catch corrupt guards who smuggled drugs, guns and other contraband into the various incarceration levels. Some crooked COs would steal furniture from inside the prison to sell outside.

Many inmates tried cultivating relationships with correctional officers. They might have toys delivered to the officers’ children at Christmas, Hammock recalls. Then the inmates might ask for a Big Mac from McDonald’s, or vodka in a water bottle, or cocaine. Prisoners would also work to connect with outsiders, such as calling women from the phone book until they found someone who was lonely, develop a relationship, then start requesting contraband. One group of inmates claimed to be part of a religious sect and requested visits from women members, who were actually prostitutes. The prisoners sold sex in the closets and filmed the acts, then rented the tapes to others for money, drugs, or cigarettes, called “gold” because they were so valuable inside. (DC’s Go-Go music pioneer and one-time Lorton inmate Chuck Brown of the “Bustin’ Loose” Soul Searchers famously learned how to play after trading two packs of smokes for a guitar.)

“Most agents hated Lorton,” says Hammock, “But I loved the education!”

Former agent and current criminal justice lecturer Sam Simon, Jr., was one of the haters. “Lorton was the least favorite part of my job,” he says. “We had to leave our weapons locked in our vehicles, and enter a facility where I was personally responsible for a dozen or so inmates. I always felt most insecure and unsafe walking into that facility without my service weapon, handcuffs, or anything to offer self-protection.”

“The guards always traveled with us for our security, but processing crime scenes in a prison is not an exciting or gratifying job,” Simon adds. “It was an excellent opportunity for new, young crime scene investigators to hone their skills. But, in the end, it was always the same, one convict fighting with another convict over some perceived slight.”

* * *

According to the Winter 2016 Harvard Kennedy School Magazine, America has five percent of the world’s population, but 25% of the world’s prisoners. The number of currently

incarcerated Americans is eight times that of the early 1970s, with minorities accounting for 60%: Latinx people are sentenced at three times, and African-Americans at six times, the rate of whites. In 1997, 95% of reformatory prisoners were Black. At the beginning of this millennium, more than eight million Black children, nearly ten percent of those under 18, have fathers in prison.

Judge Neilson says there were people who belonged at Lorton, and that there was no way to “fix” them for society. “However, the majority of inmates were people who made mistakes and committed a crime,” Neilson adds. “Those people should not have been forced to deal with the corruption inside the facilities, and sometimes resorted to other crimes to just stay alive.”

Sam Simon says that when Lorton was finally shut down, “our unit used the site to conduct squad training. We would practice clearing rooms and other defensive tactics at the facility. To be perfectly honest, I was not heartbroken to see it closed. I felt utter dread when I entered Lorton.”

The 20th century carceral experiment at Lorton started with reform in mind, but left a legacy of mismanagement, corruption and human rights abuses. Yet the facility also managed to be a meaningful training ground for federal agents, both before and after closure. But “prisons should not be operated that way,” says Judge Neilson. “I am certain the FBI made a difference and gave many hope. But realistically, we were just scratching the surface of what was actually going on there.”

* * *

A feature about the history and creation of the Lucy Burns Museum is available here: <https://www.aam-us.org/2020/03/02/silent-no-more-the-new-lucy-burns-museum-speaks-to-the-centennial-of-suffrage/>

“Coping with Life Behind Bars,” a gallery of inmate art, music, theater and prose here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WUPmHLn51b5O9JSWzNF1gz9fxT2wNFDR/view>

Video of Frank Sinatra and the Count Basie Orchestra performing at Lorton in 1965: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1e8VFJkh61A>

The Lucy Burns Museum’s COVID visiting hours are on Saturdays. A virtual tour, additional videos and a donation portal are linked here: <https://www.workhousearts.org/lucyburnsmuseum/>

Special thanks to the Lucy Burns Museum and Museum Director (and mom) Laura McKie, the Workhouse Arts Center (@WorkhouseArts), Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI Executive Director Nancy Savage, and the retired agents who shared stories about their time at Lorton.

Karin McKie is a Chicago-based writer, educator and activist — visit KarinMcKie.com

Documenting the Smithsonian's Pandemic Response

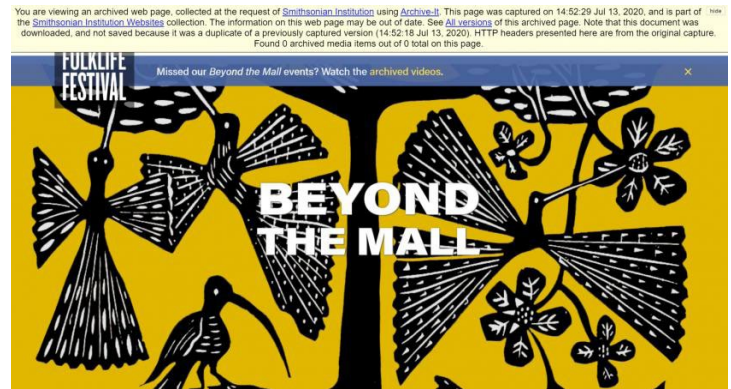
This article was posted at the Smithsonian Institution Archives blog The Bigger Picture (<https://siarchives.si.edu/blog>) by Jennifer Wright on March 16, 2021.

On Friday, March 13, 2020, the Archives staff, like thousands of people in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area and beyond, left the office for “at least two weeks, maybe longer” to “slow the spread” of the coronavirus known as COVID-19. Fast forward one year and I am writing this blog post in my living room with a cat on my lap. We have still not returned to the office nor do we know yet when we will.

