

SMH Chronology

- 1896 The Order of the Indian Wars (OIW) is created
- 1914 The Historical Section of the United States Army is created to assist in the World War
- 1918 After briefly falling as a casualty of the postwar demobilization, the Historical Section of the United States Army is recreated to prepare monographs, historical studies, and the copying of historical documents from other nations
- 1933 March 16; Major C.C. Benson drafts the first position paper calling for a non-profit military history organization to aid the U.S. Army
- June 2; After a series of informal discussions amongst military and civilian archival personnel, papers are filed in Washington, D.C formally incorporating the American Military History Foundation (AMHF)
- June 9; The first official meeting of AMHF is held
- 1935 Jan-February; The first in a series of three articles by members on the study of military history were published in *Army Ordnance* (through the assistance of managing editor Colonel Leo A. Codd)
- Dec; AMHF holds a joint session with the American Historical Association (AHA) in Chattanooga, Tennessee
- 1937 April 1; The organization publishes the first issue of the *Journal of the AMHF* with art and ink illustrations provided by member Fred Todd
- 1938 OIW starts to merge with AMHF, granting the organization access to OIW membership lists and requiring the organization to publish thirty-two pages of Indian War-related material annually and to sit one member of OIW on the Board of Trustees
- Dec. 28 Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, the membership vote to rename the organization the “American Military Institute.” At the meeting, a name change for the journal was also approved, but the name change occurs two years later
- June 2; Although some in the organization began using AMI starting in January, AMHF was only legally incorporated as AMI in June. A second filing for incorporation under the name AMI was made on March 24, 1939, changing part of the description and address of the organization

- 1939 The American Military History Foundation is officially renamed the American Military Institute (AMI)
- 1939-1940 *The Journal of the American Military History Foundation* is renamed *The Journal of the American Military Institute*
- 1941-1988 Spring 1941; *The Journal of the American Military Institute* is first published under the name of *Military Affairs* (Volume 5, Number 1)
- 1941 A Chicago chapter of AMI opens
- 1941 AMI sponsors a seminar-conference on “The Total Science of War”, revolving around issues concerning the preceding two years of European warfare
- 1942 AMI and the American Historical Association (AHA) hold a regular joint session at the AHA Annual Conference
- 1945 AMI holds a lecture and discussion, entitled “The Atomic Bomb and Its Implications,” at the National Archives Records Administration (NARA). The panel includes General Leslie Groves.
- 1946 Lt. General J. Lawton Collins, WWII VII Corp Commander, presents a lecture on “The Battle for Cherbourg” for AMI members
- 1947 AMI becomes affiliated with the Order of the Indian Wars, subsuming the membership, fiscal assets, and records of the previous organization
- 1948 OIW completes their merger with AMHF/AMI
- 1948-1949 *Military Affairs* is run by a paid editor through the Office of the Chief of Military History (Major Robert Lawrence and Captain William Ross), reverting the publication to the original format. Within a few months, however, the operation is cut from the DoD budget by Secretary Louis Johnson
- 1949 Columbia University President Dwight Eisenhower directs Edwin N. Clarke to assist the faltering AMI. The consultation produced a plan to reorganize the organization under Columbia University and an organization/publication broadening of scope to include “war and Peace.” Shortly after Eisenhower is recalled to command NATO, Columbia abandons AMI and established the separate “Institute of War and Peace Studies”

