



# HEADQUARTERS GAZETTE

SOCIETY FOR MILITARY HISTORY

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## The Society for Military History Records at K-State

By Paul A. Thomsen

In 2007, the Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections at Hale Library, Kansas State University, began receiving the historical records of the Society for Military History (SMH) from several members and repositories for retention and preservation as an integrated unit for scholarly use. Paralleling the growth in size and scope of the SMH, which originated as the American Military History Foundation (AMHF) in June 1933, these documents span nearly a century of service to the study of military history.

Whereas most organizations retain their records to provide a sense of institutional memory and legal support, the SMH collection also provides a broad, wide, and deep perspective on the study of history. More than a simple gathering of fiscal reports and administrative matters, these documents serve as a means for scholars and students to understand the shifting tides of historic events, military historians and the discipline of history, itself, in both a thematic and personal way. For example, the records indicate that the AMHF was created by the efforts of Washington, D.C.-area archivists and army personnel as an ad hoc civilian think-tank, supplementing the Great Depression-era research of the Historical Section of the United States Army with outside resources, documents, ideas, and a structured openness to discussions. Consequently, the collection holds several publishable papers and conference materials that pertain to the ways different nations conducted wars prior to the First World War. Simultaneously, this organizational direction also led to the creation of both a traveling library (named the Lull Library after a founder and early president) and archives. As the early organization did not have a permanent headquarters, these two collections often floated over the years from offices in the Department of the Army, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Smithsonian, the Center of Military History at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, and the National Defense University at Fort Lesley J. McNair. While the library component of the organization was eventually absorbed by Carlisle Barracks and the United States Army Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the documents and photographs of several presidents were retained by the organization and continued to be cared for by individual officers until a suitable venue could be found. These records are also now part of the collection at K-State.

This collection's true strength, however, is derived from the organization's defining activities in the Second World War and Cold War. By 1937, early journal records indicate that interest in AMHF activities and articles published in *Army Ordnance* had prompted the creation of *The Journal of the American Military History Foundation*. Similarly, the administrative records of the organization during the Second World War will provide scholars access to material on public lectures to supplement current events issues, including lectures on the "Total Science of War" and "The Atomic Bomb



"SMH records housed at Kansas State University."

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and Its Implications” (which discussed the military application of atomic weaponry with General Leslie Groves of the Manhattan Project). Other sections of the collection, most notably the meeting minutes of officers and the Boards of Trustees, also illustrate that both the absorption of the Order of the Indian Wars members by the renamed American Military Institute (AMI) and the assistance provided by the American Historical Association (AHA) played a significant role in keeping the organization functional in the lean postwar years. Likewise, the officer-level papers reveal the steady hands of key members in advancing the goals and functions of the group over several generations, including Dallas Irvine, Milton Skelly, Hilario Moncado, William Foot, Victor Gondos, Dwight Eisenhower, Trevor Dupuy, B. F. Cooling, Edward Coffman, Robin Higham, Russell Weigley, Dennis Showalter, Allan Millett, Harold Langley, Tim Nenninger, and Robert Berlin. Finally, the secretary level files detail how the AMI was able to weather periodic economic and publishing crises plaguing the organization as well as their emergence as an internationally renowned institution of learned scholarship affiliated with the Organization of American Historians (OAH), Civil War Roundtable, and the George C. Marshall Foundation.

The Society for Military History Records also provide readers with ample examples of the organization’s breadth and depth of reach over the past two decades. Presidential correspondence, treasurer reports, and secretary files stress the rapid development of regional and local chapters beyond the Atlantic Coast. Other sections serve as a model for the mechanics of conference planning and publication. Researchers interested in business history and publishing will find the editor’s daily correspondence particularly valuable, detailing the journal’s ongoing relationship with printers, advertisers, readers, reviewers, and prospective contributors. Another section of the collection, for example, relates Donald Bittner’s focus on the planning, preparation, and execution of the 1996 Annual Conference as well as the subsequent development of select conference papers for publication in Marine Corps University’s Perspectives on Warfighting. Still other areas of the collection related to the journal showcase the different stages in the development of the flagship publication from the Department of the Army to an all-volunteer civilian Washington staff to Robin Higham’s tenure as journal editor at Kansas State University and, most recently, the Virginia Military Institute.

Through the cooperation of the Society of Military History’s officers and board, and KSU’s Institute for Military History and Twentieth Century Studies and Morse Department of Special Collections, the SMH records are now permanently housed at K-State and open for scholarly research. A descriptive finding aid to the records that includes a chronology of the organization’s history, can be found at <http://www.lib.k-state.edu/depts/spec/findaids/pc2008-03.html>. The major participants in this endeavor included Robert Berlin of the SMH, Mark Parillo at K-State’s Institute for Military History, and Tony Crawford, University Archivist/Curator of Manuscripts, K-State Libraries. In the summer of 2008, Paul Thomsen was hired to process the collection. The arrangement and description of the records have been made possible through significant funding from the SMH, as well as financial assistance from the Institute for Military History.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### **HEADQUARTERS GAZETTE**

is a publication of the Society for Military History (formerly the American Military Institute). Submit material for publication to the newsletter editor:

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Send all change-of-address and membership inquires to the journal editor:  
Editor

The Journal of Military History  
Virginia Military History  
Lexington, VA 24450

### **Call for Papers**

The Society for Military History is pleased to announce a call for papers for its 77th Annual Meeting, hosted jointly by the Virginia Military Institute and the George C. Marshall Foundation at Lexington, VA on May 20-22, 2010. The conference theme is “Causes Lost and Won,” and will provide an opportunity for a wide examination of military institutions and practices - including the causes, conduct, resolution, and consequences of past wars. While the theme of the conference will provide a basic guide to determining the final program, the program committee will gladly consider proposals on other facets and perspectives of military history.