This hasn't been a staycation though. While we cannot do anything that requires access to our physical collections, many of the Smithsonian's Archives staff are still able to perform a portion, if not all, of their regular work remotely. We have also used this time to catch up with our routine work and to start projects that we've wanted to do but haven't had time. Some staff have even had the opportunity to cross-train by assisting with the activities of other teams within the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives. In particular, numerous staff, regardless of their regular duties, have been detailed to photograph identification and metadata creation and cleanup—tasks that are seemingly endless.

One of the Archives' projects during this time is to ensure that we are documenting the Smithsonian's response to the pandemic as part of its institutional history. The museums and Zoo closed to the public on March 2020. Some reopened in late summer and early fall, but all were closed again in November 2020. From reimagining in-person events to developing new educational resources for kids stuck at home, the Smithsonian has creatively adapted their approaches to engaging with its audiences and sharing its expertise.

While there will certainly be emails, planning documents, reports, and other records of the pandemic response maintained by staff, much can be seen through the Smithsonian's web presence. We have been periodically reviewing the central Smithsonian website as well as the websites of each museum and major program to determine if there is any new content that clearly responds to the pandemic and pandemic-related issues. We then use a web crawler to capture that section of the website. This allows us to preserve a snapshot of the content as it existed in that moment of time, even after the section has been removed from the live web. Once the pandemic has effectively ended and we have entered the “new normal,” all of these captures will be combined into a single collection and identified as documenting the Smithsonian's COVID-19 pandemic response, thereby allowing future researchers to more easily identify relevant content.



Screenshot from the Smithsonian Folklife Festival website as it existed on July 13, 2020.

Some examples of activities we've documented include:

- The Smithsonian Folklife Festival, a summer staple on the National Mall since 1967, was transformed into a series of online conversations and performances throughout the summer and fall of 2020.
- The first Smithsonian facilities to do so, the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center and the National Zoo reopened to the visitors on July 24, 2020, under new health and safety protocols including free timed tickets.
- The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center launched “Standing Together Against Xenophobia” in response to the rise in anti-Asian racism that accompanied the pandemic.
- The Smithsonian Science Education Center developed a COVID-19 curriculum, available in 15 languages, centered upon protecting yourself and others from the virus.
- The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden asserted that “art is everywhere, including home” and supported its statement with real-time conversations with artists and curators, virtual art and maker activities for kids, video tours, and other online events and resources.
- The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center introduced interactive virtual field trips and has periodically reopened its trails and docks to the public during times that are traditionally less crowded.
- The National Museum of American History asked the public to share their personal 2020 stories in order to create a time capsule of a year marked by a pandemic, economic crisis, police violence, and protest.
- Similarly, the Anacostia Community Museum promoted Moments of Resilience, an online initiative to collect stories of communities supporting each other through difficult times.
- And with everything else closed, the Chandra X-ray Center, operated by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory on behalf of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, assured researchers that the Observatory continues to operate as usual.

See “Smithsonian” cont'd on page 12

“Smithsonian” from page 11

In the time since we captured the webpage snapshots noted above, some of the content has already been removed from the live web or has been updated to include new information and resources. In many cases we’ve captured the same page multiple times during the pandemic to document how it has evolved. At the top of each of the web crawls, there is a banner that contains the date it was captured and hyperlinks to “All

versions” of the archived page. By clicking this link, you can access a calendar that lists every instance that the Archives has crawled the webpage since the beginning of the pandemic. At the top of the calendar is a link to the live website.

These web crawls will only be one piece of the future history of the Smithsonian’s pandemic response, but, if not captured now, they may be lost forever.

The First Resource

This article was posted at Whereas: Stories from the People’s House (<https://history.house.gov/Blog/OHH-Blog>) by the U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Historian on April 6, 2021.

Representative Alexander Cumming McWhorter Pennington of New Jersey was a two-term Member of the House of Representatives during the 33rd and 34th Congresses (1853–1857). He served as the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and later died in New York City.

At a whopping 35 characters, Mr. Pennington is known to the Office of the House Historian as possessing the longest name in the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress* (affectionately called “Bioguide”), a compendium of personal and career information on every person who has ever served in Congress.

Pennington may have had a superlative name, but his Bioguide profile, which first appeared in the original 1859 print edition of the *Biographical Directory*, is a typical one. In one paragraph, it covers the scope of his life, including his birth, education, pre-House activities, party affiliation, committee chairmanship, and death:

a Representative from New Jersey; born in Newark, N.J., July 2, 1810; completed preparatory studies; attended the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., 1826-1828; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1833 and commenced practice in Newark; member of the state general assembly in 1837 and 1838; alderman of Newark 1837-1840; elected as a Whig to the Thirty-third Congress and reelected as an Opposition Party candidate to the Thirty-fourth Congress (March 4, 1853-March 3, 1857); chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs (Thirty-fourth Congress); moved to New York City, where he died January 25, 1867; interment in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Newark, N.J.

The *Directory*’s style—this chronological list of biographical information—has remained largely the same during the course of its 162-year history. But in 1998 a revolution occurred in how Bioguide’s content was made accessible to the public. Pennington’s entry, alongside thousands of other Member profiles, was uploaded to a new state-of-the-art database: the *Online*

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress at bioguide.congress.gov!

Debuting the week of November 9, 1998, the database combined three key components to help users discover more about every Member of Congress: biographical information, the location and scope of known research collections, and a list of published material in a bibliography.

Revolutionary and Accessible

For its time, the online Bioguide was groundbreaking. The *Directory* became the first stop on an internet search for information about a Member of Congress. As the web grew, so did Bioguide and its loyal following of congressional scholars, genealogical dabblers, and eager students.