- 1949-1950 *Military Affairs* goes on a one-year hiatus without an editor
- 1950 November 3: A general meeting of members is called in the Pentagon auditorium. Colonel Milton Skelly becomes the journal's temporary editor until a more permanent member can be found
- Military Affairs* resumes publication, printing the lost year and contemporary issues concurrently
- 1952 Oct.; Officers call for a reorganization of the AMI
- 1952 Dec.; AMI holds Informal social meeting of all members held at the Army Navy Club
- Dec.; AMI holds joint meeting with AHA at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington D.C.
- 1954 Spring; AMI and the Civil War Roundtable hold a joint meeting
- 1954 Dec.; AMI and AHA hold a joint meeting held at AHA Annual Convention in New York City
- 1956 March; Professor William Russell (USNA) delivers a lecture at an AMI luncheon on "Projection of Mahan Theories of Naval Strategy into an Air World"
- 1956 Dec. AMI and AHA hold a joint conference, discussing "The Teaching of Military History: Pro and Con", held in St. Louis, Missouri
- 1957 AMI and *Military Affairs* near collapse as a result of poor office space, the limitations of an all-volunteer staff and a dwindling membership base
- 1957 AMI and AHA hold joint conference, discussing "The Role of President as Commander-in-Chief" in Coalition Warfare in Twentieth Century", held in New York City
- 1958 April; AMI delegates are requested to attend the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to discuss "Asia and Future World leadership"
- 1958 Dec. AMI and AHA hold joint conference on "New Perspectives on World War II" in Washington D.C.
- 1958/9 A temporary office for AMI is set up in a corner of the Army Library at the Pentagon.

- 1959 The journal's publication reaches a circulation of 2,400 issues
(This is the first time AMI needed to order more than 2,000 copies
from the printer)
- The first eighteen volumes of *Military Affairs* become available
at the Library of Congress via microfilm at a cost of \$130 to the
Institute
- 1966 Kansas State University (KSU) broaches the subject of taking over
Military Affairs operations with AMI
- 1968 KSU begins publishing *Military Affairs*
- 1968 AMI sponsors a well-attended lecture at the Smithsonian
Institution in association with the Naval Historical Foundation and the
Smithsonian's Department of National and Military History, discussing
"The Japan Expedition, 1852-1855, of Commodore Matthew C. Perry"
- 1969 AMI and AHA hold a joint session in Washington D.C. of "Allied
Mediterranean Strategy in World War II".
- 1969 AMI and the Southern Historical Association (SHA) hold a joint session
in Washington, D.C. on "Logistics in the Army of Northern Virginia
- 1969 AMI sponsors a well-attended lectures at the Smithsonian Institution in
association with the Naval Historical Foundation and the Smithsonian's
Department of National and Military History, discussing "The Evolution
of Aircraft Carrier Tactics in the Imperial Japanese Navy" by General
Minoru Genda.
- 1970 AMI holds a joint session with the Organization of American Historians
(OAH) on military history at the 1970 OAH conference
- 1971 AMI begins to plot out their bicentennial event schedule
- 1971 AMI holds three joint conferences with other scholarly bodies to increase
participation by non-beltway members, including the SHA in Houston,
Texas
- 1973 The Civil War Roundtable asks AMI to assist in the effort to preserve the
integrity of the Manassas Creek from development as an amusement park.
- 1973 AMI is represented at the International Commission of Military History
(ICMH) in Stockholm, Sweden

- 1975 AMI is represented at the International Congress of Historical Sciences in San Francisco.
- 1975 AMI undergoes a change in election rules.
- 1976 The Annual Meeting is held at the Cosmos Club in Washington D.C.
- 1976 AHA rejects AMI's request to hold a joint session at their annual conference. Instead a joint session is held between AMI and ICMH at the Smithsonian during the AHA conference.
- 1978 AMI drafts a new constitution.
- 1980 The AMI Annual Meeting is held at Fort McNair, Washington D.C.
- 1981 AMI and the United States Commission on Military History (USCMH) hold a joint committee meeting
- 1981 The Annual Meeting is held at Fort Monroe
- 1981 First royalty payment of \$5,000 to AMI is received from the Franklin Mint
- 1984 AMI creates the position of Executive Director. Officers, such as Archivist, Secretary, Treasurer, and Institute Newsletter Editor also now receive some form of remuneration for their services
- 1985 AMI retains a headquarters in the Washington, DC metro-area
- 1985 In June and December, AMI sponsors two joint sessions with AHA regional chapters, including Society of Historians for American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) and the Pacific Coast branch of the AHA.
- 1986 AMI holds their Annual Meeting, themed "Military and Naval Medical History", in Bethesda, Maryland.
- 1987 The "upgraded" Annual Meeting is held in Richmond Virginia, showcasing the new AMI.
- 1988 The Virginia Military Institute takes over the publication of *Military Affairs*.
- 1988 The AMI contributes \$500 annually to the operations of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (NCC).