Panel proposals must include a panel title, contact

information for all panelists, a brief description of the purpose and theme of the panel, one-paragraph abstracts of each of the three papers, a brief curriculum vitae for all panelists, including commentator and panel chair. Proposals for individual papers are welcome and should include a brief abstract, abbreviated curriculum vitae, and contact information. All panelists must be Society for Military History members. The deadline for proposals is October 1, 2009. Proposals may be submitted electronically to the conference coordinator, Dr. Timothy C. Dowling (DowlingTC@vmi.edu) or by regular mail to Dr. Timothy C. Dowling, Department of History, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA 24450. The program committee will acknowledge receipt of your proposal within two weeks of its submission. If you fail to receive such notice, please contact the conference coordinator.

The meeting will be held on the Post of the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, with the VMI Center for Leadership and Ethics and the George C. Marshall Library serving as principle venues. Lexington is conveniently located at the juncture of Interstate Highways 81 and 64 and is easily accessible via Roanoke Regional Airport. The City of Lexington offers excellent local restaurants and shopping and a broad choice of hotels with comfortable accommodations.

For more details, please contact Dr. Tim Dowling at DowlingTC@vmi.edu or (540) 464-7472.

### **Call for Contributors:**

#### **Conflict and the Fourth Estate: Media and Propaganda in U.S. Military History**

ABC-CLIO, award-winning publisher of historical reference works including recently published multivolume encyclopedias of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Cold War, is currently developing a wide-ranging and definitive project on Conflict and the Fourth Estate: Media and Propaganda in U.S. Military History. This scholarly, comprehensive project consists of authoritative encyclopedic entries centered on the major wars of American history, including the current conflicts in the Middle East, in the context of their propaganda value and how they were covered by the press.

ABC-CLIO has assembled a team of top historians to work on this ground breaking project, and we are currently seeking additional qualified contributors to give this study the depth and broad interpretation that it deserves. For more information on this project, including a project description, list of entries for this year, compensation information, and sample entries, please email Mr. Martin Manning, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC, at ManningMJ@state.gov or Dr. Clarence Wyatt, Pottinger Professor of History, Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, at Clarence.wyatt@centre.edu. When contacting the editors, please indicate your affiliation, areas of interest, and attach a copy of your curriculum vitae.

#### **Prize Awarded**

Robert H. Deveraux, a student at Western Illinois University, won the Society's Kevin J. Carroll Prize at the Missouri Valley Historical Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Deveraux's prize-winning paper was entitled "The First American Fleet: the Sailing Ships of the Quasi-War, 1798-1801".



#### **Grant Competition**

The International Security and Foreign Policy Program of the Smith Richardson Foundation will award grants through its annual competitions for junior faculty and Ph.D. students at U.S. institutions.

The Junior Faculty Research Grant Program is an annual competition that awards at least three research grants of \$60,000 to support tenure-track junior faculty engaged in the research and writing of a scholarly book on an issue or topic of interest to the policy community. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2009, and the results will be announced by October 31, 2009.

The World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship is an annual competition to support Ph.D. dissertation research on American foreign policy, international relations, international security,

strategic studies, area studies, and diplomatic and military history. The Foundation will award at least twenty grants of \$7,500 each. The deadline for submission is October 15, 2009, and the results will be announced by January 31, 2010.

For further information on eligibility and how to apply, please visit the website of the International Security and Foreign Policy Program at the following address: <http://www.srf.org/grants/international.php>.

Smith Richardson Foundation  
60 Jesup Road, Westport, CT 06880

### Prizes Announced

Winners of the 2007-08 Cold War essay contest, sponsored by the John A. Adams '71 Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis, have been announced. They are:

**First prize: \$2000;** “The Genesis of the Sixth Fleet: The U.S. Navy and Early Cold War Foreign Policy in the Mediterranean, 1946 - 1948” by Michael A. Palmer, East Carolina University.

**Second prize: \$1000;** “In a Foreign Land: GIs, West Germans, and Refugees in Franconia, 1945 - 1960”, by Adam Seipp, Texas A & M University.

**Third prize: \$500;** “The Atomic Air Offensive and the Change in American Military Tradition, 1945 - 1950”, by John M. Curatola, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

### *Honorable mentions (in alphabetical order)*

“The Quiet Death of Universal Military Training: How America Lost an Opportunity to Close the Civil-Military Gap”, by Robert K. Dean, Norwich University.

“Lessons of the Korean War and the Public Debate over Containment and American National Military Strategy, 1950 - 1955”, by Hal M. Friedman, Henry Ford Community College.

“Detachment Number 1: African-American Prisoners at Camp 5 during the Korean Conflict” by Thomas J. Ward, Jr., Spring Hill College.

### News From Members

Jonathan Reed Winkler’s book *Nexus: Strategic Communications and American Security in World War I* (Harvard University Press, 2008) has recently won two major prizes. The first is the Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt Naval History Prize for 2008 from the FDR Presidential Library, Roosevelt Institute, Theodore Roosevelt Association and the New York Council, Navy League of the United States. The second is the Distinguished Publication Award for 2009 from the Ohio Academy of History.

Phillip Meilinger’s new book, *Hubert R. Harmon: Officer, Aviator and Father of the Air Force Academy* was recently published by Fulcrum Press in time for the 50th anniversary of the first graduating class of the US Air Force Academy.

Everett L. Wheeler (Duke University) delivered a paper, “Polyaenus scriptor militaris,” at the Tagung, “Polyaenus in Context,” held at Universität Erfurt, 16 January 2009.