When the *Directory* was just a print publication, decades often passed before an updated volume was published. But when Bioguide launched online, the House and Senate History offices responsible for maintaining the *Directory* were able to make daily edits and updates, and new Members could be added at the start of every Congress. Between requests for more information about obscure Members and diligent researchers submitting suggested changes to Member entries, the offices received hundreds of Bioguide-related inquiries each year. The editors grew thankful for the millions of sets of eyes that now browsed through more than 12,000 *Directory* entries. Even Representative Pennington received an update in 2006. Researchers pointed out that in one location his political parties were incorrectly listed. With a website like Bioguide, editors swiftly made the revision.

Staying the Course

Over the last two decades, Bioguide online has made important updates to users’ experiences. The database added Member images and links to other websites in the research collections. Each Congress, editors added new Members and updated current and former Member entries.

But as the internet grew more sophisticated and its graphics more modern, the *Online Biographical Directory* kept its original late-twentieth-century interface. For more than 20 years, trusty Bioguide looked and worked much the same as it did during its launch.

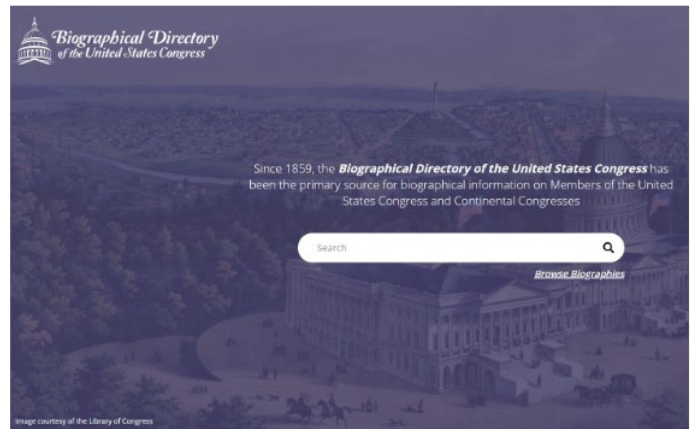
Time for A Change

Twenty-three years later, however, Bioguide is now new and improved. In December of 2020, the beloved *Online Biographical Directory* of the United States Congress graduated to a new web interface. Behind the scenes, it also migrated to a new content management system.

In addition to its modern appearance, Bioguide also includes a long-awaited update to its search functions. Ever since its inaugural launch in 1998, Bioguide has held a goldmine of interesting data, but its search capabilities had always been somewhat limited. Users could search by name, date, party, Congress, and office, but the database was not universally searchable and for years historians and researchers struggled to comb through its vast quantities of information. No longer. Users can now explore the entirety of Bioguide using the new search bar.

During the transition to the new site editors made corrections, double checked names, and added new data fields. With the new search, an entry about Representative James Harvey “Cyclone” Davis of Texas was discovered. The curious nickname buried in one entry among thousands practically begged for further research, resulting in a blog post (<https://history.house.gov/Blog/2020/January/1-30-Member-Nicknames/>). Many other historical gems are waiting to be unearthed.

For those who simply can’t leave 1998 behind with their Walkman and are asking “How Do I Live” or wonder whether



In December 2020, the new web interface for the Bioguide debuted, featuring a more powerful search function and a more modern design aesthetic.

“My Heart Will Go On” without the look and feel of the original Bioguide, rest assured that the lovingly termed Bioguide Retro has retained that classic design: <https://bioguideretro.congress.gov/>

For everyone else, welcome to Bioguide 2.0: <https://bioguide.congress.gov/>

Call for Articles: *The Journal of America's Military Past*

The Council on America's Military Past (CAMP) is calling for papers for its *Journal*. We welcome submissions of interesting, original articles on American military history, especially topics that deal with significant sites (which could include installations, battlefields, ships and airplanes). We also welcome articles on biography and historic preservation, especially if they are related to particular sites. Maps and photos are strongly encouraged. We ask that authors submit manuscripts by e-mail to our editors, using a system that is compatible with Microsoft Word. The length of the articles that we publish varies roughly between 2,500 and 7,500 words. The author is responsible for obtaining permission to publish any copyrighted material, and for bearing the costs of obtaining or reproducing illustrations. Interested parties should refer to the CAMP website (<http://campjamp.org/>) or contact the editor, Vincent W. Rospond at EditorJamp@yahoo.com.

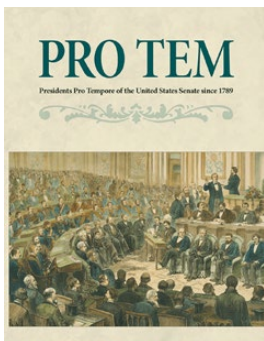
A non-profit educational association, CAMP was founded in 1966, representing diverse professions from

historians to archeologists, museologists to architects, engineers to authors, active and retired military of all ranks, genealogists to archivists, and just plain hobbyists, the Council on America's Military Past has only one requirement for membership: commitment to its objectives.

Its focus is on the places and things from America's military past, and their stories. CAMP looks to all types of military and naval posts, from stockade forts of early New England to adobe presidios of the Southwest, from temporary camps and battlegrounds of a military on the move, to elaborate coastal defense installations along America's coastlines. For CAMP, old ships and airplanes are also posts.

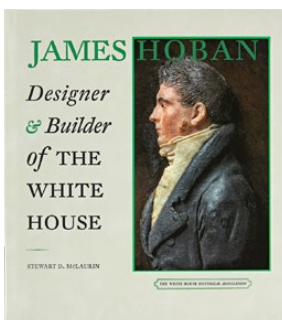
The Journal of America's Military Past is a scholarly publication with interesting, illustrated articles on historic posts and battlefields and their people. The journal includes a robust book review section that, by itself, makes it worth reading. It is published three times a year.