- 1988 The Annual Meeting is held in the Washington Naval Yard, Washington, D.C.
- 1989 AMI sponsors a session at the History of American Foreign Relations conference at William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- 1989 *Military Affairs* is renamed *The Journal of Military History*.
(Volume 53, Number 1)
- Publication of the journal undergoes transitioning to the Virginia Military Institute.
- 1989 The Annual Meeting is held in Lexington, VA
- 1989 AMI enters into a joint book project with the USCMH to publish the first American-produced issue of *Revue Internationale D'Histoire Militaire* on the U.S. Constitution and the armed forces
- 1990 July; After several informal discussions, the council considers a proposed name change for the organization from AMI to the Society for Military History (SMH). Records indicate the name change was approved by a nearly unanimous vote
- 1991 March 10; The proposed name change of AMI to SMH is put to the general membership
- The Annual Meeting, themed "The New Military History", is held in Durham, North Carolina
- June 11; The Certificate of Amendment is formally signed by a notary with Richard Kohn as president and B.F. Cooling as secretary certifying the name change from AMI to SMH in the records of incorporation in the District of Columbia
- 1992 April; The Annual Meeting, themed "Joint, Combined, Amphibious, and Expeditionary Operations", is held in Quantico, Virginia
- 1993 May; The Annual Meeting, themed "Allies and Alliances", is held at the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
- 1994 April; The Annual Meeting, themed "Military-Civil Relations", is held at Washington, D.C.
- 1995 May; The Annual Meeting, themed "War Termination and Transitions to New Eras", is held at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

- 1996 April; The Annual Meeting, themed "Intelligence and National Security I
n Peace, Crisis, and War", is held in Arlington, Virginia
- 1997 April; The Annual Meeting, themed "New Interpretations in Military
History" is held in Montgomery, Alabama
- 1998 VMI requests a renewal of their contract to continue publishing *The
Journal of Military History*
- 1998 April; The Annual Meeting, themed "Citizens in Uniform" is held in
Wheaton, Illinois
- 1999 Jan 9; Russel Weigley gives the inaugural Marshall Lecture on "What
Military Historians Can Teach Other Historians" at the American
Historical Association annual meeting
- April; The Annual Meeting, themed "War in History, Myth, and
Memory" is held at Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
- 1999 SMH and the George C. Marshall foundation co-sponsor the
George C. Marshall Lecture Program
- 2000 April; The Annual Meeting, themed "Korea, 1950 and 400 Years of
Unlimited War" is held at Marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia
- 2001 May; The Annual Meeting, themed "Revolution in Military Affairs",
"Societies at War", and "Operational Arts" is held at the University of
Calgary, in Alberta, Canada
- 2002 April; The Annual Meeting, themed "War and Remembrance:
Constructing the Military Past and Future", is held in Madison, Wisconsin
- 2003 SMH organizes to oppose the out-sourcing of CMH work and the pending
dissolution of the Army's historical division
- May; The Annual Meeting, themed "The Military and Civil Society" is
held at University of Tennessee, in Knoxville, Tennessee
- 2004 The Organization of American Historians (OAH) asks
SMH to hold a session at their Boston, Massachusetts
conference
- May; The Annual Meeting, themed "What on Our Minds: Critical
Problems in Military History", is held at the University of Maryland-
College Park in Bethesda, Maryland

- 2005 Feb; The Annual Meeting, themed "Rise of the Military Profession" is held at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina
- 2006 May; The Annual Meeting, themed "The Construction, Reconstruction, and Consumption of Military History", is held at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas
- 2007 April; The Annual Meeting, themed "Crossroads of War", is held at the Catoctin Center for Regional Studies at Frederick Community College in Frederick, Maryland
- 2008 April; The Annual Meeting, themed "The Military and Frontiers", is held at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

Compiled by Paul A. Thomsen

2012-2013