### Call for Papers

The Department of History at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) invites proposals for papers on the history of the USAF Academy for the 22nd Military History Symposium, to be held at USAFA in Colorado Springs, Colorado, 28-30 September 2009. The Department of History is pleased to be able to offer an all-inclusive honorarium of \$1,500.00 to accepted participants to defray travel expenses.

Paper proposals are welcome on all aspects of USAFA history, including but not limited to:

- Academic programs
- Association of Graduates (AOG)
- Athletic programs
- Cadet life
- Cadets not completing training
- Choosing the location for USAFA
- Civilian faculty programs
- Community relations (town and gown)
- Congress and USAFA
- Cultural or ethnic groups at USAFA
- Establishing USAFA education and training programs
- Flying training at USAFA
- Foreign exchange programs (cadet and faculty)
- Funding USAFA
- Gender Issues at USAFA
- International (non-US citizen) cadets
- Inter-service exchange programs and cross commissioning
- Military training programs
- Religion at USAFA
- Selection of cadets
- Selection of faculty and staff
- Support programs
- USAFA as a site of protest / controversy
- USAFA graduates
- USAFA Preparatory School

We are also seeking papers representing a variety of methodological perspectives, including but not limited to:

- American studies
- Biography
- Cultural history
- Economic history
- Ethnic / race history
- Gender history
- History of sexuality
- History of the American West
- History of the Service Academies
- Institutional history
- Local history
- Military history
- Organizational history
- Political history
- Social history
- War and society

The Department of History offers its assistance in obtaining access to archival resources and oral history interviews to facilitate research leading to papers to be submitted to the symposium. The Proceedings of the 22nd Military History Symposium will be published following the event.

To submit a paper proposal, please send an abstract (not more than 500 words), a CV, and a short research plan (if the research is not yet complete) to:

Major J. D. Went, USAF  
Program Chair, 22nd Military History Symposium  
HQ USAFA/DFH  
2354 Fairchild Hall, Suite 6F101  
USAF Academy, CO 80840  
james.went@usafa.edu

*Electronic submissions are preferred, but not required.*

For questions about the Symposium, please contact:  
Lieutenant Colonel Grant T. Weller, USAF  
Director, 22nd Military History Symposium  
HQ USAFA/DFH  
2354 Fairchild Hall, Suite 6F101  
USAF Academy, CO 80840  
grant.weller@usafa.edu

### **The Edward S. Miller Research Fellowship in Naval History**

The Naval War College Foundation intends to award one grant of \$1,000 to the researcher with the greatest need and can make the optimum use of the research materials for naval history located in the Naval War College's Archives, Naval Historical Collection, Naval War College Museum, and Henry E. Eccles Library.

Further information on the manuscript and archival collections and copies of the registers for specific collections are available on request from the Head, Naval Historical Collection. E-mail: evelyn.cherpak@usnwc.edu

The recipient will be a Research Fellow in the Naval War College's Maritime History Department, which will provide administrative support during the research visit. Submit detailed research proposal that includes a full statement of financial need and comprehensive research plan for optimal use of Naval War College materials, curriculum vitae, at least two letters of recommendation, and relevant background information to Miller Naval History Fellowship Committee, Naval War College Foundation, 686 Cushing Road, Newport RI 02841-1207, by 1 August 2009. For further information, contact the chair of the selection committee at john.hattendorf@usnwc.edu. Employees of the U.S. Naval War College or any agency of the U.S. Department of Defense are not eligible for consideration; EEO/AA regulations apply.

### **Call for Contributors: Advancing Military History**

ABC-CLIO, award-winning publisher of historical reference works including recently published multivolume encyclopedias of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Cold War, and North American Colonial Conflicts, is currently developing a wide-ranging and definitive project on U.S. military history. This scholarly, comprehensive project consists of authoritative encyclopedic entries centered on the major wars of American history, including the American Indian Wars, the War of 1812, and the Mexican-American War. It covers not only the military aspects of the conflicts, but also the political, social, economic, and technological developments that impacted or were impacted by the conflicts.

ABC-CLIO has assembled a team of top historians to work on this ground breaking project, and we are currently seeking additional qualified contributors to give this study the depth and broad interpretation that it deserves. For more information on this project, including a project description, list of entries for this year, compensation information, and sample entries, please email Dr. Paul Pierpaoli, ABC-CLIO Fellow of Military History and Diplomatic History, at ppierpaoli@abc-clio.com. When contacting Dr. Pierpaoli, please indicate your affiliation, areas of interest, and attach a copy of your curriculum vitae.

### **Prize Awarded**

The Western Front Association's 2008 Undergraduate Essay Prize winner is Laurene Hendrick Eheman of the University of Delaware for her essay "The Death of Ethnic Pride: The Demise of German-American Culture Due to WWI." Ms. Eheman receives a check for \$1,000.

The prize recipient is selected by a panel chaired by Dr. Graydon Tunstall of the University of South Florida, Executive Secretary of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society. The Panel also includes Robert Denison of the Great War Society, Professor William Keylor of Boston University and Professor David Woodward of Marshall University.

## Call for Papers

The European History Section of the Southern Historical Association invites proposals for individual papers and complete panels for presentation at its annual meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, November 4-7, 2010.

Papers on any aspect of European history, covering any time period, are welcome. The program committee especially encourages proposals involving comparative history, such as Europe and the Americas, Europe and Britain, Europe and Africa, or Europe and Asia.

Panels should consist of two or three papers, a commentator, and a chair. Graduate students, as well as Faculty members, independent scholars and graduate students are welcome to submit individual papers or panels, although a panel should not consist exclusively of graduate students.

All papers read are eligible for the Amos E. Simpson award.

Submissions should include a one-page description of each paper and a short (1-2 page) c.v. of each panelist. Proposals are due by September 1, 2009.