Recent Publications



Pro Tem: Presidents Pro Tempore of The United States Senate since 1789. The election of a senator to the office of president pro tempore is considered one of the highest honors offered to a senator by the Senate as a body. This book provides a history of the office followed by portraits and brief biographies of the Senators who served as president pro tempore between 1789 and 2021.

The Constitution provides for a president pro tempore to preside over the Senate in the absence of the vice president. Before 1890, the Senate elected a president pro tempore only for the period when the vice president would be absent. Since 1890, the president pro tempore has held office continuously until the election of a successor. Except for the years from 1886 to 1947, the president pro tempore has been included in the presidential line of succession. The first sentence of Rule I of today's standing rules of the Senate provides that the president pro tempore shall hold the office "during the pleasure of the Senate and until another is elected or his term of office as a Senator expires." The so-called powers of the president pro tempore, which have generally been more responsibilities than powers, have changed a good deal over the past two centuries. Available for purchase through the Government Publishing Office at <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/pro-tem-presidents-pro-tempore-united-states-senate-1789-0>.



James Hoban: Designer and Builder of the White House edited by Stewart D. McLaurin. When considering the design of the President's House yet to be built in the emerging Federal City of Washington, President George Washington asked after a young Irish builder he had learned of while visting in Charleston, South Carolina. Soon James Hoban ap-

peared in Washington's Philadelphia office with his credentials. By 1792, Hoban was at work on the building site, having won the competition for the design of the President's House. Washington had placed him in charge of the entire project, with all carpentry, stonemasonry, and brickwork under his supervision. The resulting structure, accomplished in time for President John Adams to take residence in November 1800, fulfilled Washington's vision and is today one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world. Yet of the millions of people who know the White House are likely to find Hoban's work more

memorable than his name. With this anthology, the world's most knowledgeable scholars on James Hoban introduce us to him, presenting the story of his life, influences, and work. The essays are followed by an illustrated catalog of nearly 100 images of historic Dublin, Irish Country Houses, the White House, and sites known to James Hoban in America. This is the second book in a series on the design and construction of the White House published by the White House Historical Association; it follows *A White House of Stone: The First Ideal in American Architecture*, which focused on the work of the Scottish stonemasons. The third book in the series will focus on the enslaved people who built the White House. For more information and to purchase visit <https://shop.whitehousehistory.org/products/james-hoban-designer-and-builder-of-the-white-house>.



Though few may realize it, the New Deal lives on in Washington DC. *A Guide to the Art and Public Works of the New Deal*, published by the nonprofit Living New Deal, reveals the extent to which the nation's capital was transformed during the Great Depression when the federal government hired millions of unemployed workers to modernize and beautify the country.

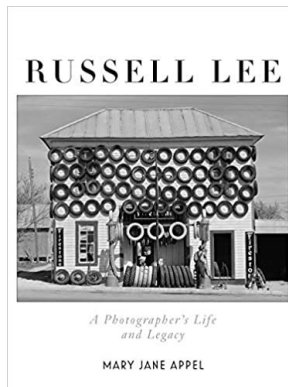
The Living New Deal's map and guide to DC reveals the wealth of buildings, murals and public works created under New Deal work programs—some 500 sites in and around the District, including federal offices, libraries, parks, roads and more, with detailed descriptions and photos of the New Deal's signature projects made possible by the PWA, WPA, CCC, CWA, FAP and other "alphabet soup" agencies of the FDR-era.

New Deal workers completed the Federal Triangle and Judiciary Square areas; renovated the National Mall; and erected the Jefferson Memorial, while restoring the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial. They developed the city's extensive park system, adding dozens of ball fields, playgrounds, pools and trails.

The New Deal also built DC's first water treatment plant and miles of sewers to clean up the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. It built levees keep the Mall from flooding. It expanded schools and hospitals and built the city's first public housing.

Based at UC Berkeley, the Living New Deal's mission is to document the forgotten legacy of the New Deal and promote the New Deal as a model for good government today. Its website features an interactive map of more than 16,500 New Deal sites and describes the people and programs that shaped the New Deal. *Livingnewdeal.org* received more than a million visits last year.

Living New Deal's *Guide to the Art and Public Works in Washington DC* is available for sale at livingnewdeal.org, along with maps to the New Deal in San Francisco and New York City.



His photographs are mainstays in popular culture: The iconic shot of a young Black man drinking from a water cooler marked “colored” was featured in Stephen Colbert’s June 1, 2020, “Late Show” monologue on racial injustice. Millions of “Cheers” viewers saw his photo of cheerful patrons in a Depression-era Minnesota saloon in the opening credits. Microsoft offered his 1939 photo of a Texas couple as a screensaver

in its Windows 98 operating system.

While Russell Lee’s work is widely known, his story has remained more elusive. A new definitive biography, published by Liveright in association with the Library of Congress, establishes Lee as one of the most influential documentary photographers in American history.

In *Russell Lee: A Photographer's Life and Legacy*, historian and archivist Mary Jane Appel examines the paradoxes of Lee’s dual status as an independently wealthy man and the most prolific photographer of the Great Depression.

Of the 63,000 prints in the Library’s Farm Security Administration (FSA) Collection, which pictures American life between 1935 and 1942, Russell Lee created 19,000—more than twice the amount of any other FSA photographer. He was the longest tenured and most widely traveled of all the photographers on the legendary FSA team—which included Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans. Living out of his car, Lee photographed life in 29 states between 1936 and 1942.

