

First Federal Congress Project Completes Debates Series for the First House of Representatives

by Charlene Bangs Bickford
Director, First Federal Congress Project

Yesterday the doors of the House of Representatives were thrown open for the admission of the Citizens.
New-York Daily Gazette, 9 April 1789

Behind the above statement and the historic event it heralded lay more than a century and a half of constitutional struggle in Great Britain, the colonies, and the states of the public's access to legislative debate and the freedom of the press to report it. But the institutions that had resulted from the drawing together of the colonies and states—the Continental Congresses, the Confederation Congress, and the Federal Convention—all had met in secret. Thus, the opening of the House doors represented a seemingly radical change. That change appears to have been a natural result of the fact that the Federal Convention conceived the House of Representatives as an innovation—a national body representative of the people. Members of that body held a personal responsibility to the people of their districts (Fig. 1). Perhaps more than any other factor, this personal accountability made opening the House doors during debate inevitable.

Thus the public gained access to the debates of what was identified by contemporaries as a virtual second sitting of the Federal Convention, because of its fleshing out of the structure provided by the Constitution, passage of the Bill of Rights, and continual interpretation of the new Constitution's meaning. Newspaper publishers and other entrepreneurs, encouraged by the intense public interest that had been demonstrated during the ratification debates, seized the opportunity to inform the public about the House debates and hence a sizable record was created.

(See *First Federal*, page 5)



Fig. 1. Detail of page one of John Fenno's *Gazette of the United States*, 9 September 1789. The article in the center column provides a "Sketch of Proceedings of Congress. In the House of Representatives of the United States, Monday, August 31." (Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.)

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NHPRC Members

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**Hatfield Introduces Bill to
Reauthorize NHPRC**

Senator Mark Hatfield, Republican of Oregon and a member of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, has introduced legislation in the Senate to extend the life of the NHPRC's grant program by an additional four years. Senator Paul Sarbanes, Maryland Democrat who formerly served on the Commission, joined in the bill's introduction, giving it bipartisan sponsorship.

The Commission itself has been established by statute since 1934. But periodically it must request Congressional reauthorization to receive annual appropriations from the Congress for its grant program. The current, four-year authorization expires at the end of fiscal year 1997. The new bill, S1577, would extend that authorization from 1998 through 2001. The new bill also would authorize the Commission to receive up to \$10 million per year in appropriations for grants, which is the maximum currently authorized.

In introducing the bill, Senator Hatfield described the Commission as promoting "some of the most vital archival preservation work in the country," commended it as "quite successful in its mission to preserve and publish the Nation's historical works," declared that "future generations of Americans deserve the right to have accurate records of their past," and urged other senators "to give their support to this important legislation."

As co-sponsor, Senator Sarbanes also urged other senators to support the bill, and observed that the NHPRC's "efforts remain relevant to today's concerns We have seen the Commission launch several projects to deal with the growing problem facing archivists in controlling and accessing valuable electronic records, and helping historians make their documentary editions accessible electronically on the Internet. It is important," he said, "that the Commission continue its respected work in preserving the heritage of our Nation."

**In Memoriam:
Dorothy Porter Wesley**

Dorothy Porter Wesley, winner of the 1993 Distinguished Service Award of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, died of cancer on December 17, 1995.

A pioneer in the preservation of sources for African-American history, she developed the Moorland-Spingarn Collection of Afro-American Life and History within the library of Howard University in Washington, DC. The NHPRC award was one of many she had received as an archivist, librarian, bibliographer, and author.

“Walter Cronkitus Reporting from the Coliseum”

What wouldn't we give to have moving images from earlier times? How stirred we would be if archaeologists in ancient Rome, say, turned up a canister of filmed reports by Walter Cronkitus or Daniel Ratheronius on debates in the Roman Forum, spectacles in the Coliseum, Hannibal's crossing the Alps, Caesar's campaigns in Gaul, and the daily concerns of the ordinary "classical" family? No effort would seem too great to preserve such an unexpected glimpse of ancient history as it actually was. So why be careless with the recorded images we are making of our own history?

