AMI Firearms Competition

By Paul A. Thomsen

Amidst the Society for Military History Records, researchers will find a box numbered eighty-four and bearing the rather atypical subject heading of “Historic Firearms Contest, 1939.”

While the designation might conjure up tempting images of scholars settling matters of “academic honor” in eighteenth century-style duels, these records actually detail one of the organization’s early attempts at attracting interest outside of the Washington, D.C. network of military offices and archival repositories. Less than a decade after their founding as the American Military History Foundation (AMHF), the membership had just decided to broaden their appeal to prospective members by changing their name to the American Military Institute (AMI). Although they had yet to decide on a new name for the journal, most of the officers were in agreement that the future of the organization rested in an increased numbers of readers, a more diversified set of subjects, and greater visibility. They found all three in the study of firearms.

The originator of the idea is unknown, but, at some point in 1939, the officers voted to approve a contest in which both members and non-members alike would compete for cash prizes by successfully demonstrating their breadth and depth of firearms knowledge. More specifically, contestants were required to answer in long hand or by typewritten manuscript “a questionnaire on the physical, functional, and tactical characteristics of a series of eight models of infantry shoulder arms, selected as being the most typical of their period.”

The contest did stimulate discussion. Even before the contest was announced, several pieces of correspondence found within the files reveal a heated debate over precisely which firearms should be utilized in the vetting process. Some demanded the Longbow. Others demanded different variations in musketry. Others still advocated the addition of machine guns. Still further discussions were held over who could be qualified to judge the answers in a decisive yet fair manner. In time, they settled on the most outstanding firearms between 1350 and 1850. They also managed to secure some of the leading authorities on American military and firearm history, including Brigadier General Oliver...
L. Spaulding of the Chief of the Historical Section of the Army War College, Lieutenant Colonel Calvin Goddard of the Army Ordnance Office, and nationally renowned ballistics and historical weapons expert John K. Scofield of the American Rifleman. To make matters a bit more competitive, the judges demanded all submitted work be cited. Fearing their Washington members might, therefore, have an unfair advantage, the officers offered non-members access to the army’s and the organization’s files and library. With the finer points of the contest decided, AMI Secretary Frederick Todd sent a copy of the press release to the journal staff and began disseminating word of the competition to several local, state, and national papers.

The weapons included:

- English Longbow, 1350
- Swiss Crossbow, 1500
- Spanish Matchlock Musket, 1540
- Swedish Wheelock Musket, 1630
- Prussian Flintlock Musket, 1745
- French Flintlock Musket, 1776
- American Flintlock Rifle, 1780
- American Flintlock Rifle, 1817
- American Percussion Musket, 1842
- American Percussion Rifled Musket, 1855

By spring, the contest was underway and, by mid-summer, the AMI’s judges were awash on a veritable sea of answered and sourced questionnaires. Some of the surviving answers on file at Kansas State University’s Hale Library are very detailed, copiously sourced, and cover most of the multi-page questionnaire’s front and back. Eventually, three winners were selected for the organization’s first competition. Like the later scholarly competitors for the Armstrong, Moncado, and Simmons prizes, in the winter of 1940, the winner’s names were announced through the newly renamed Journal of the American Military Institute. They included Major Edward Hamilton for the First Prize of $100, Berkeley R. Lewis, Esq. for the Second Prize of $50 and Lieutenant Colonel Rutherford Ireland for the Third Prize of $25.
Preparations are well underway for the Society’s 79th annual meeting May 10-13, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia hosted by the Army Historical Foundation. The conference theme is “The Politics of War” and the program will include sessions and panels displaying the breadth, depth and diversity of military history. The Program Committee: Wayne E. Lee (Chair) University of North Carolina; Matt Seelinger (Meeting Coordinator) U.S. Army Historical Foundation; Ira Gruber, Rice University; Christopher Hamner, George Mason University; Stephen Morillo, Wabash College; Mark Sheftall, Auburn University and Susannah Ural, University of Southern Mississippi; has completed their difficult task of developing the program from the many proposed panels and papers. The meeting website with program and registration information will be operational in February. Room reservations at the $139 plus tax rate can be made by calling the hotel (703) 418-1234 and requesting the SMH rate or online using the link at the SMH website. The opening reception, awards luncheon and banquet will be at the Hyatt. There will be opportunities for attendees to have sponsored visits to the World War II Memorial, the National Museum of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The Hyatt offers free shuttle service from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) and from the nearby Metro stop.