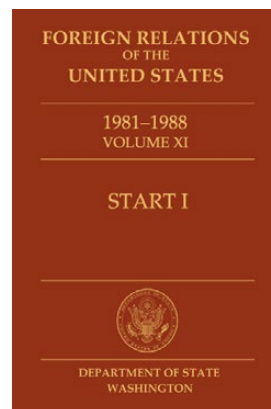
The more than 100 photos included in the biography demonstrate Lee’s talent for capturing images emblematic of early 20th century concerns, including the ecological catastrophes of dust storms and floods, the population shift from rural to urban areas, discrimination against racial and ethnic groups, and life on the home front during World War II.

This first comprehensive biography of Lee reveals a man both compelling and complex, a wealthy White man whose focus on society’s ills resulted in a body of work that continues to be recognized for its resonance and relevance.

The book is available for purchase in hardcover and e-book formats from booksellers worldwide. Hardcover is available for purchase from the Library of Congress Shop at library-of-congress-shop.myshopify.com/.

The Department of State released *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1981–1988, Volume XI, START I*.

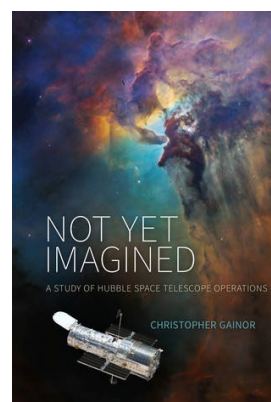
This is the first of two volumes in the *Foreign Relations*



series devoted to the START I agreement (the “Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms”), which President George H.W. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed on July 29, 1991. It begins in the summer of 1981, when the Reagan administration recast the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) as the Strategic Arms

Reduction Talks (START) and concludes in early 1989 with the presidential transition to the Bush administration. Covered here are the initial rounds of negotiations in Geneva from June 1982 to November 1983; the incorporation of START into the Nuclear and Space Arms Talks (NST) in March 1985; the five meetings between Reagan and Gorbachev between 1985 and 1988; and the internal U.S. deliberations on strategic arms negotiations throughout these periods. Given the pivotal role of strategic defenses in negotiations on strategic arms reductions, deliberations and instructions pertaining to the Defense and Space Talks are also included in this volume.

This volume was compiled and edited by James Graham Wilson. The volume and this press release are available on the Office of the Historian website at <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1981-88v11>. Copies of the volume will be available for purchase from the U.S. Government Publishing Office online at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov> (GPO S/N 044-000-02707-1; ISBN 978-0-16-095834-2), or by calling toll-free 1-866-512-1800 (D.C. area 202-512-1800). For further information, contact history@state.gov.



Not Yet Imagined: A Study of Hubble Space Telescope Operations by Christopher Gainor. The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is the most famous astronomical instrument of its time and one of the best-known robotic vehicles ever put into space. Its launch and deployment into low-Earth orbit from the Space Shuttle Discovery in April 1990 appeared to fulfill the plans and dreams of astronomers since the beginnings of space exploration to place a telescope be-

yond the distorting effects of Earth’s atmosphere.

The first images from Hubble contained a stunning surprise—the space telescope’s main mirror had been precisely ground to the wrong shape. Although HST’s images were still superior to anything available from ground-based telescopes, the Hubble Telescope instantly became a byword for incompetence.

With the future of NASA on the line, scientists and engineers devised fixes for the spherical aberration afflicting Hubble, and astronauts flying on the first of five servicing missions to HST installed new instruments that restored the Space Telescope's capabilities to those promised when it was launched. Within weeks, HST produced the breathtaking images and other data that astronomers and the public had long anticipated, and soon Hubble shed its former image as it became a symbol of American technological and scientific prowess.

Not Yet Imagined documents the history of HST from its launch through its first 30 years of operation in space. It focuses on the

interactions among the general public, astronomers, engineers, government officials, and members of Congress during that time. The decision-making behind the changes in Hubble's instrument packages on servicing missions that made HST a model of supranational cooperation amongst scientists is chronicled, along with HST's contributions to our knowledge about our solar system, our galaxy, and our universe. This book also covers the impact of HST and the images it produces on the public's appreciation for the universe, and how HST has changed the ways astronomy is done. Visit the NASA History web page for information on how to download the free ebook: <https://www.nasa.gov/connect/ebooks/not-yet-imagined.html>.

Making History

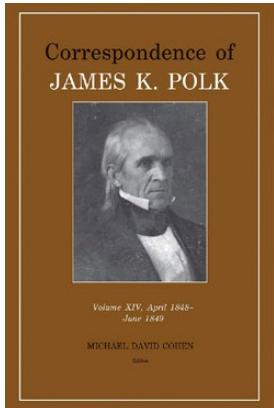
Army War College

U.S. Army War College Quarterly, *Parameters*, released its 50th-anniversary issue. In this full-color issue, you will find a 50-year photo essay; a series of Prospectives on the future of the Army, civil-military affairs, and national strategy penned by leading national security professionals; and a series of Retrospectives by contemporary scholars and practitioners evaluating articles published in the journal's first year, 1971, on civil-military affairs, Russia, and lessons from history. Read it at <https://press.armywarcollege.edu/parameters/>.

Correspondence of James K. Polk

The University of Tennessee Press has published the fourteenth and final volume of the *Correspondence of James K. Polk*. Covering April 1848 to June 1849, it features letters from the last months of his presidency and of his life. It culminates over six decades of work by forty-three faculty, staff, and student editors at Vanderbilt University and the University of Tennessee. The 376 letters (and summaries of 1,414 more) cover the California gold rush, the debate over slavery in western territories, the forcible removal of Natives from the east, the global cholera pandemic that killed Polk, and numerous other topics in antebellum politics, diplomacy, culture, and science. Read more about the contents at <https://history.utk.edu/uts-final-volume-of-polk-letters-covers-race-disunion-and-pandemic-in-1840s/>.