The NHPRC is doing something about the need for preserving newsfilm and other documentary moving images. We have made 13 grants. Put that way, our effort doesn't sound like much. But consider these grants' collective impact.

First, we made two of the grants to the American Film Institute's National Center for Film and Video Preservation (NCFVP) for projects to advance moving-image preservation nationwide. With one grant the center brought together representatives of some 40 institutions with newsfilm collections to compare notes, assess the state of newsfilm preservation, and see what might be done about it. Published proceedings from that conference have helped bring the issues to the attention of others. Then we gave NCFVP a grant to provide guidance in meeting the needs through publication of a curatorial manual, which covers acquiring, organizing, preserving, cataloging, and providing access to moving-image materials. In short, with grants totalling less than \$100,000 we helped NCFVP assess the need, call attention to it, and provide a tool of wide usefulness for dealing with it.

Second, we have invested nearly a half-million dollars in 11 projects to preserve collections of video and newsfilm in individual repositories. Those collections contain hardly a

fraction of the thousands of feet of newsfilm produced by American television stations every night. But they do cover a range of Americana, from New York to California, from North Dakota to Mississippi, from Florida to Wisconsin. From the work of NHPRC grant recipients in all those places, future scholars and the public are going to be able to get at least some moving-image glimpses of what life was like in 20th-century America and what our history looked like as it happened.

And something more. These projects will add to what we know about how most safely to preserve video material and how best to make newsfilm collections readily accessible. Moreover, some of these projects are developing and testing guidelines for appraisal of such collections, which may help us figure out how to select wisely what we can keep out of all the nation's news productions.

An engrossing question. But then, deciding what documentation will be most valuable is the problem that the NHPRC faces in all its efforts to carry out its Congressional mandate—to promote the preservation and publication of materials that “may be important for an understanding and appreciation of the history of the United States.”

Comments, including contrary opinions, are invited. Please send them to Annotation, NHPRC, National Archives Building (Archives I), Room 607, Washington, DC 20408; or e-mail to jerry.george@arch1.nara.gov.



(Photo by Philip B. George)

Hatfield, Chafe Join Commission

Recently the National Historical Publications and Records Commission welcomed two new members, Senator Mark O. Hatfield and Dr. William H. Chafe.

Senator Hatfield, who previously served on the Commission in 1983-88, will represent the Senate, succeeding Senator Paul Sarbanes, whose term has expired. Dr. Chafe has been appointed to the Commission by the Organization of American Historians (OAH), succeeding Professor Robin D. G. Kelley, whose term has expired.

Senator Hatfield is completing his fifth term as a senator from Oregon. He has served on or chaired numerous committees, commissions, and boards, including the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Joint Committee on Printing, the Joint Committee on the Library, the FDR Memorial Commission, the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees, the U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission, and the Senate Appropriations Committee, which he currently chairs. He has degrees from Willamette University (B.A.) and Stanford (A.M.) as well as honorary degrees. He has been associate professor of political science and dean of students at Willamette University, is author or co-author of several books, and has maintained a particular interest in Presidents Lincoln and Hoover and the history of the Presidency. He

has announced his intention to retire from the Senate at the end of 1996, completing 30 years of service.

Dr. Chafe is dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Duke University, on whose faculty he has served since 1971. At Duke he has been chair of the History Department, senior research associate at the Center for Documentary Studies, director of the Women's Studies Research Center, co-director of the Center for the Study of Civil Rights and Race Relations, co-director of the Oral History Program, and Alice Mary Baldwin Distinguished Professor of History. He has degrees from Harvard (A.B.) and Columbia (M.A. and Ph.D.), and has studied also at Cornell and at Union Theological Seminary. He is the author of several books and numerous articles, was co-editor of the *Eleanor Roosevelt Papers*, has lectured widely in the United States and abroad, and has received numerous fellowships and awards. He is currently a member of the Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians, and is the board's liaison to the OAH Committee on Research and Access to Historical Documentation.

At its most recent meeting the Commission welcomed these new members and approved resolutions of appreciation for the service of their predecessors, Senator Sarbanes and Professor Kelley.