I am pleased to report that SMH now has meeting sponsors thru 2017! G. Kurt Piehler, Associate Professor of History & Director, Institute on World War II and the Human Experience at Florida State University, who ably sponsored SMH 2003 in Knoxville, TN, will present a meeting proposal to SMH for 2017 in Tallahassee, Florida. I made a site visit to Ottawa, Canada in October and toured hotels and museums. The impressive five-year old Canadian War Museum, part of the Canadian Museum of Civilizations, will be our sponsor. Canadian War Museum Director of Research and Exhibitions, Dean Oliver, is finalizing their proposal. We are planning on an April 2016 meeting to secure the best hotel rates. SMH 2015 will be April 9-12 sponsored by the Air University at the Renaissance Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center in Montgomery, Alabama. Professor John Terrino is the 2015 meeting coordinator. On April 3-6, 2014 SMH will meet at the Westin Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. At the invitation of Jim Willbanks, SMH trustee and Director of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College Department of Military History, and the CGSC Foundation I visited Fort Leavenworth and Kansas City to work on meeting planning. Our meeting hotel, The Westin Crown Center, is ideally located adjacent to Crown Center shops and restaurants and within walking distance of the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial where our opening reception will be. SMH 2013 at the Sheraton New Orleans March 14-17 will be near the World War II Museum where we are planning to hold our banquet. The 2013 meeting coordinator is Susannah Ural, University of Southern Mississippi. I am planning an April site visit.

Two very important SMH adhoc committees have been active and completed their missions. The Information Technology Planning Committee (Frank Wetta, Chair, Kurt Hackemer, Paul Herbert, Roberta Wiener, and myself) reviewed several proposals from companies to connect our membership database and improve member services. The committee recommended and the Council approved contracting with EventRebels for membership management services. Roberta Weiner at JMH is working with them to develop our new membership system.

The Social Media Committee (Greg Urwin, Chair, Mark Grimsley, Barbara Gannon, David Silbey, and Adam Kane) recently completed their report that includes several recommendations for expanding SMH’s social media identity and interactions with members and the entire historical community. Mark Grimsley established the SMH Facebook Group and you are encouraged to join. Thanks are due to the members of both committees for their dedicated service.

I represented SMH at the American Council of Learned Societies fall meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. There were productive sessions and a valuable sharing of information among executive directors of social science and humanities academic organizations.
Call for Papers
The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience and the Department of Religion
Florida State University
“World War II and Religion”
November 30-December 1, 2012

The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience and the Department of Religion at Florida State University seek paper proposals for a two-day conference in Tallahassee, Florida focusing on Religion and World War II. Conference organizers G. Kurt Piehler and John Corrigan seek papers that touch on the institutional, theological, and human impact of religion in World War II. We are interested in the global dimension of this conflict and encourage scholars whose work focuses on Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East, and the Soviet Union, as well as Europe and North America. We are interested in addressing the ways that combatants and civilians drew upon religious ideals and institutions to sustain them in an age of total war, and especially how soldiers, sailors, and aviators behaved religiously in the course of their service. Additionally we solicit papers that consider the roles religious organizations and values played in fostering ethical conduct during the war, providing humanitarian relief, and protecting non-combatants and conscientious objectors, as well as analyses of various kinds of religious justifications for violence, including genocide. Among the questions we seek to address: did religious leaders and institutions foster a climate that encouraged rather than retarded the drift to total war? Are there really no atheists in foxholes? What was the legacy of the war for religious institutions and ideals, especially in the defeated Axis Powers? How did religious institutions discredited by their support of the Axis Powers seek to regain their legitimacy? What kinds of compromises did persons negotiate with their religious beliefs in wartime? In what way was pre-existent religious rhetoric deployed to characterize enemies as evil? How did the war diminish and exacerbate the perception of religious differences?

We encourage contributions from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. The conference organizers hope to provide travel funding to graduate students and junior scholars to encourage their participation. Plans call for the publication of an anthology drawn from the conference proceedings edited by John Corrigan and G. Kurt Piehler.

Those seeking to participate in the conference should submit a 750 word abstract along with a short 3-5 page c.v. via Microsoft word attachment or PDF File to G. Kurt Piehler at kpiehler@fsu.edu by March 15, 2012. For further information about the conference, please contact John Corrigan at jcorrigan@fsu.edu or G. Kurt Piehler at kpiehler@fsu.edu.

G. Kurt Piehler, Director, Institute on World War II and the Human Experience
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Tallahassee, FL 32306-2200
Telephone: (850) 644-9541 • E: Mail: kpiehler@fsu.edu • Website: www2.fsu.edu

Looking for a Good Home
AVAILABLE for the cost of shipping – More than 200 color slides and prints related to the First Gulf War; public domain Department of Defense photos. Contact the Journal office at jmhsmh@vmi.edu if interested.
Mea Culpa!
Lon Strauss from the University of Kansas was not listed in the caption of the photo of Weigley Award winners on page 11 of the last Headquarters Gazette. Our apologies!

Dissertation Prize Competition
For the academic year 2012-13, the John A. Adams ’71 Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis at the Virginia Military Institute will offer a grant to support dissertation research in the history of the U.S. military during the Cold War era. Entitled the Adams - Collins Dissertation Prize, the award of $3,000 recognizes the generosity of VMI alumni John A. Adams and George Collins, Jr., in furthering Cold War studies.

The inaugural winner of the Adams-Collins Dissertation Prize last year was Mr. Faith Tokatli of Istanbul, Turkey who is writing about “Turkish-American Military Cooperation and Transformation of Turkish Military in the Cold War, 1947-1954.”