Emailed to: [wbowen@semo.edu](mailto:wbowen@semo.edu)

Or mailed to: Wayne H. Bowen, Chair

EHS Program Committee

Department of History, MS2960

1 University Plaza

Southeast Missouri State University

Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Cold War Prize Competition 2008-2009

For the fifth year, the John A. Adams Center at the Virginia Military Institute is pleased to announce that it will award prizes for the best unpublished papers dealing with the United States military in the Cold War era (1945-1991). Any aspect of the Cold War is eligible, with papers on war planning, intelligence, logistics, and mobilization especially welcome. Please note that essays which relate aspects of the Korean and Southeast Asian conflicts to the larger Cold War are also open for consideration.

Prizes: First place will earn a plaque and a cash award of \$2000; second place, \$1000 and a plaque; and third place, \$500 and a plaque.

Procedures: Entries should be tendered to the Adams Center at VMI by 15 June 2009. Please make your submission by Microsoft Word and limit your entry to a maximum of twenty-five pages of double-spaced text, exclusive of documentation and bibliography. A panel of judges will, over the summer, examine all papers and the Adams Center will announce its top three rankings early in the fall of 2009. *The Journal of Military History* will be happy to consider those award winners for publication.

Submissions and questions:

Professor Malcolm Muir, Jr., Director

John A. Adams '71 Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis

Department of History

Virginia Military Institute; Lexington, VA 24450

[muirm@vmi.edu](mailto:muirm@vmi.edu)

(540) 464-7447/7338

Fax: (540) 464-7246

## Taps

LTC Donald E. Reid USA (Ret), of Fayetteville, North Carolina has passed away. LTC Reid was a life member of the Society.



# MISSING IN ACTION: THE MASS GRAVE AT FROMELLES

By Peter Dennis

In a disastrous attack on the Western Front in July 1916 near the French village of Fromelles, British and Australian forces incurred heavy casualties. The bodies of hundreds of men who got into or close to the German trenches before the allies had to retreat in the face of a German counterattack were never recovered, at least by the allies. Instead, some 400 were collected by the Germans, their identity discs and personal belongings removed, and the bodies buried in a series of mass graves. Although the existence of these graves was known to the Imperial War Graves Commission immediately after the war, the site of the burials inexplicably slipped from the public record and from popular memory. They were rediscovered in 2008 following the work of a group of amateur historians and their efforts to get an apparently unyielding bureaucracy, civilian and military, both in the United Kingdom and Australia, to acknowledge that the official records left a large number of dead unaccounted for. A joint task force has now been established to coordinate the exhumation of the bodies, to build a new war cemetery close to the mass grave site, and to re-inter the remains. All of this is in accord with the charter of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. What makes the Fromelles undertaking different is, first, the sheer scale of the discovery, and second, the fact that DNA procedures may make it possible to identify individual remains, which would then be buried under a headstone bearing, in accordance with CWGC policy, force/unit emblem, regimental number, name, unit, and date of death.

How to identify those who might be in the mass graves, or how to exclude those who could not be there? There is no simple or single answer. The Germans compiled death lists, which were forwarded to the German Red Cross during the war and then to the British authorities. Although various records mention these lists, and names on them, the actual lists have yet to be sighted, despite extensive research in the German archives. The best that can be done so far is to go through the individual records of those reported missing or killed on 19-20 July 1916, looking for mention of death lists. Presumably, if a man's name is mentioned as being on the list, he was among those buried in the mass grave. At the other end of the spectrum, a man who is recorded as buried in an individual grave in a war cemetery could not, by definition, be in the German mass grave. Alas, this seems not to be so. Already one case has been discovered of an Australian soldier on the German death list, and whose belongings and identity disc were returned by the Germans, who is recorded as buried in a marked, individual grave in a war cemetery. If this man is, in fact, in the mass grave, whose body lies in the established war grave?

Research to date has established the names of some 174 Australian soldiers who are likely to be in the mass grave, but this number may change as research progresses. Fortunately the Australian records from World War I are amazingly extensive and well preserved. The personal file of virtually every member of the Australian Imperial Force (some running to 70+ pages, although the average is about 25 pages) has been digitized and is accessible on the National Archives website ([www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)). These are being progressively read and translated into concise narrative profiles on the website of the AIF Project ([www.aif.adfa.edu.au](http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au)), which is in the process of adding to these records information from the digitized records of the Red Cross Wounded and Missing Bureau ([www.awm.gov.au/redcross](http://www.awm.gov.au/redcross)), whose members interviewed soldiers about their wounded and missing comrades in order to find out not only whether they had been killed or taken prisoner but the circumstances of their disappearance. Many of the accounts are contradictory, but a consistent account of each man's death can usually be constructed and in the process a name and number brought to life. For example, readers might like to examine the record of 2092 Pte Edgar Parham, 32nd Bn, on the AIF database.

Contracts are currently being let for the excavation of the site, and for the construction of the new cemetery. DNA testing will be a long-term project, but the first steps have been taken by the Australian Army in calling for descendants of those who might be in the mass grave to register as potential donors of DNA (<http://www.defence.gov.au/fromelles/index.htm>). The cemetery is scheduled to open in 2010, but identification of individual remains will probably take much longer, but at least in some cases, 'no known grave', with an inscription on a memorial wall, will be replaced by a personalized commemoration.

## IN MEMORIAM:

### JAY LUVAAS

Noted military historian M. Jay Luvaas, past president of the American Military Institute - the Society for Military History's predecessor organization - passed away on 9 January 2009 in Williamsburg, Virginia, at the age of 81. Luvaas was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, on 15 June 1927. After service in the U.S. Navy at the end of World War II, he attended Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, where his father served as a professor of music. After his graduation in 1949, he continued on to Duke University for his graduate work in European history, mentored by Theodore Ropp. His dissertation, published as *The Military Legacy of the Civil War: The European Inheritance* (1959) remains a classic. The wide scope of his writings - from *The Civil War: A Soldier's View* (1958), to *The Education of an Army* (1965) to *Frederick the Great on the Art of War* (1966) to "Dear Miss Em" (1972) to *Napoleon and the Art of War* (1999) - spanned continents and centuries.