Government Information at Your Fingertips: NHPRC Promotes State Government Information Locators

A new electronic directory of public information available within the Federal government has been established to improve public access to government information. This directory is known as the Government Information Locator Service, or GILS. The Federal GILS has served as a model for state information locators as well as for national initiatives in other countries. The ambitious goal of GILS visionaries is to create a global network of publicly available government information ranging from the local government to the multi-national level.

GILS is a decentralized collection of databases that uses a network technology and international standards to direct users to relevant government information resources. GILS identifies public information resources, describes the information available, and assists users in obtaining the information. For example, users can access the National Archives and Records Administration GILS to find out how to do research at the National Archives and to find information about the Archives' holdings.

Federal agencies have been working for more than a year to create descriptive records of their information resources and put them online as required by the Office of Management and Budget in a bulletin issued last year. The Federal GILS, a National Information Infrastructure initiative, was incorporated into law under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The National Archives participated in the planning of GILS and is responsible for establishing the descriptive standards for GILS records created by Federal agencies. The Archivist of the United States serves on the interagency GILS board that oversees Federal GILS activities.

The NHPRC is helping to promote the creation of state-level information locators. At its November meeting, the Commission recommended a one-year grant of \$21,700 to assist the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in planning and developing a prototype information locator system for the South Carolina state government. Project Director Roy Tryon reports that the GILS concept has caught the attention of state administrators, and that the Archives is now co-chairing a GILS working group in coordination with the State Office of Information Resources. Other states with GILS either established or in the planning stages include Minnesota, New York, and Texas. Many Federal agencies have contracted with the Government Printing Office to provide their GILS records online. GPO, through its *GPO Access* program, makes these records available to the public either directly or through the Federal depository libraries. Other Federal agencies maintain their own GILS databases, and GPO has mounted cross-reference or "pathway" records to many of these databases. For those wishing to point and click on interagency Federal information, the *GPO Access* GILS records can be accessed on the World Wide Web at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs. The World Wide Web address for the National Archives' GILS is <http://www.nara.gov/gils/gils.html>. For state GILS information, the World Wide Web address is http://www.usgs.gov/gils/us_state.html. More information about GILS in general can be found at <http://www.usgs.gov/gils/index.html>. The Federal government does not charge for any of its GILS services, although intermediary commercial providers may charge user fees.

New Policy Promotes Electronic Publishing

At its most recent meeting, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission approved a policy designed to encourage the electronic publication of documentary editions. Under the policy, applicants for grants for new documentary publications will need to assure the Commission that they will develop their projects in a way that makes electronic publishing of the documentary material at least possible.

Specifically, the policy as adopted says that "to be eligible for NHPRC support, new documentary editing projects should be designed for an electronic environment." The policy goes into effect immediately.

Additionally, the Commission agreed to consult with documentary editors and others to assess possibilities for electronic publication of documentary editions already supported by the NHPRC. The Commission plans to review that subject at its next meeting, in June.

Connelly Selected as New Assistant Program Director for Publications

Timothy D. W. Connelly was recently appointed as an Assistant Program Director for Publications at the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). A veteran of more than 10 years of service as an NHPRC research archivist, assisting documentary projects and their editors, Dr. Connelly succeeds Richard N. Sheldon, who retired last year. Dr. Connelly, who earned his Ph.D. in history at the University of Maryland at College Park, will be providing oversight and guidance in grants administration and planning to ongoing NHPRC-supported documentary editions, as well as to new projects. The Commission values his years of experience as well as his commitment to the documentary enterprise, and wishes him well in his new role.



(*First Federal*, from page 1)

With the publication of volume 14 of the *Documentary History of the First Federal Congress, 1789-1791 (DHFFC)* in January of this year, the editors of the series and the Johns Hopkins University Press achieved a long-term goal—publication of the complete documentary record of the debates of the first House of Representatives. The five volumes of debates replace Gales and Seaton’s “Annals of Congress,” which relied heavily upon only one source for each date and lacked a comprehensive index. The *DHFFC* volumes provide a compilation of all the variant accounts as recorded by the men who sought to report them to the American public in a timely fashion. Users now have the task of sifting through these accounts with their inconsistencies and potential biases to come to an understanding of what actually transpired on the floor of the House.