To be considered, eligible graduate students should submit a brief proposal delineating their doctoral research, its relevance to the U.S. military during the Cold War, a proposed time-line, and their credentials. Deadline for submissions: 31 March 2012

Direct materials electronically to:
Dr. Jim Adams, Director
(540) 464-7447/7338 • adamsjl@vmi.edu

Call for Papers

HISTORICON has a great Seminar Series which welcomes papers on all aspects of military history - from ancient to modern. Seminar participants are very interested in your take on a specific battle, tactical systems, army organization, the development and deployment of weapons, or military biography. Past presenters include military professionals, academics, government policy makers, and part-time historians. The following link showcases our 2010 presenters - http://www.historicon.org/HIST2010/guests.asp

Interested? Send us a proposal. We need but an abstract and vita, and are willing to consider first-time presenters, graduate students, and anyone who has a passion for military history. Papers, with time for questions and answers, should be no longer than an hour. PowerPoint shows work very well, but note – we cannot provide a laptop.

If your paper is selected for presentation at HISTORICON 2012, you will obtain a free pass (admission) to attend all convention events (a $35 value). If you have not previously attended HISTORICON, or never considered historical miniature war games as a hobby, you will probably find the convention intriguing.

Paper proposals considered until 5 March 2012. For more information, contact John Dunn, History, Valdosta State University, Valdosta GA, 31698-0035, or jdunn@valdosta.edu.

Opportunities in U.S. Naval History
The Naval History and Heritage Command, an official agency of the United States Navy, is offering the following competitive opportunities for funding of research and writing on the U.S. naval history for the academic year 2012-2013. The application deadline for all of these programs is 30 March 2012. All awards are based on merit, regardless of race, color, creed, or sex. Recipients must be U.S. citizens.

Rear Admiral John D. Hayes Pre-doctoral Fellowship in U.S. Naval History: The fellowship provides financial and scholarly aid for dissertation research and writing. The subject matter of the dissertation supported should significantly enhance knowledge of U.S. naval history. A stipend of $10,000 for the fellowship year (September 2012- June 2013) will be provided in two payments. The successful applicant will be asked to travel twice to NHHC’s Washington headquarters, once at the beginning of the fellowship period to meet with command historians, and once at the
end of the fellowship period to make a presentation on the progress on the dissertation. A single travel grant of up to $2,500 will be made to finance these two visits. Applicants must be citizens of the United States, not on active duty in the armed forces; be enrolled in a recognized graduate school; have completed requirements for the Ph.D. except the dissertation by June 30, 2012; and have an approved dissertation topic in the field of U.S. naval history. Current fellows applying for continuation of the fellowship for a second year will be considered on an equal competitive basis with other applicants.

Vice Admiral Edwin B. Hooper Research Grant: The grant is intended to assist a scholar in the research or writing of a book or article by helping to defray the costs of travel, living expenses, and document duplication, related to the research process. One award of up to $2,500 will be made on a competitive basis. Applicants must be citizens of the United States and hold a Ph.D. degree from an accredited university, awarded no later than March 30, 2012, or equivalent attainment as a published author. Proposals that have high promise of filling gaps in the literature of U.S. naval history that the Naval History and Heritage Command has identified as of higher interest are eligible for consideration. The command’s list of priority subjects in U.S. naval history is posted on the command’s website, www.history.navy.mil. Evaluation is based on evidence of ability, including previous scholarship, letters of recommendation, and the nature of the proposed research and its potential contribution to modern scholarship on the history of the United States Navy.

Rear Admiral Ernest M. Eller Graduate Research Grant: The grant is intended to assist a graduate student in the research and writing of U.S. naval history in fulfillment of the requirements of a master’s or doctoral degree by helping to defray the costs of travel, living expenses, and document duplication related to the research process for a master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation. The stipend is an amount up to $2,500, depending on the research expenses anticipated. Preference will be given to proposals that have high promise of filling gaps in the literature of U.S. naval history that the Naval History and Heritage Command has identified as of higher interest. The command’s list of priority subjects in U.S. naval history is posted on the command’s website, www.history.navy.mil.

Samuel Eliot Morison Scholarship: The purpose of the scholarship is to promote the development of a broad understanding of Naval History within the American national experience. The scholarship provides a $5,000 cash award to one active duty commissioned officer of the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps with demonstrated leadership potential and high academic qualifications who is already pursuing graduate study in history, international relations, or a related field. The award is to help pay for expenses related to research, travel, and the purchase of books or other educational materials.

Interested persons will find greater detail as well as application procedures and forms on the Naval History and Heritage Command’s website, at http://www.history.navy.mil/prizes/prizes.htm, or by contacting the Senior Historian, Naval History and Heritage Command, 805 Kidder Breese St., SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060.

Call for Papers
Northern Great Plains History Conference
27-29 September 2012
Fargo, ND

The Society for Military History sponsors sessions at the NGPHC. We encourage graduate students as well as faculty, government, and independent historians to submit proposals for papers or sessions. We view “military history” in much the way the Journal of Military History views the subject. The SMH Conference Coordinator works closely with the Conference Program Chair to ensure the strongest possible conference. We coordinate session development and scheduling.

The SMH and the First Division Museum, Cantigny, co-sponsor the SMH-FDMC prize for the best paper by a graduate student in military history, valued at $400. Instructions for submission will accompany acceptance of your proposal.