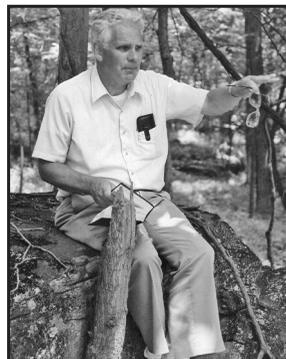
In time, Jay returned to Allegheny College to teach history. Each spring, he organized a history road-trip for faculty and students, generally referred to simply as "battlefield." A student did not have to be enrolled in one of Jay's classes to follow him around the battlefields of Virginia and Maryland. I first met him on one of these adventures and soon became a willing guinea pig as he read after-action reports from the *Official Records* and then asked if we could see the terrain he described. If we could, we'd move on; if we could not, he would try another spot and read again until we saw clearly the geographical features we needed to see to understand the action. By so doing, he used us to identify the stops he later used when he led innumerable professional soldiers on staff rides.

Indeed, Luvaas has been appreciated as the "father of the modern military staff ride," but his legacy in the development of the Army history program and the professional study of military history reaches far more deeply than that single contribution. He participated in the 1971 Department of the Army Ad Hoc Committee on the Need for Military History in the Army, and he became the first visiting professor of history at the U.S. Military Academy during the 1972-1973 academic year. He became vice president of the American Military Institute in 1975 and served as president from 1977 to 1979. He joined the faculty of the U.S. Army War College in 1982 and remained a fixture there until his retirement in 1995.

Jay gave unselfishly of his time to support the generation of military historians who would follow him. My own academic journey into the field began on his back porch in the winter of 1975 when I wondered out loud if a biology major could retool herself and become a historian. After hearing me out, he paused for a few seconds longer than I hoped - I frankly became convinced he was about to order me back to my grad school program in ecology - and said simply, "It's about time you figured that out. Now, let's make a plan." In that moment, he cemented his place as my mentor, my cheerleader, and my great friend. His advice came frequently, his critiques came gently, and his jokes never failed. He left me with a sense of obligation to the field of military history that extended from the intellectual realm - "do not be a one-war wonder!" - through service to the profession at large.

Entirely appropriate to his Norwegian heritage of which he was so proud, Jay was laid to rest on a frigid January day in Gettysburg's Evergreen Cemetery. His final resting place sits within a short stone's throw of the site of the platform from which Lincoln uttered his immortal Gettysburg address, and just a few steps from the grave of Jenny Wade. It is a fitting final resting place, indeed, for a man who brought to life so many Civil War battlefields and the historical inquiry they inspire for so many of us.

Carol Reardon



## IN MEMORIAM: RICHARD H. ZEITLIN

Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin, historian and director of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, died on December 3 after a short but courageous battle with cancer. He was 63 years old.

A native of New York City, Zeitlin earned his B.A. degree from Queens College of the City University of New York in 1966 and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1969 and 1973. In Madison he studied with Professors Allan Bogue, Edward M. Coffman and Thomas McCormick, among others. He worked for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and operated an historical consulting firm before joining the Wisconsin Veterans Museum as curator in 1980. In 1982 he became its director.

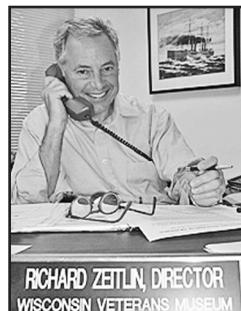
When Zeitlin joined the Wisconsin Veterans Museum it consisted of a room in the State Capitol building dedicated to Civil War relics. Under his direction a new state-of-the-art museum was constructed between 1989 and 1993. Zeitlin supervised this major development, working closely with designers and historical experts to create an internationally-known military history institution. He continued to direct the museum and presided over its continued success until his death. At that time it contained over 20,000 objects, hosted a major annual lecture series by acclaimed military historians, attracted an average of 11,000 visitors each month, and provided a moving educational experience for veterans and non-veterans alike. Zeitlin also remained active with the Wisconsin State Historical Society and was a frequent consultant for as well as guest on local and statewide media. Wisconsin Secretary of Veterans Affairs John A. Scocos referred to him as a “state treasure.”

Zeitlin also published a series of books and articles, primarily but not exclusively on Wisconsin history, military history and the Civil War. These included *Germans in Wisconsin* (1977, 1985, 1991, 2000), *All for the Union: Wisconsin in the Civil War* (1998), *The Flags of the Iron Brigade* (1997), *U.S.S. Wisconsin: A History of Two Battleships* (1988), and *Old Abe the War Eagle* (1986). He also taught U.S. military history at both Edgewood College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He served on the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Review Board and the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, both of which he chaired, and was a member of the Board of Presidential Advisers for the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. He was also an active member of SMH and organized two memorable SMH conferences in Madison: a special 1998 regional conference in honor of Edward M. Coffman and the 2002 annual conference.

Richard Zeitlin’s knowledge of and interest in military history were legendary. So were his warmth, kindness and gentleness, as well as his incredible smile. These attributes, together with his impressive managerial skills, helped make the Wisconsin Veterans Museum the outstanding institution that it is today. They also gave many of us a friend and colleague whom we treasured and will never forget.