One source that researchers will find both intriguing and challenging to use is a “translation” of stenographer/entrepreneur Thomas Lloyd’s shorthand notes on the debates (Fig. 2). This “translation” has a long history of its own, having resulted from the persistent and painstaking work of Marion Tinling, an expert in Lloyd’s shorthand method, employed by the National Historical Publications Commission in the 1950s to decipher the notes on the House debates. Working with substantially enlarged copies of Lloyd’s very small notebook pages, Tinling created a transcription that treads a middle ground between being absolutely literal and a fully expanded version. Lloyd’s system had no vowels, so a literal transcription would have been made up simply of consonants and virtually useless as a source.

Tinling chose to fill in the vowels, but preserved much of the character of the document by not expanding the notes into sentences, inserting articles, etc. The *DHFFC* editors refined Tinling’s transcript, filling in some words that she was unable to decipher and occasionally changing a word or phrase. For example, Tinling originally interpreted the symbols for “cl hmltn” as “Col. Humiliation,” which we changed to “Col. Hamilton.” These notes, while difficult to use, reveal a substantial amount of previously unknown information about

House debates, and for a portion of the second session they are either the only or the best available source. Those with an interest in the development of House rules and procedures will find them particularly revealing.

Indexing for the series is done by session in volumes 11 (first session), 13 (second session), and 14 (third session) and in depth, with all subjects and concepts covered. While the editors had always been aware of the truth of James Madison’s statement that “Among other difficulties the exposition of the Constitution is frequently a copious source, and must continue so until its meaning on all great points shall have been settled by precedents,” the indexing process revealed how interpretation of the Constitution permeated even debates on seemingly non-controversial issues. The entry for “Constitution” in the second session index runs a full page!

Biographies of the 95 men who served in the First Federal Congress make up half of volume 14. These biographical sketches, which focus upon the individual’s First Federal Congress career, will serve as an editorial aid for the entire 22-volume *DHFFC*. Background information about the member’s family, social status, education, and military service is provided. Information on political activities stresses interests or events which likely affected their role in the First Federal Congress. Readers will find everything known about that member’s personal and public life during the First Federal Congress, including living situation, social activities, debate attendance and participation, committee service, and the issues on which the member focused his attention.

These sketches, researched and

authored by assistant editor William Charles diGiacomantonio, substantially enhance the usability of the documentary record. The completion of this over 4,500-page debate series marks a milestone for the First Federal Congress Project and the users of the *DHFFC*. For the first time the complete documentary records of floor debates in the most important and productive Congress in our history is totally accessible for research work and use in courtrooms and classrooms.



Fig. 2. Thomas Lloyd's shorthand notes, 5-6 May, 1789. (Courtesy of the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.)

NHPRC Recommends 63 Grants Totalling \$3,144,129

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) met on February 27 and recommended \$1,463,968 for 29 continuing documentary editions projects; \$128,878 for 14 publication subvention grants; \$581,086 for five state board regrant projects; and \$948,581 for 14 records access projects. Also recommended was \$21,616 for one project to improve documentary editing, the 25th annual Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents. The grant recommendations were made in response to more than \$5,750,000 in requests.

During its February meeting, the Commission welcomed two new members. Dr. William Chafe, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Duke University, represents the Organization of American Historians on the Commission, while Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-OR) returns to the Commission as the Senate's representative. Senator Hatfield previously served on the Commission from 1983 to 1988. The Commission also thanked former Commissioners Robin D. G. Kelley and Senator Paul A. Sarbanes (D-MD) for their service. (A related article may be found on page 3.)