The NGPHC sponsors a separate graduate paper prize. The SMH and FDMC sponsor the SMH-FDMC prize for the best paper by an undergraduate student in history, valued at $200. The
Conference Program Chair, Dr. Mark Harvey (Mark.Harvey@ndsu.edu) handles these prizes. Contact Dr. Harvey for more information on the general conference, or to submit a proposal that is not within military history. The NGPHC welcomes graduate and undergraduate students, and faculty, government historians, and independent scholars.

In addition to a full slate of sessions, the SMH sponsors a lunch and, following the end of the conference, a tour, and a dining-out on Saturday afternoon. This year, the tour will be to the “Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile Site Historic Site” which actually consists of two sites telling the story of the Cold War years in North Dakota. They are the Oscar-Zero Missile Alert Facility and the November-33 Launch Facility. They are the last remnants of the 321st Missile Wing.

Please send a one page paper proposal and c.v. or, for a full session proposal, send a one page session proposal, and a one page abstract for each paper, and c.v.s for all participants, to jcfitzharris@stthomas.edu by 1 April 2012.

For more information, see http://personal2.stthomas.edu/jcfitzharris/NGPHC
Contact: SMH Conference Coordinator:
Joe Fitzharris, jcfitzharris@stthomas.edu
432 JRC, University of St. Thomas
2115 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105 USA
(651) 334-3360

The Robert L. Ruth and Robert C. Ruth Research Fellowship

The Fellowship is offered to graduate students enrolled in a graduate-level history program at an accredited university or college located in the United States. The Fellowship is presented annually for a concentrated 3 week period during the summer with the Army Heritage Center Foundation. Funding for the award is graciously provided by AHCF Board Member, Christopher Gleason, in memory and to honor the service of family members Robert L. Ruth, World War II, and Robert C. Ruth, Vietnam.

Applications are due to the Foundation by February 28th. Notification is provided to the recipient by April 1st. For more information and the application form, click or contact the Foundation at edassist@armyheritage.org or call (717) 258-1102.

Tomlinson Prize Winner Announced

The winner of the World War I Historical Association’s Norman B. Tomlinson, Jr. book prize for 2011 is Sean McMeekin Author of The Russian Origins of the First World War (Belknap Harvard, 2011). The prize amounts to $3,000 and is awarded annually for the best work of history in English on World War One.

The award is made by a panel of judges chaired by Dennis Showalter of Colorado College. The other panel members are Michael Neiberg of The U. S. Army War College and Ambassador Leonard G. Shurtleff of the World War I Historical Association.

The winner, Sean McMeekin, is Assistant Professor of International Relations at Bilkent University, Turkey.

Call for Papers

“Knowing your Public(s)—The Significance of Audiences in Public History”
2013 Annual Meeting, National Council on Public History
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, April 17-20, 2013

In 2013 the National Council on Public History will meet at the Delta Ottawa City Centre, in the heart of downtown Ottawa, Canada, with Canada’s Parliament buildings, historic ByWard market, national museums and historic sites, river trails, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Rideau Canal, and numerous cafes and restaurants within easy walking distance. The program committee invites panel, roundtable, workshop, working group, and individual paper proposals for the conference. The Call for Poster sessions will be issued in fall 2012.

As Canada’s capital, Ottawa is the national centre of the museum, archival and heritage community, and its historical and cultural attractions draw 5 million national and international tourists annually. Ottawa’s two universities have strong connections to public and applied history. The
federal government employs many history practitioners and creates a market for private consultants. With so many diverse fields of Public History theory and practice represented, Ottawa is an ideal place to consider issues and ideas associated with the theme of “Knowing your Public(s)—The Significance of Audiences in Public History.”

These could include:

- the changing nature of the public and the evolution of the discipline over the last forty years;
- how the public and Public Historians influence each other in the production of history;
- the effects of changing approaches to public participation, reciprocity, and authority on Public History theory and practice;
- the impact of digital media on expanding or excluding public engagement;
- generational differences including Public History for the millennial generation;
- intersections between Public History practised at universities and in the broader community;
- issues related to working with ‘closed’ audiences in fields such as litigation, or government-directed, research;
- accessing and use of grey literature
- the increasing need for audience relevance in times of economic recession;
- and diverse cultural and multi-national approaches to commemorating events such as the bi-centennial of the War of 1812 or the 60th anniversary of the armistice of the Korean War.

We welcome submissions from all areas of the field, including teaching, museums, archives, heritage management, tourism, consulting, litigation-based research, and public service. Proposals may address any area of Public History, but we especially welcome submissions which relate to our theme. Case studies should evoke broader questions about practice in the field. The program committee prefers complete session proposals but will endeavor to construct sessions from proposals for individual presentations. Sessions are 1.5 hours (working groups may be longer); significant time for audience discussion should be included in every session. The committee encourages a wide variety of forms of conversation, such as working groups, roundtables, panel sessions, and professional development workshops, and urges participants to dispense with the reading of papers. Participants may be members of only one panel, but may also engage in working groups, introducing sessions and leading discussions. See the NCPH website at www.ncph.org for details about submitting your proposal and be sure to peruse past NCPH programs for ideas about new session/event formats.