As always, the volume features full annotation identifying all people, events, and topics in the letters. This one also includes a supplementary calendar listing more than four thousand letters that we located too late to include in their chronologically appropriate volumes. Volume 14 was edited by Michael David Cohen. The Polk Project received generous support from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Tennessee



Historical Commission. All earlier volumes of the *Correspondence* are available online from Newfound Press, for free, at https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_polk/.

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced the release of the first videos in a series covering World War II Battles and Operations on Feb. 19, 2021. These first three videos highlight and give historical perspective on DPAA's Hürtgen Forest Project, Enoura Maru Project, and World War II European-Mediterranean Disinterments. They are meant to facilitate conversations with families as well as help them understand what is being done to locate and identify their missing loved one. The videos can be found at <https://www.dpaa.mil/Resources/Briefing-Videos/>. As new videos are produced, they will be added to this page and announced on DPAA's homepage and social media.

Department of State

The Department of State announced the release of the newly digitized microfiche supplement to *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1961–1963, Volumes X/XI/XII, American Republics; Cuba 1961–1962; Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath*. From 1993 to 1998, the *Foreign Relations* series published 13 microfiche supplements that included images of additional documents expanding upon issues addressed in corresponding print volumes in the Eisenhower and Kennedy subseries, which could not be printed due to space limitations. As an addition to its digital archive of the entire *Foreign Relations* back catalog, the Office of the Historian is digitizing the text from the microfiche images of these supplements and enriching them to create full text searchable digital editions and ebooks.

The images from this microfiche supplement were made available on the Office of the Historian website in 2012 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, but that preview edition was not full text searchable or available to screen readers. This release replaces the preview edition and marks the completion of the digitization of this volume. The volume is available online and as a free ebook on the Office of the Historian

website at <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1961-63v10-12mSupp>. For further information, contact history@state.gov.

Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is pleased to announce a new event series hosted by the agency's director, Crosby Kemper. Drawing inspiration from a variety of modern media and historical concepts, including Franklin D. Roosevelt's famous fireside chats, the series of presidential evening radio addresses held between 1933 and 1944, Director Kemper will host discussions engaging special guests from the museum, library, academic, journalism, and political arenas. All events will be held on GoToWebinar and will be recorded and made available afterward on the IMLS YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/USIMLS/featured>). To receive announcements of other upcoming talks in the Conversations with Crosby series, sign up to receive updates via email at <http://www.imls.gov/news/subscribe>.

International Spy Museum

The International Spy Museum is pleased to launch a new pop-up exhibit, *Codes, Ciphers & Mysteries: NSA Treasures Tell Their Secrets*, featuring a treasure trove of key artifacts used for codemaking, codebreaking, and secure communications. The 13 historic objects are the first-of-their-kind, one-of-a-kind, and breakthrough pieces, some of which have played a key role in shaping world history. The remarkable items are on loan from the National Cryptologic Museum (NCM), which collects, preserves, and showcases unique cryptologic treasures and serves as the National Security Agency's principal gateway to the public. The artifacts will be on special display in the Museum's Briefing Center where guests begin their visit, and will be expanded upon in the permanent exhibit. Learn more at <https://www.spymuseum.org/exhibition-experiences/codes-ciphers-mysteries-nsa-tr>.

Library of Congress

We are launching a new blog covering preservation at the Library, *Guardians of Memory* (<http://blogs.loc.gov/preservation>). You will hear from preservation staff on the things we do to make sure the Library's collections endure. We will explore the ways people have recorded their knowledge and creativity across the centuries. The people who care for the national collections come from all across the country and around the world. The Preservation Directorate has over 200 staff. The Library's preservation efforts include over 100 more staff in the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center and the Digital Services Directorate. Hundreds more staff contribute by caring for the collections from the day we bring them to the Library to the moment we present them to you, whether that's online, in the exhibition galleries or in the reading rooms. Preservation gives us a special way of looking through the library. The questions we ask while maintaining these works reward us with distinctive answers about the intentions, knowledge, and creativity that they

embody. The blog is intended to help you see the collections through our eyes by giving you the literary equivalent of a look over the shoulder of the Library's preservation staff as they do their work.

National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives is pleased to announce that many important records of the Department of State are being digitized and made available online through the National Archives Catalog. The records consist largely of the various series of records that constitute the Department's central files for the period from 1789 to 1906. Also included, however, are other series of value and interest. For more information visit <https://text-message.blogs.archives.gov/2021/02/02/now-available-online-department-of-state-records/>.

The National Archives recently shared 12 photographs of Buffalo Soldiers serving at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, decades before the military was officially integrated. The photos are from a collection of negatives being digitized by the National Archives, and they haven't been available to the public before now. The role of Buffalo soldiers at West Point (1907–47) isn't a new story, but these pictures provide a glimpse into their role on campus, formally and informally, at the height of segregation. Showcasing a variety of campus activities, including equestrian training and football practices, the images were discovered by Richard Schneider, a preservationist in the Still Pictures Branch of the National Archives at College Park, MD, who was digitizing thousands nitrate negatives that were transferred from the military academy. Read more and access the images at <https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/archives-unveils-photos-of-buffalo-soldiers-west-point>.