In other business, the Commission heard reports from its Program Committee and Planning and Budget Committee. The Commission also approved a policy designed to encourage the electronic publication of documentary editions. Under the policy, applicants for grants for new documentary publications will need to assure the Commission that they will develop their projects in a way that makes electronic publishing of the documentary material at least possible. (A related note may be found on page 4.) Additionally, the Commission agreed to consult with documentary editors and others to assess possibilities for electronic publication of documentary editions already supported by the NHPRC. The Commission plans to review that subject at its next meeting, currently scheduled for June 25, 1996.

Regrant Projects

Florida State Historical Records Advisory Board, Tallahassee, FL: A grant of \$50,000 to support education and training for archivists and records custodians and for program development leading to improved management of historical records. Half of the grant funds will be regranted to new and established records programs to assist them in assessing and addressing their program needs. The other half of the grant funds will be regranted to organizations and institutions to conduct or sponsor workshops relating to archival administration and historical records management.

Georgia State Historical Records Advisory Board, Atlanta, GA: An outright grant of \$223,386 and a matching grant of up to \$75,000 to leverage \$422,251 in state and local government matching and cost sharing to reactivate and redirect the state's local government records management program. The regrant project has three main components: 1) regrant projects, funded in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Local Government Efficiency Grant Program, to create three model multi-government records service centers; 2) regrant

projects to encourage and improve local government records programs; and 3) training and education for local government officials in basic archival and records management practices.

North Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board, Raleigh, NC: An outright grant of \$83,200 and a matching grant of up to \$50,000 to assist local governments, historically black colleges, and other non-governmental archives in the preservation and care of local archival records. The project would have three components: 1) regrants to support consultancies, preservation, and reformatting of records; 2) regrants to support training in information and records management policies and practices, and the hiring of temporary personnel needed to address essential, basic archival and records problems; and 3) the production and presentation of a series of four, two-and-one-half-hour, statewide, educational teleconferences.

Vermont State Historical Records Advisory Board, Montpelier, VT: A grant of \$49,500 to improve the preservation of and access to Vermont's historical records by making regrants to provide advisory services for small repositories, to establish training programs in Vermont in archival planning and management, to support the arrangement and description of collections of historical records, and to support research and educational programs relating to historical records creation, collecting, and use in Vermont.

Virginia State Historical Records Advisory Board, Richmond, VA: A matching grant of \$50,000 to preserve and make accessible records in private, local, and state repositories throughout Virginia by providing training throughout the commonwealth in disaster preparedness and records description and by supporting the development of disaster plans and holdings' inventories at individual repositories.

Records Access Projects

Regents of the University of California, Berkeley, CA: A grant of \$92,400 for the second year of a project to prepare collection-level cataloging records for the 3.25 million photographs which make up the Bancroft Library Pictorial Collections. Approximately 4,000 catalog records will be created using the USMARC (United States MACHine Readable Cataloging) format and will be entered into the online cataloging system at Berkeley, as well as OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) and RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network).

Hoopa Valley Tribal Council, Hoopa, CA: A grant of \$48,750 to further develop its archives and records program. The project staff will develop a policies and procedures manual, transfer records to an archival storage area located in the reservation's library, begin to arrange and describe the records, and prepare finding aids. The tribe's records date from the last quarter of the 19th century to the present and total over 500 cubic feet.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chicago, IL: A grant of \$83,310 to process the records of six Lutheran agencies

and a Lutheran minister, which comprise the major collections of the Helen M. Knobel Archives of Cooperative Lutheranism.

Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY: A grant of \$53,468 to arrange and describe approximately 238 linear feet of manuscript materials representing approximately 629 collections (1700s-present).

Northeastern University, Boston, MA: A grant of up to \$59,833 to process and make accessible the records of Freedom House, a community-based social agency in Roxbury, Massachusetts, and the personal papers of its founders, Muriel and Otto Snowden.

Curators of the University of Missouri, Columbia, MO: A grant of \$57,860 to process the records of the architectural landscape and city planning firm of Hare and Hare, held by the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ: A grant of \$87,013 to arrange and describe four collections that document the involvement of women in twentieth-century public life: the League of Women Voters of New Jersey (73 cubic feet, 1913-1990), the Consumers League of New Jersey (56 cubic feet, 1896-1979), the New Jersey Welfare Council (61 cubic feet, 1919-1987), and Mary Roebling (103 cubic feet, 1906-1993).