Proposals are due by July 15, 2012.

All presenters and other participants are expected to register for the annual meeting. If you have questions, please contact the program committee co-chairs or the NCPH program director.

2013 Program Committee Co-Chairs
Michelle A. Hamilton
Director of Public History
The University of Western Ontario
mhamilt3@uwo.ca

Jean-Pierre Morin
Treaty Historian
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
JeanPierre.Morin@aandc-aandc.gc.ca
NCPH Program Director
Carrie Dowdy
dowddy@iupui.edu

Call for Papers
The Department of History at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) invites proposals for papers for the 23rd Military History Symposium, to be held at USAFA in Colorado Springs, Colorado, 6-7 September 2012.
Paper proposals are welcome on all aspects of relationships between military organizations and civil societies in all geographic areas and including all chronological periods:

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

- Biography
- Cultural history
- Economic history
- Ethnic / race history
- Gender history
- History of sexuality
- Institutional history
- Military history
- Organizational history
- Political history
- Social history
- War and society

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) by 1 April, 2012 to:

Lt Col Kristi Lowenthal, USAF  
Program Chair, 23rd Military History Symposium  
HQ USAFA/DFH  
2354 Fairchild Hall, Suite 6F101  
USAFA Academy CO 80840  
Kristi.lowenthal@usafa.edu

Electronic submissions are preferred, but not required.

For questions about the Symposium, please contact:  
Lt Col Chris Rein, USAF  
Director, 23rd Military History Symposium  
HQ USAFA/DFH  
2354 Fairchild Hall, Suite 6F101  
USAFA Academy CO 80840  
christopher.rein@usafa.edu

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**Call for Articles**

**International Bibliography of Military History**

The Bibliographical Committee of the International Commission of Military History (ICMH) encourages contributions to the International Bibliography of Military History (IBMH), published by Brill. For the next issue, due to be published in July 2012, the deadline for the contributions is 1 May 2012.

We would like to invite scholars to submit historiographical articles, dealing with the state of military history in a specific country or an issue of military-historiographical relevance. These articles should be no longer than 7,000 words. In addition, we also welcome review articles, which discuss a historiographical issue of major controversy and significance covered by a number of recent publications. These contributions should not exceed 5,000 words.

The articles should be submitted either to the Editor-in-chief and President of the IBMH, Dr. Mauro Mantovani (Military Academy at ETH Zurich, Switzerland) (mauro.mantovani@vtg.admin.ch), or the Scientific Editor and Secretary General of the IBMH, Dr. Marco Wyss (Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich, Switzerland) (marco.wyss@sipio.gess.ethz.ch), who will then decide, together with the committee and external reviewers, about the article’s suitability for publication. For additional information and editorial guidelines, please contact the Editor-in-chief or the Scientific Editor. We are looking forward to your submissions.
Conference Announcement

The Centre d’Estudis Històrics Internacionals de la Universitat de Barcelona (CEHI-UB) and the Grup de Recerca i Anàlisi del Món Actual (GRANMA) are organizing the conference “Soldiers, bombs and rifles. A military history of the twentieth century. Tribute to Professor Gabriel Cardona”, scheduled for April 18, 2012. The aim of the Conference is to rethink the role of Military History as an indispensable tool for interpretation of all historical processes of modernity. For this reason, they invite specialists in military history, historians of diverse backgrounds and the general public to participate. For more information, go to http://www.ub.edu/cehi/jornada.php.

Call for Papers

The War of 1812
Bicentennial Conference Series: Part I
“Origins and the War at Sea”
Saint John, N.B.
27-29 September 2012

The Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick, in conjunction with the Canadian-American Centre at the University of Maine and the New Brunswick Museum, is pleased to announce the first in a series of three conferences/symposia in commemoration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812. This first conference will deal with the origins of the war, the period of ‘undeclared’ warfare in 1812 and the war on the high seas. Dr. Andrew Lambert, the author of The Challenge: America, Britain and the Naval war of 1812 (Faber & Faber, 2012), will be the keynote speaker.

Those interested in presenting at the conference should send a title and brief description of the paper (250 words) and a short bio to Dr. Marc Milner, Director of the Gregg Centre at milner@unb.ca before 1 April 2012.

News From Members

Dr. John A. Nagl (Lt. Col. U.S. Army Retired) has been appointed to Southern California based, VoicePlate.com, board of directors. VoicePlate.com helps veterans, military families and others with an opportunity to showcase their skills to potential employers through an easy to use online platform. VoicePlate.com is providing free accounts to active duty military personnel and military personnel transition to civilian life to help them better connect with potential employers.

The Historical Office of the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense has published SMH Samuel Eliot Morison Prize winner Edward J. Drea’s new book. McNamara, Clifford and the Burdens of Vietnam, 1965–1969, volume VI in the Secretaries of Defense Historical Series, covers the incumbency of Robert S. McNamara, as well as the brief, but significant, tenure of Clark M. Clifford. McNamara, Clifford and the Burdens of Vietnam highlights the interaction of McNamara and Clifford with the White House, Congress, the JCS, the State Department, and other federal agencies involved in policy formulation. The two secretaries attempted to impose order while fighting a war whose cost of winning became as morally prohibitive as the price of losing. A PDF copy is available online at http://history.defense.gov/resources/OSDSeries_Vol6.pdf.