Zeitlin is survived by his children Samuel and Eleanor Zeitlin, who are presently students in Munich and New York; his mother Mildred Zeitlin of New York City; his brother and sister-in-law Dr. Alan and Sherri Zeitlin; his niece Brigitte Zeitlin; and his significant other Jackie Johnson of Madison, Wisconsin. He was buried in New York on December 7, and a memorial service was held at the Veterans Museum on March 21 - which would have been his 64th birthday. A room dedication and historical conference in his honor are being planned for the fall at the Veterans Museum, with details to follow. A special fund has also been established in his honor. Donations can be sent to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation, Attn: Richard Zeitlin Memorial Fund, PO Box 2657, Madison, WI 53701-2657, or by visiting the Foundation’s website at [www.wvmfoundation.com](http://www.wvmfoundation.com).

Mark A. Stoler  
University of Vermont



# NCH Washington Update

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By Lee White of the National Coalition for History

*This is a compendium of items which might be of interest to members of the Society from several recent NCH Washington Update newsletters.*

**FIRST PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS RELEASED UNDER NEW OBAMA EXECUTIVE ORDER-** On April 13, 245,763 pages of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush Presidential records were opened for research at their respective libraries. These records were still pending at the end of the George W. Bush administration on January 20, 2009. They were released in accordance with the Presidential Records Act and the new Executive Order 13489, addressing presidential records, which was signed by President Obama on January 21, 2009.

In making the announcement, Acting Archivist of the United States Adrienne Thomas said, "I am delighted that the Obama administration has cleared the way to open these Presidential records. This action allows the American people to view historical records relating to the Presidency and judge for themselves the actions of federal officials."

The Ronald Reagan library opened 244,966 pages of records processed in response to hundreds of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. These records include the Presidential Briefing Papers collection, Office of Speechwriting research material, and approximately 13,000 pages of declassified records on numerous foreign policy topics. To date, more than ten million pages of Presidential records have been processed at the Reagan library.

The George H. W. Bush library opened 797 pages of records that deal with Saudi Arabia. To date, more than six million pages of Presidential records have been processed at the Bush library.

**HOUSE PASSES BILL TO CLARIFY USE OF SECURITY CLASSIFICATIONS-** The House of Representatives has passed H.R. 1323, the "Reducing Information Control Designations Act," to restrict and reduce the use of markings to control what is known as "sensitive but unclassified" (SBU) information and "controlled unclassified information" (CUI). The bill is identical to a bill passed by the House during the 110th Congress.

The legislation builds off of a memorandum issued by President Bush to standardize the use of these markings. President Bush's framework was met with skepticism by many public interest advocates who are worried, for example, that the proposed framework does not eliminate the creation of new markings in the future and does not set up a system for eventually removing the markings.

**PIDB ISSUES WARNING TO PRESIDENT ABOUT STATUS OF FEDERAL DECLASSIFICATION EFFORTS-** The Public Interest Declassification Board (PIDB) recently sent a letter to President Obama expressing its serious concerns about the federal government's performance regarding declassification and providing citizen access to government information. The Board stated, "We have to sound a note of alarm about how well the Government is doing in this area. In fact, we have concluded that this fundamental principle of self-government is at risk and, without decisive action, the situation is likely to worsen."

The PIDB went on to cite four major reasons why the current declassification system is deficient:

1. The volume of classified records vastly exceeds the agencies' capacity to perform timely declassification;
2. No coordinated inter-agency process exists for efficient consideration of multiple and, often conflicting, agency interests;
3. Without strong leadership on declassification, agencies have proven risk averse; and
4. New technologies have made the already daunting declassification problem much bigger.

**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ISSUES NEW FOIA GUIDELINES-** On March 19, 2009, Attorney General Eric Holder issued comprehensive new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) guidelines that direct all executive branch departments and agencies to apply a presumption of openness when administering the FOIA. The memo rescinds the guidelines issued on Oct. 12, 2001, by former Attorney General John Ashcroft.

The new guidelines, announced in a memo to heads of executive departments and agencies, build on the principles announced by President Obama on his first full day in office when he issued a presidential memorandum on the FOIA that called on agencies to “usher in a new era of open government.” At that time, President Obama also instructed Attorney General Holder to issue new FOIA guidelines that reaffirm the government’s commitment to accountability and transparency.

The new FOIA guidelines address both application of the presumption of disclosure and the effective administration of the FOIA across the government. As to the presumption of disclosure, the Attorney General directs agencies not to withhold records simply because they can technically do so. In his memo, the Attorney General encourages agencies to make discretionary disclosures of records and to release records in part whenever they cannot be released in full.

The Attorney General also establishes a new standard for the defense of agency decisions to withhold records in response to a FOIA request. Now, the Department will defend a denial only if the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the statutory exemptions, or disclosure is prohibited by law. Under the previous defensibility standard of the rescinded rules, the Department had said it would defend a denial if the agency had a “sound legal basis” for its decision to withhold.

In addition to establishing criteria governing the presumption of disclosure, the Attorney General’s FOIA guidelines emphasize that agencies must be sure to have in place effective systems for responding to requests. In the memo, the Attorney General calls on each agency to be fully accountable for its administration of the FOIA.

The Attorney General’s memo also emphasizes that FOIA is the responsibility of everyone in each agency, and that in order to improve FOIA performance, agencies must address the key roles played by a broad range of personnel who work with each agency’s FOIA professionals. The memo highlights the key role played by agency Chief FOIA Officers who will now be reporting each year to the Department of Justice on their progress in improving FOIA administration.

And, the Attorney General also directs FOIA professionals to work cooperatively with FOIA requesters and to anticipate interest in records before requests are made and to make requested records available promptly.

The Office of Information Policy will conduct training and provide guidance on the new FOIA guidelines to executive branch departments and agencies, as well as to interested groups, in order to maintain a comprehensive approach to greater government transparency.