New York University, New York, NY: A grant of up to \$100,000 to accession and make accessible records of New York City labor organizations.

New York Folklore Society, Ithaca, NY: A grant of up to \$49,000 to develop, test, and distribute nationally guidelines for describing folklore materials.

Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH: A grant of \$54,392 to develop an archives and records management program for the museum's institutional records.

Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, OK: A grant of \$59,382 to arrange, describe, and rehouse records held by the Cherokee National Historical Society, dating from the 1700s to the present, which help to document the history of the Cherokee.

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA: A grant of \$123,201 to preserve trial records relating to the development of the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC). The ENIAC is generally regarded as the first electronic digital computer.

South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, SC: A grant of \$32,670 to improve access to 367 manuscript collections (435 linear feet, 18th to 20th century) pertaining to agriculture, commerce, and culture in South Carolina. Upon the successful completion of this project, researchers will have access to approximately 60 percent of the society's holdings of personal papers and business records.

Documentary Arts, Dallas, TX: A grant of \$47,302 to make its Texas African American Photography Collection (TAAP) accessible to the public. TAAP (ca. 16,634 items, 1870s to present) focuses on the growth and development of vernacular and community photography among African Americans in Texas.

Projects to Improve Documentary Editing

Wisconsin History Foundation, Madison, WI: A grant of \$21,616 for the 1996 Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents.

Documentary Editing Projects and Subventions

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ: A grant of up to \$38,958 for continuing work on the *Documentary Relations of the Southwest*.

University of Arizona Press, Tucson, AZ: A grant of \$10,000 for *Documentary Relations of the Southwest*, Vol. 2, Pt. 1.

University of Arizona Press, Tucson, AZ: A grant of \$10,000 for *Documentary Relations of the Southwest*, Vol. 2, Pt. 2.

Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, CA: A grant of up to \$44,322 for continuing work on the *Papers of Salmon P. Chase*.

Pomona College, Claremont, CA: A grant of up to \$38,171 for continuing work on the *Papers of Thaddeus Stevens*.

Regents of the University of California, Berkeley, CA: A grant of up to \$94,500 for continuing work on the *Emma Goldman Papers*.

Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles, CA: A grant of up to \$51,142 for continuing work on the *Marcus Garvey and Universal Negro Improvement Association Papers*.

The American University, Washington, DC: A grant of up to \$38,220 for continuing work on the *Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted*.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Atlanta, GA: A grant of up to \$53,508 for continuing work on the *Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Springfield, IL: A grant of up to \$63,000 for continuing work on the *Lincoln Legal Papers*.

Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, IL: A grant of \$10,000 for the *Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, Vol. 21.

Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, IL: A grant of \$10,000 for the *Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, Vol. 22.

Ulysses S. Grant Association, Carbondale, IL: A grant of up to \$66,732 for continuing work on the *Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*.

University of Illinois Press, Champaign, IL: A grant of \$10,000 for the *Samuel Gompers Papers*, Vol. 6.

The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD: A grant of up to \$37,777 for continuing work on the *Papers of Dwight D. Eisenhower*.

The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD: A grant of \$10,000 for the *Papers of Dwight D. Eisenhower*, Vol. 16.

The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD: A grant of \$10,000 for the *Papers of Dwight D. Eisenhower*, Vol. 17.

The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD: A grant of \$6,200 for the *Papers of George Catlett Marshall*, Vol. 4.

The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD: A grant of \$10,000 for the *Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted*, Vol. 11.

University of Maryland, College Park, MD: A grant of up to \$95,189 for continuing work on the *Freedmen and Southern Society Project*.

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University of Maryland, College Park, MD: A grant of up to \$68,899 for continuing work on the *Samuel Gompers Papers*.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ: A grant of up to \$42,955 for continuing work on the *Papers of Thomas A. Edison*.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ: A grant of \$43,000 for continuing work on *The Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*.

Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ: A grant of \$10,000 for *The Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*, Vol. 1.