The Naval War College Press announces the newest title in its monograph series, the Newport Papers: Innovation in Carrier Aviation, by Thomas C. Hone, Norman Friedman, and Mark D. Mandeles. It describes and analyzes how the three key innovations essential to the modern aircraft carrier—the steam catapult, angled flight deck, and mirror-light landing aid—were developed first by the Royal Navy and then quickly adopted by the U.S. Navy.

For information about the title and links to its pdf version and to the GPO Online Bookstore, where print copies may be purchased, see http://www.usnwc.edu/Publications/Naval-War-College-Press/Innovation-in-Carrier-Aviation.aspx.
Hattendorf Prize Awarded

U.S. Naval War College (NWC) presented British naval historian N.A.M. Rodger with the Hattendorf Prize for his contributions to maritime history. During a brief ceremony at the 20th International Seapower Symposium, U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert and the British Royal Navy’s First Sea Lord, Adm. Sir Mark Stanhope, joined the Naval War College’s President Rear Admiral John N. Christenson and Professor John B. Hattendorf in recognizing Rodger as the inaugural Hattendorf Prize Laureate.

Rodger is a fellow of All Soul’s College at Oxford University and of the British Academy, the U.K.’s London-based national organization for distinguished scholars in the humanities and social sciences. Rodger has researched extensively the naval history of Britain, with his works spanning nearly 1,400 years of history.

“It is particularly appropriate for the Naval War College to make this announcement here at this symposium,” said Christenson. “This prize is made for world-class achievement in original research that contributes to a deeper historical understanding of the broad context and interrelationships involved in the roles, contributions, limitations, and uses of the sea services in history.”

Rodger told the audience of maritime leaders from more than 110 nations around the world that he was honored to be presented the award in front of such an august international delegation.

“I’ve often thought naval historians are able to do more service to navies than navies realize,” Rodger said. “I like to take the opportunities that come my way to tell admirals this, but I must say, I never dreamt I should find myself with the opportunity to say this to all the admirals in the whole world who matter.”

Christenson told the international delegation of naval and coast guard officers that the prize reflects the essence of Professor John B. Hattendorf’s long legacy of scholarship and service to the U.S. Navy, the college, and the local community. He first joined the Naval War College faculty as a lieutenant in 1972 and has been the Ernest J. King Professor of Maritime History at NWC since 1984 and director of the Naval War College Museum since 2003.

Christenson recognized the great generosity of the donor, Pam Ribbey, whose late grandfather, Captain Charles H. Maddox, was a 1935 and 1939 Naval War College graduate and a faculty member from 1939 to 1941. The donation of the prize was made in memory of Capt. Maddox, who played an instrumental role in intelligence collaboration between the U.S. Navy and the Royal Navy in the Pacific in the late 1930s and was serving at Pearl Harbor during the attack. Recognizing her grandfather’s service, Ribbey endowed the Prize on the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, Dec. 7, 2010. This endowment fund will allow the Naval War College to award the Prize at two-year intervals, providing a $10,000 cash prize with a citation and a bronze medal.

Call for Papers

Conference on ‘Small Navies’ to be held at the National University of Ireland Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland, to be held 20 and 21 October 2012.

This conference will address the role and activities of small navies in the past and the present at the national, regional and inter-national level. It will focus, in particular, on the different ways in which such navies identify and address national and international security challenges and the way in which they interact with other navies and security agencies. In addition to examining traditional ‘hard security’ roles such as coastal defence, guerre de course, sea control, sea denial and power projection the conference will also explore the relationship of such navies with non-military organisations, institutions and bodies in pursuit of goals relating to broader maritime security concerns including governance, surveillance, environmental protection, economic well-being, seaport security etc. It is intended to include panels focusing on current and future concerns in addition to others that address the history of small navies in peace and in war.

It is not intended to be prescriptive about what constitutes a ‘small navy’ beyond acknowledging that the term implies some limitation in size, role, reach, and/or capability vis-à-vis large (i.e. the US) and medium sized (i.e. the British, French and Indian) navies. One of the aims of the conference will be to identify areas of commonality in the experience and activities of smaller navies and also to establish the main differences between themselves and also between small navies and their ‘larger’ counterparts. An examination of the existence of distinct ‘small navies’ within large navies is another area that may be explored.

We invite submissions for papers and/or panels devoted to any aspect of the subject area and with either a historical or a contemporary focus. Special consideration will be given to propos-
Call for Papers

The symposium “1812: Harrison Takes Command,” is the third of four annual educational symposia that will be held to commemorate the War of 1812 Bicentennial. The first symposium, “The Gathering Storm: the Rise of Tecumseh,” was held in June 2010 and featured R. David Edmunds, the Watson Professor of American History at the University of Texas at Dallas and Andrew Cayton (Miami University), as well as members of the Eastern Shawnee and the Absentee Shawnee. The second symposium, “1811: The Year of the Decision,” was held in June 2011 and featured Jonathon Hooks (Mississippi University for Women), Lisa Morales (North Central Texas College), Charles Niemeyer (USMC), James Buss (Oklahoma City University), and a keynote address by David Skaggs, Professor Emeritus at Bowling Green State University.