The public is now able to download full datasets of the National Archives Catalog archival descriptions and authority records, as well as the entirety of the 1940 census, for the first time. This free service will provide researchers access through the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Registry of Open Data. Until now, this data was available through the Catalog and the 1940 census websites, but not in bulk. This release aligns with the National Archives' effort to Make Access Happen for the records in its care. This is the first time the National Archives is releasing a census dataset in full.

National Capital Planning Commission

The Commission unanimously approved preliminary and final site development plans to modify the Second Division Memorial in President's Park by including new inscriptions to commemorate those fallen in Korea on the Demilitarized Zone, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Commissioners thought that the modification was an exemplary approach for how to add to an existing memorial in a meaningful way. They also appreciated the new walkways that would make the memorial more accessible. Visit <https://www.ncpc.gov/review/archive/2021/3> for more information.

National Council on Public History

NCPH's Digital Media Group (DMG) is excited to announce the launch of the Digital Projects Directory. The Directory is a free guide to history-focused digital projects for students, faculty, public history professionals, and anyone interested in learning about history through digital media. It is designed to help connect researchers and learners with resources that can help them explore their interests and to promote and share the wide range of digital projects in existence. This directory does not include all digital projects, but is vetted by members of the DMG for projects that are focused on the study or interpretation of historical subject matter, are open access, and are built with the intention of engaging a wide audience. The directory is populated by user submissions, so please consider submitting your digital projects and sharing this resource among your colleagues and networks. Access it at <https://ncph.org/digital-public-history-directory/>.

National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will receive \$135 million in supplemental funding to assist humanities organizations and other cultural institutions affected by the coronavirus pandemic as part of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) approved by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden. NEH will distribute ARP relief funding through a competitive process to cultural organizations such as museums, libraries, historic sites, archives, and educational institutions, which continue to feel the dire effects of the pandemic. Budget shortfalls at all levels have compelled cultural institutions across the country to lay off and furlough staff, cancel programs, cut departments, close facilities, and tap institutional reserves.

The NEH also announced \$24 million in grants for 225 humanities projects across the country. These grants will support a diverse range of exemplary humanities projects, including *Audio History Project*, a podcast series that uses archival audio recordings to illuminate forgotten stories about individuals and events from twentieth-century American history and culture, and *Enslaved: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade*, an online repository that documents the lives of individuals who were enslaved, owned slaves, or participated in the historical slave trade. Several projects receiving grants will help preserve historical and cultural collections and make them available to the broader public, such as the digitization of a large corpus of gospel songbooks, hymnals, and spirituals published in the American South between 1850 and 1925 and an initiative to improve access to audiovisual archives on the coal-mining industry in Appalachia at Kentucky's Appalshop. Additional funding will support a cooperative effort between Northern Arizona University and the Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, and Diné College on the Navajo Nation to digitize 400 rare films documenting the Colorado Plateau and the American southwest from the 1930s to the 1960s, and the expansion of

the Freedom of Information Archive, a digital resource of 4.6 million declassified documents, to include materials related to post-WWII diplomacy and international development from the archives of NATO, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the Wilson Center. More information and a full list of awarded grants is at <https://www.neh.gov/news/neh-announces-24-million-225-humanities-projects-nation-wide>.

National Historical Publications and Records Commission

Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero has awarded \$3,884,017 for 33 projects in 20 states to improve public access to historical records. The National Archives grants program is carried out through the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). A complete list of new grants is available online at <https://www.archives.gov/nhprc/awards/awards-5-21>.

Grants went to 17 documentary editing projects to publish the papers of key American figures and movements, including Jane Addams, George Washington, and a history of emancipation. Among those is a new project at the University of West Florida to publish the Papers of Roger Taney: A Digital Documentary Edition, which brings together primary sources relating to the fifth Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, who is infamous for delivering the majority opinion in the Dred Scott case.

The NHPRC adopted a new Strategic Plan emphasizing four major goals:

- Expand public discovery and use of the nation's historical records.
- Foster a greater diversity of voices in telling the American story through historical records collections.
- Connect the National Archives with the nation's archives.
- Engage the American people in preserving and publishing historical records collections that tell the American story.

The complete plan is available at <https://www.archives.gov/nhprc/about/strategic-plan.html>.

National Park Service

The Department of the Interior applauded the designation of Fort Monroe in Virginia as a Site of Memory Associated to the Slave Route by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO). Located where the first enslaved Africans arrived in English North America in 1619, Fort Monroe is one of approximately 50 sites related to the history of the transatlantic slave trade to receive this designation. A significant location in the discussion of the ideas of freedom



and democracy, Fort Monroe is cooperatively managed by the Fort Monroe Authority and the National Park Service's Fort Monroe National Monument. The UNESCO designation links Fort Monroe to a global community of historic sites, organizations, and partners committed to civic dialogue and reconciliation.

On April 23, 2021, Second Gentleman of the United States Douglas Emhoff and Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced 16 additions to the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. The new listings join nearly 700 other sites, programs, and facilities in the network that honor, preserve, and promote the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight. A recording of the event can be viewed via YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dp2LWaalIgo>). Visit <http://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/second-gentleman-douglas-emhoff-secretary-deb-haaland-announce-new-listings> for more information and a list of the new sites.

This spring, the National Park Service (NPS) will begin a \$6.8 million project to rehabilitate and preserve the visitor center at Antietam National Battlefield. Through this rehabilitation, the NPS will bring the almost 60-year-old facility into the 21st century to preserve the building and provide improved visitor services. Starting in July, visitor services and educational exhibits will be available in a temporary building during construction. The park plans to reopen the visitor center in late 2022.