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM: A grant of up to \$45,148 for continuing work on the *Journals of don Diego de Vargas*.

Research Foundation of the City University of New York/Queens College, New York, NY: A grant of up to \$38,220 for continuing work on the *Papers of Robert Morris*.

Duke University, Durham, NC: A grant of up to \$51,979 for continuing work on the *Jane Addams Papers*.

University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC: A grant of up to \$23,887 for continuing work on *Race, Slavery, and Free Blacks: Petitions to Southern Legislatures and County Courts, 1776-1867*.

Kent State University Press, Kent, OH: A grant of \$9,027 for the *Papers of Salmon P. Chase*, Vol. 4

University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA: A grant of \$9,400 for the *Papers of Robert Morris*, Vol. 9.

University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA: A grant of \$10,000 for the *Papers of Thaddeus Stevens*, Vol. 1.

Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, RI: A grant of up to \$70,229 for continuing work on the *Nathanael Greene Papers*.

University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC: A grant of up to \$43,634 for continuing work on the *Papers of John C. Calhoun*.

University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC: A grant of up to \$73,500 for continuing work on the *Papers of Henry Laurens*.

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN: A grant of up to \$63,068 for continuing work on the *Papers of Andrew Jackson*.

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN: A grant of up to \$73,573 for continuing work on the *Papers of Andrew Johnson*.

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN: A grant of \$41,615 for continuing work on the *Correspondence of James K. Polk*.

University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, TN: A grant of \$4,251 for the *Correspondence of James K. Polk*, Vol. 9.

William Marsh Rice University, Houston, TX: A grant of up to \$67,153 for continuing work on the *Papers of Jefferson Davis*.

The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA: A grant of up to \$14,332 for continuing work on the *Papers of Charles Carroll*.

George C. Marshall Foundation, Lexington, VA: A grant of \$52,000 for continuing work on the *Papers of George C. Marshall*.

Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, VA: A grant of up to \$19,110 for continuing work on the *Papers of John Marshall*.

West Virginia University Research Corporation, Morgantown, WV: A grant of \$10,147 for continuing work on the *Papers of Frederick Douglass*.

Recent Records Products and Documentary Editions

Records Products

The following products from records projects funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) have been recently released. Information concerning availability has been provided.

- Barstad, Joel I., prep. *The Colorado College Archives and Records Survey Project Manual*. Colorado Springs, CO: The Colorado College, 1995. Information concerning this manual should be directed to the Colorado College Archives, 1021 North Cascade, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

- Burgan, Read G. *A Database/Catalog of Sixteen Inch Program Transcriptions of the "Old Fashioned Revival Hour" and Related Resources*. Lake Linden, MI: Read G. Burgan, 1995.

Finding Aid: David du Plessis Collection. Pasadena, CA: Fuller Theological Seminary, June 1995.

Unpublished finding aids are available for the following collections:

Society of Pentecostal Studies Collection

Joseph Mattsson-Boze Collection

Information about these finding aids may be requested from Russell P. Spittler, The David du Plessis Center, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA 91182; or call (818) 584-5308.

- *Guide to Research Materials in the North Carolina State Archives: State Agency Records*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1995. Copies of this 855-page guide are available for \$30, plus \$3 for shipping and handling. Entries in the guide provide information on accessing more detailed automated descriptive information. Those interested should contact Jesse R. Lankford, Assistant State Archivist, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-2807; or call (910) 733-3952. This guide may also be order by fax at (919) 733-1354.

- *Guide to the Administrative Records of the Lowell Institute Cooperative Broadcasting Council and WGBH Educational Foundation, 1945-1994 (1951-1991)*. Boston, MA: WGBH Educational Foundation, n.d. For further information write Mary Ide, Director of Archives, WGBH Educational Foundation, 125 Western Avenue, Boston, MA 02134.

- Holland, Douglas, Martha Riley, and Mary Stiffler, comp. *Guide to the Ewan Papers*. St. Louis, MO: Missouri Botanical Garden Library, 1995. A photocopy of this guide is available by contacting Martha Riley, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299; or call (314)

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577-5156. Ms. Riley may also be contacted by fax at (314) 577-9590 or by e-mail at riley@mobot.org. A printed edition of the guide will be published later in the year by the garden and will be sold for approximately \$8.