Historic Southern Indiana, a regional resource program of the University of Southern Indiana’s Division of Outreach and Engagement, is sponsoring the symposium. The history departments at the University of Southern Indiana and Vincennes University are assisting with the program. The event will be held at the Indiana Center for Applied Technology on the Vincennes University campus in Vincennes, Indiana. The symposium is scheduled for June 30, 2012 and will be held on the last Saturday of June through 2013. The symposium day will feature scholarly lectures and/or panel discussions. This year’s theme will deal with the events of 1812, with particular emphasis on political themes and the militia of Kentucky and Indiana. Papers that challenge existing histories and offer new approaches to the topic are of particular interest for this year’s symposium. In that vein, possible themes for panels and submissions may include but are not limited to: Militia, Free Masons, Finances, Native American Perspectives, Popular Memory of the War and Commemoration, the War of 1812 as a National Event, and the War of 1812 as a classroom topic. Roundtable discussions and individual papers will be considered. Poster sessions are also welcome.

Participants will have the opportunity to tour local historical sites such as Grouseland, the Indiana Territory Capitol State Historic Site, and George Rogers Clark National Historical Park. The event is open to the public.

Information about the 2011 program is available at http://www.usi.edu/newsinfo/release/press_detail.asp?num=4008. Interested presenters and participants should send a one page paper proposal along with a short c.v. to Kristalyn M. Shefveland (kmshefvela@usi.edu) no later than March 2, 2012. Participants will be notified of the status of their proposals by April 6, 2012. Financial assistance for travel will be available on a limited basis.

Call for Papers

The 2013 thematic issue of The Journal of Korean Studies (JKS), under the direction of guest editor Charles K. Armstrong of Columbia University, will have as its theme the sixtieth anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. We invite original studies of the armistice and its historical and present-day significance by scholars from fields including – but not limited to – diplomatic, political, social and cultural history, as well as political science, law, sociology, anthropology, and film and literary studies. We are interested in manuscripts from a variety of theoretical, conceptual, methodological and geographical perspectives, including those dealing with participants on
various sides of the conflict: North and South Korea, the US, China, the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and United Nations coalition forces. For further information please contact Charles K. Armstrong at cra10@columbia.edu.

Articles appearing in the JKS are abstracted and indexed in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), Sociological Abstracts, Social Services Abstracts, Worldwide Political Science Abstracts, PAIS International, Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts, Bibliography of Asian Studies, Historical Abstracts, and America: History and Life. JKS is a peer-reviewed journal and all papers will be vetted by two outside readers.

Please submit your manuscript by July 31, 2012 to Tracy Stober, JKS Managing Editor, at jourks@u.washington.edu and to Charles K. Armstrong at cra10@columbia.edu.


NCH Washington Update

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.


The new OGIS Access System (OAS) will manage the requests for assistance that FOIA requesters and agencies bring to OGIS. This tool will both streamline OGIS’s work and increase transparency of its operations.

More than 1,200 FOIA requesters from 48 states and 13 foreign countries turned to OGIS for assistance in its first two years as FOIA Ombudsman. The service that OGIS provides ranges from checking the status of delayed FOIA requests to facilitating resolutions of disputes involving complex database requests. While OGIS has successfully resolved hundreds of cases, the Office recognizes the need for greater collaboration with agencies and a more systematic way of collecting information about its work. The OAS – which is supported by and integrated into a re-launched and expanded OGIS website – will help the Office achieve these goals.

“OGIS was created to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and federal agencies,” said OGIS Director Miriam Nisbet. “As we began our work, we realized that we needed an increased web presence to both manage our cases and educate requesters about the FOIA process. Our new OGIS Access System will help us achieve these goals.”

OAS is among the first generation of federal government online services operating in “the cloud.” This approach allows OGIS to launch a number of scalable online services, including:

• A searchable library of FOIA terms and concepts;
• An online submission process for those requesting OGIS’s assistance;
• The ability to review the status of a case with OGIS and communicate directly with OGIS staff; and
• The capability to engage with the public on ways to improve FOIA, which also is within the OGIS mission.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES TO RELEASE 1940 CENSUS ONLINE IN APRIL 2012-The National Archives and Records Administration recently announced it will place the entire 1940 Census – more than 18 terabytes of data – online, free of charge, for viewing and download by page or enumeration district beginning Monday, April 2, 2012, at 9 a.m. EDT. Researchers will be able to search the 1940 Census using the public computers at National Archives facilities nationwide, or personal computers with Internet access. In addition, for customers with large data requirements, the National Archives Trust Fund is selling the 1940 Census data on
hard-drives and hard-drive arrays. Microfilm copies of the 1940 Census data will be available for purchase from the Trust Fund, as well.