National Security Archive

The National Security Archive, along with our scholarly partners at ProQuest, is publishing the second installment of Donald Rumsfeld's "Snowflakes." The 24,473-page set, *Donald Rumsfeld's Snowflakes, Part II: The Pentagon and U.S. Foreign Policy, 2004-2006*, features 3,994 memos authored by the Secretary of Defense during his last two years in office. Responses to the Secretary's inquiries are also included in the collection when available, and this back-and-forth helps provide researchers with unprecedented insights into consequential policy-making decisions that continue to impact the United States, including decisions surrounding the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, and the controversies at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay.

The "Snowflakes" were an idiosyncratic form of communication for the Secretary. The short memos were sent so frequently to Pentagon civilian staff, military commanders, as well as counterparts in the highest levels of the United States Government, and imposed such a burden on the recipients, that they grew, in Rumsfeld's own words, "from mere flurries to a veritable blizzard." According to Washington Post reporter Robin Wright, one of the first to disclose Rumsfeld's use of snowflakes, it was not uncommon for him to send up to 60 "Snowflakes" on a given day.

The comprehensive collection, which follows 2020's *Donald Rumsfeld's Snowflakes, Part I: The Pentagon and U.S. Foreign*

Policy, 2001-2003, provides a remarkably rare birds-eye view into daily operations of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The Snowflakes collections complement a growing number of Archive publications on the post 9-11 era and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Related documents can be found in *U.S. Intelligence Community After 9/11, Targeting Iraq, Part I: Planning, Invasion, and Occupation, 1997-2004, Terrorism and U.S. Policy, 1968-2002*, and *U.S. Intelligence on Weapons of Mass Destruction: From World War II to Iraq*, among other collections.

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

We're excited to announce a new Smithsonian initiative to support the preservation of Smithsonian audiovisual collections! Many of you have seen our assessments over the last few years that brought to light the absolutely dire statistics regarding the potential loss of our audiovisual collections. In 2019, we determined that at the current rate of preservation, 188,890 audiovisual collection items around the Smithsonian will be unpreserved and face total loss by 2034. The Smithsonian Libraries and Archives is thrilled to announce that we are planning a pan-institutional initiative to support the holistic care of audiovisual collections. The Audiovisual Media Preservation Initiative (AVMPI) will be a centralized resource focused on treating, digitizing, and providing access to Smithsonian audiovisual collections. Fully equipped with seven new staff members, AVMPI will be supported by a task force of subject matter experts and an advisory committee. For more information about the AVMPI Strategic Plan and overall goals, check this out the initiative's new webpages: <https://siarchives.si.edu/what-we-do/avmpi>.

Veterans History Project

The Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP) hosted two panels to highlight farming as a viable career path for veterans transitioning to civilian life and to introduce programs that support those who pursue farming. The events, focused on the benefits and challenges of farming in urban and rural settings, premiered on the VHP's Facebook page. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, the average age of farmers is 58 and about 11% of them are military veterans. Veterans who pursue farming careers help to reenergize farming communities, spur rural development and improve food security across the United States.

After 16 years of service with the Library, including four and a half years as the director of the Veterans History Project, Karen Lloyd retired from the Library of Congress on April 9th. Recently, she led a number of significant efforts to develop women veterans' collections including a nascent collaborative agreement to pursue collections with the Veteran Administration's Center for Women Veterans. During her tenure, VHP also expanded outreach to more Native/Indigenous veterans to preserve their stories as part of VHP's collections.



The FEDERALIST

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Federalist Calendar

June 17–20, 2021. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). Annual Meeting. Virtual. Visit <https://shafir.org/events/shafir-2021-annual-meeting>

June 24–27, 2021. Association for Documentary Editing. Annual Meeting: Representation and Recovery. Virtual. Visit <https://www.documentaryediting.org/wordpress/?p=6129>

July 15–18, 2021. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR). 42nd Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. Visit <https://www.shear.org/annual-meeting/>

Aug. 2–6, 2021. Society of American Archivists. 85th Annual Meeting. Virtual. Visit <https://www2.archivists.org/conference/>

Sep. 22–25, 2021. Northern Great Plains History Conference. Annual Meeting. Eau Claire, WI. Visit <https://www.ngphconference.org/>

Oct. 13–17, 2021. Oral History Association. Annual Meeting. Cincinnati, OH. Visit <https://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/>

Oct. 22–23, 2021. Great Lakes History Conference. Annual Meeting. “The History of Sociability.” Grand Rapids, MI. Visit <https://www.gvsu.edu/glhc/>

Nov. 18–21, 2021. Society for the History of Technology. Annual Meeting. “Environment, Infrastructure, and Social Justice.” New Orleans, LA. Visit <https://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual-meeting/>

Jan. 6–9, 2022. American Historical Association. 136th Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. Visit <https://www.historians.org/annual-meeting/>

Mar. 23–26, 2022. National Council on Public History. Annual Meeting. “Crossroads.” Montreal, Quebec. Visit <https://ncph.org/conference/2022-annual-meeting/>

Mar. 31–Apr. 3, 2022. Organization of American Historians. Annual Meeting. “Indigenous/American Pasts and Futures.” Boston, MA. Visit <https://www.oah.org/meetings-events/oah22/>

Apr. 28–May 1, 2022. Society for Military History. 88th Annual Meeting. Fort Worth, TX.

May 11–13, 2022. Center for Cryptologic History. 18th Cryptologic History Symposium. “Icons and Innovation.” Laurel, MD. Visit <https://cryptologicfoundation.org/what-we-do/educate/conferences/symposium.html>

Aug. 20–Aug. 27, 2022. Society of American Archivists. 86th Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. Visit <https://www2.archivists.org/conference/>