**HOUSE PASSES BILLS TO PROTECT REVOLUTIONARY WAR, WAR OF 1812 AND CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS-** On March 3, 2009, the House of Representatives passed two battlefield protection bills that authorize federal grants for the preservation of significant sites associated with the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Similar bills passed the House last year, but were not considered by the Senate before it adjourned.

H.R. 146, the “Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act,” amends the “American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333)” to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish an acquisition grant program for battlefields and associated sites identified in a Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Historic Preservation Study prepared by the National Park Service (NPS).

The bill would authorize \$10 million in grants annually in fiscal 2010-14 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the preservation and protection of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields and related historical sites, as is currently done for Civil War sites. The bill would allow officials at the American Battlefield Protection Program to collaborate with state and local governments and non-profit organizations to preserve and protect the most

endangered historical sites and to provide up to 50 percent of the costs of purchasing battlefield land threatened by sprawl and commercial development.

According to a 2007 National Parks Service “Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States,” 170 of 677 nationally significant sites associated with the two wars are in danger of being destroyed in the next 10 years. In addition to the 170 sites in danger of being destroyed within the next 10 years, the NPS found that 99 have already been lost forever and 234 are in poor condition. The bill includes \$500,000 to update the Report within three years of enactment.

The House also passed H.R. 548, the “Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2009.” The legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program, to assist and work in partnership with citizens, federal, state, local, and tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and private nonprofits in the identification, research, evaluation, interpretation, and protection of historic Civil War battlefields and associated sites.

The bill establishes a battlefield acquisition grant program under which the Secretary may provide grants to eligible entities (states and local governments) to pay the federal share of the cost to acquire interests in eligible sites for the preservation and protection of those sites. It permits an eligible entity to acquire an interest in an eligible site using a grant in partnership with a nonprofit and requires the non-federal share to be at least 50 percent. It limits acquisitions of land and interests under the bill to acquisitions of conservation easements and fee-simple purchases of eligible sites from willing sellers only.

The legislation authorizes appropriations to fund grants at a level of \$10 million annually through fiscal year 2013. The Act would be repealed on September 30, 2019.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES FY ‘09 OMNIBUS FUNDING-** The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) will receive its highest level of funding in recent years under the fiscal year (FY) 2009 omnibus spending package (HR 1105), that was enacted into law in early March. NARA’s budget would jump 12 percent from the current \$411 million to \$459 million.

Here is a breakdown of NARA’s funding. Please note below that for comparison purposes, the FY ‘08 budget number will be included in parentheses after this year’s amount followed by the increase or decrease from FY ‘08 to FY ‘09.

#### Operating Expenses

\$330.3 million (\$315 million) +\$15.3 million

The fiscal year 2008 Appropriations Act included funding for an increase in archivist staff, and these additional staff will continue to be funded in fiscal year 2009 within this appropriation. In addition, this bill includes \$875,000 to provide a further increase in the number of archivist staff, in order to continue to reverse the staffing reductions that had occurred between fiscal year 2002 and fiscal year 2007.

NARA is directed to report to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, within 30 days of enactment of the bill, as to the specific steps it is taking to continue to restore NARA’s archivist workforce to pre-2002 levels.

Also included in the amount is \$1,000,000 for NARA’s new Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The OGIS will serve as the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) ombudsman for the federal government. The Administration had proposed, in its fiscal year 2009 budget request, to fund this office at the Department of Justice. This bill funds the office at NARA, as authorized by the OPEN Government Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-175).

The bill includes \$650,000, available until September 30, 2010, to be used to complete the review of U.S. Government documents pertaining to the activities of the Nazis and the Japanese Imperial Government. These documents are being declassified pursuant to the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-246) and the Japanese Imperial Government Disclosure Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-567). These laws directed that Government agencies ensure the declassification of files pertaining to the activities of the Nazis and the Japanese Imperial Government.

In 2007, following the declassification and review of thousands of files containing newly-

disclosed information about the Nazis and the Japanese Imperial Government, NARA issued a report summarizing the new historical insights gained as a result of the NARA-supervised review of these documents. However, a number of additional U.S. Army and CIA/OSS documents were discovered too late in the process to be included in NARA's 2007 report. This funding is to be used to report separately on these remaining documents. NARA is directed to report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, within 90 days of enactment of this Act, with a proposed schedule for completing the review and historical analysis of these documents and releasing a supplemental report, to serve as a companion to NARA's 2007 report.

Congress also provided \$6,325,000 to operate the George W. Bush Presidential Library in Dallas. It is now temporarily located in a facility in Lewisville, TX until the permanent library is built with private funds on the campus of Southern Methodist University.

Electronic Records Archives (ERA) project—\$67 million (\$58 million) +\$9 million  
The bill retains the directive requiring NARA to submit, and for the Committees on Appropriations to approve, a GAO-reviewed spending plan for ERA prior to the obligation of funds.

Although they recognized some improvement in the ERA project, the Appropriations Committees expressed their continuing concerns about the program, NARA's oversight of the program, and the reliability of the work of the ERA contractor, especially given the previous cost overrun, widespread replacement of contractor staff, and nine month delay in achievement of Initial Operating Capability. In order to overcome the schedule delays that occurred in 2007 and 2008, and to prepare NARA to receive the electronic records of the outgoing Administration in time for the January 20, 2009 change in Administrations, NARA and the contractor have had to develop a two-pronged development strategy, focusing on building a base ERA system, plus a second system devoted to receiving the Executive Office of the President electronic records of the outgoing Administration.

NARA is directed to provide quarterly ERA progress reports, beginning no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, to both GAO and to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, and to immediately report to the Committees and to GAO any potential delays, cost overruns, or other problems associated with ERA development. As recommended by GAO, the quarterly progress reports should include summary measures of project performance against ERA cost and schedule estimates.