The National Archives Trust Fund will accept pre-orders for the 1940 Census data on hard-drives and hard-drive arrays. Digital copies will be available for purchase as a whole or by individual state. Pre-orders for the entire 1940 Census and/or for individual states will be sent via overnight mail on April 2, 2012. If you would prefer the data on microfilm, orders for 1940 Census microfilm can be placed on April 2, 2012.

To place an order or for more information, see the Trust Fund product page at http://estore.archives.gov/Category/105_1/1940_Census.aspx. For researchers interested in the learning more about the 1940 Census see www.archives.gov/research/census/1940 or e-mail questions to 1940Census@nara.gov.

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**SMH 2012 Banquet Speaker Named**

*By Bob Berlin*

The Society for Military History and the Army Historical Foundation are honored to have Brigadier General (Promotable) H. R. McMaster as the 79th Annual Meeting Banquet Speaker on Saturday May 12, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia.

McMaster has served in numerous command and staff positions in armor and cavalry units in the United States and Germany. He has served at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. He commanded Eagle Troop, Second armored Cavalry Regiment, in Bamberg, Germany, and Southwest Asia during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and the occupation of southern Iraq. He commanded the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, in Schweinfurt, Germany from October 1999 until June 2002. He served as director of the Commander’s Advisory Group for the commander of the U.S. Central Command from 2003 to 2004. He was senior research associate at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London and served as special assistant to the commander, Multinational Force Iraq. Currently he is Commander, Combined Joint Interagency Task Force Shafafiyat, International Security Assistance Force, OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, Afghanistan.

McMaster taught history at the United States Military Academy from 1994 to 1996. He has been a fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. He is the author of the award-winning book *Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam*. He has published numerous articles on historical and national security affairs topics in edited volumes, newspapers, magazines, and professional journals.

His military decorations include the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart Medal.

McMaster received his B.A. from the United States Military Academy in 1984. He holds a Ph.D. in American history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.
MEETINGS CALENDAR 2012


March 2-4 - Symposium on the Mobile Campaign and Battle of Blakely, 1864-1865, Historic Blakely Park, Spanish Fort, AL. Contact: Dr. James W. Williams, at 1oldhistorian@bellsouth.net.


March 16-17 - Western Front Association, Florida & Gulf Coast Chapter, Seminar on the Eastern Front, Tampa Hilton Garden Inn North, Temple Terrace, Florida. Contact lshurtleff@aol.com for program details.

May 10-12 - Conflict in Memory: Intercultural and Intergenerational Remembering of War, Conflict and Transition: An Interdisciplinary Conference, Aarhus University, Denmark. Website: http://matchpoints.au.dk/.

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.

May 12 - Western Front Association Spring WWI History Seminar in York, PA in conjunction with the York County Heritage Trust. For information and registration, visit the WFA East Branch website at http://www.wfa-eastcoast.org, or contact Paul Cora at pbcora@earthlink.net.


June 30 - 1812: Harrison Takes Command, sponsored by Historic Southern Indiana, a regional resource program of the University of Southern Indiana’s Division of Outreach and Engagement, assisted by the history departments at the University of Southern Indiana and Vincennes University. Indiana Center for Applied Technology on the Vincennes University campus in Vincennes, Indiana. Contact: kmshefvela@usi.edu.


September 6-7 - 23rd Military History Symposium, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO. Information: LTC Chris Rein, Christopher.rein@usafa.edu.

September 7-8 - The World War One Historical Association annual seminar at the Marine Corps University, Quantico, Virginia. http://www.ww1ha.org/.

September 27-29 - Northern Great Plains History Conference, Fargo, ND. For more information, see http://personal2.stthomas.edu/jcfitzharris/NGPHC.

September 27-29 - The War of 1812, Part I: “Origins and the War at Sea.” Sponsored by the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick, in conjunction with the Canadian-American Centre at the University of Maine and the New Brunswick Museum. Information: Dr. Marc Milner, milner@unb.ca.

October 20-21 - Conference on “Small Navies,” to be held at the National University of Ireland Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland. Information: http://history.nuim.ie.

November 30 - December 1 - “World War II and Religion,” hosted by the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience and the Department of Religion at Florida State University. Information: Kurt Piehler at kpiehler@fsu.edu.
**MEETINGS CALENDAR 2013**

**March 14-17** - The 2013 SMH Annual Meeting will be in New Orleans, LA at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. Hosted by the University of Southern Mississippi, the National World War II Museum and Southeastern Louisiana University

**October 11-13** - The Balkan Wars 1912/13. Experience, Perception, Remembrance at the Center for Balkan and Black Sea Studies / Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul. Contact: PD Dr. Katrin Boeckh, Osteuropa-Institut, Landshuter Str. 4, 93047 Regensburg, boeckh@osteuropa-institut.de.

**MEETINGS CALENDAR 2014**

**April 3-7** - The 2014 SMH Annual Meeting will be in Kansas City, MO at the Westin Crown Center Hotel. Hosted by the Department of Military History, U.S. Army Command & General Staff College; CGSC Foundation; Liberty Memorial - National World War I Museum; Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum & Library; and the Department of History, University of Kansas.

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