### Repairs and Restoration

\$50.7 million (\$28.6 million) + \$22.1 million

The bill provides \$50,711,000 for repairs and restoration. This amount includes: (1) \$17,500,000 for necessary expenses related to the repair and renovation of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, NY, which NARA has listed as its top capital improvement priority; (2) \$22,000,000 to complete construction of an addition to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston, MA; and (3) \$2,000,000 to complete the repair and restoration of the plaza that surrounds the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, TX.

The Appropriations Committees made clear they felt they had adequately provided funding for NARA's portion of the LBJ Presidential Library plaza project; therefore, the Library and the university were "put on notice" not to return to the Committees for any further funding for the project.

The bill includes an administrative provision directing NARA to include in its annual budget submission each year a comprehensive capital needs assessment for its entire infrastructure of presidential libraries and records facilities. Funding should be included in each year's budget to address the highest priorities, including projects already underway.

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# MEETINGS CALENDAR 2009

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**June 4-5** National D-Day Conference, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA. Contact: David Snead, [ddayconference@liberty.edu](mailto:ddayconference@liberty.edu).

**June 29-July 1** "Wars of Empire". 50th International Military History Conference of the Military History Research Institute, Potsdam, Germany. Details (in German) at [http://www.mgfa.de/html/veranstaltungen\\_2005.php?display\\_va=4981bc40a3c1c](http://www.mgfa.de/html/veranstaltungen_2005.php?display_va=4981bc40a3c1c).

**July 16-19** HISTORICON Military Seminar Series, Lancaster, PA. Information: John Dunn, [jdunn@valdosta.edu](mailto:jdunn@valdosta.edu) or [www.hmgs.org](http://www.hmgs.org).

**July 20-22** Conference: England's Wars, 1272-1399 at the University of Reading, ICMA Centre. Details at [www.medievalsoldier.org/conf.php](http://www.medievalsoldier.org/conf.php).

**July 26-29** Annual Meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Springfield, IL. Information: <http://www.shear.org/>.

**July 28-August 2** 4th Annual International Congress of the History of Technology symposium on "The Social History of Military Technology." Budapest, Hungary. Contact: Bart Hacker, [hackerb@si.edu](mailto:hackerb@si.edu).

**August 26-27** Conference: Air Power and the Environment: The Ecological Implications of Modern Air Warfare, Royal Air Force College Cranwell. Details at <http://www.airpowerstudies.co.uk>.

**August 31-September 2** Seventy Years On: New Perspectives on the Second World War, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Conference web site: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/newperspectives>.

**September 10-12** 2009 Naval History Symposium, sponsored by the History Department at the US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD. Information: Commander C. C. Felker, [felker@usna.edu](mailto:felker@usna.edu).

**September 10-13** International Society for First World War Studies annual meeting, Imperial War Museum, London. Theme: "Other Combatants, Other Fronts: Competing Histories of the First World War." Full information can be found at [www.firstworldwarstudies.com](http://www.firstworldwarstudies.com).

**September 11-13** Western Front Association Annual National Seminar, The Liberty Memorial, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact Doran Cart at [dcart@theworldwar.org](mailto:dcart@theworldwar.org) for program details or visit the WFA Website at [www.wfa-usa.org](http://www.wfa-usa.org) for information.

**September 28-30** United States Air Force Academy 22nd Military History Symposium. Contact: LTC Grant Weller, [grant.weller@usafa.edu](mailto:grant.weller@usafa.edu).

**October 8** Air Force Historical Foundation 2009 Symposium: "The Balkans Air Campaigns of the 1990s and Their Influence Since 2001," Arlington, Virginia. Details at [www.afhistoricalfoundation.org](http://www.afhistoricalfoundation.org) or email Tom Bradley at [execdir@afhistoricalfoundation.org](mailto:execdir@afhistoricalfoundation.org).

**October 14-17** Northern Great Plains History Conference, St. Cloud, MN. SMH-specific information: <http://personal2.stthomas.edu/jcfitzharris/NGPHC/>.

**October 15-16** Symposium on Cryptologic History, the Johns-Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, MD. Contact: Dr. Kent Sieg, [kgsieg@nsa.gov](mailto:kgsieg@nsa.gov).

**November 7** Western Front Association, New England-New York Chapter, annual seminar, Boston University. Contact Guy Cavallaro at [Ph1m2h3@aol.com](mailto:Ph1m2h3@aol.com) for more information.

**November 14** Western Front Association, Southwestern Chapter seminar, Ft. Marbry, Austin, TX. Contact David Beer at [dbeer@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:dbeer@mail.utexas.edu) for more information.

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# MEETINGS CALENDAR 2010

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**February 26-27** - Western Front Association, Florida & Gulf Coast Chapter annual seminar, Tampa, Florida. Contact Len Shurtleff at [lshurtleff@aol.com](mailto:lshurtleff@aol.com) for program and registration information.

**May 20-23** The SMH 2010 Annual Meeting will be in Lexington, VA hosted by the Virginia Military Institute and the George C. Marshall Foundation. Casey Brower at VMI and Brian Shaw, Director of the Marshall Foundation, are coordinating the meeting.



**HEADQUARTERS  
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## **MEETINGS CALENDAR 2011**

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**June 9-12** The Cantigny First Division Foundation (CFDF) near Chicago, Illinois will host the 2011 Society for Military History (SMH) Annual Meeting in June at a hotel in Lisle, IL.

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## **MEETINGS CALENDAR 2012**

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**May 10-13** The 2012 SMH Annual Meeting will be in Arlington, Virginia (Crystal City) at the Hyatt Regency Hotel May 10-13 hosted by the Army Historical Foundation.

*New members to the Society will be automatically entered into the online directory database. If this is not acceptable, please contact the business office.*