- Old Sturbridge Village Research Library. *Josiah Goddard Stone Diaries, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts*. Sturbridge, MA: Old Sturbridge Village, October 1994.

Old Sturbridge Village Research Library. *Moore Family Papers: Berlin, Connecticut and Montague, Massachusetts, 1718-1871*. Sturbridge, MA: Old Sturbridge Village, November 1994.

Old Sturbridge Village Archives. *Research, Collections, and Library, Research Department: Archaeology Records*. Sturbridge, MA: Old Sturbridge Village, April 1995.

Old Sturbridge Village Research Library. *McKinstry Store Collection, Southbridge, Massachusetts*. Sturbridge, MA: Old Sturbridge Village, November 1994.

Old Sturbridge Village Research Library. *Coventry Manufacturing Company Records, Coventry, Rhode Island*. Sturbridge, MA: Old Sturbridge Village, May 1995.

Old Sturbridge Village Research Library. *Fosdick Harrison Papers, Roxbury, Bridgewater, and Bethlehem, Connecticut*. Sturbridge, MA: Old Sturbridge Village, April 1995.

Old Sturbridge Village Archives. *Research, Collection, and Library Department: Curatorial Department Records*. Sturbridge, MA: Old Sturbridge Village, April 1995.

Old Sturbridge Village Archives. *Old Sturbridge Village Interpretation Department Records*. Sturbridge, MA: Old Sturbridge Village, June 1995.

Old Sturbridge Village Research Library. *Richmond Family Store Papers, Ashford, CT*. Sturbridge, MA: Old Sturbridge Village, May 1995.

Old Sturbridge Village Research Library. *Smith/Mellen Family Papers, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Northwest Territory*. Sturbridge, MA: Old Sturbridge Village, November 1994.

Information about these finding aids may be requested from Theresa Rini Percy, Research, Collections, & Library, Old Sturbridge Village, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge, MA 01566; or call (508) 347-5375.

- Stone, Ellen C. *Guide to the Ships Plans Collection at Mystic Seaport Museum*. Mystic, CT: Mystic Seaport Museum, Inc., 1995. Copies of this guide are available for \$10 from Ellen Stone, Ships Plans Collection Manager, Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, CT 06355-0990; or call (860) 572-5360.

- *Style Manual for Archival Finding Aids*. Pittsburgh, PA: Library and Archives Division, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, January 1994.

Unpublished inventories are available for the following collections:

Copperweld Steel Company, Records, 1915-1977. Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Archives MSS# 41, two boxes, 1.0 linear feet.

Getting Family, Papers, 1908-1991. Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Archives MSS# 186, 16 boxes, 9.0 linear feet.

Health and Welfare Planning Association, Records, 1908-1990. Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Archives MSS# 158, 169 boxes, 85 linear feet.

Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, Records, 1858-1953 (bulk 1950-1953). Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Archives MSS# 33, four boxes, 1.75 linear feet.

Pittsburgh Public Schools, Records, 1870-1980. Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Archives MSS# 117, 183 boxes, 108 linear feet.

Pittsburgh Stock Exchange, Records, 1894-1972. Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Archives MSS# 150, 12 boxes, 40 linear feet.

Thaw Family, Papers, 1787-1981 (bulk 1830-1935). Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Archives MSS# 29, nine boxes, 4.5 linear feet.

United States Steel. Duquesne Steel Works, Records, 1895-1984. Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Archives MSS# 42, five boxes.

Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Pittsburgh, Records, 1875-1988 (bulk 1950-1980). Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Archives MSS# 79, 148 boxes, 80.0 linear feet.

Copies of the inventories are available to interested parties free of charge. Copies of the style manual are available for \$5, which includes shipping and handling. For more information, contact Corey Seeman, Head of Reference and Processing, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Library and Archives Division, 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222; or call (412) 454-6000.

Documentary Publications

The following products from NHPRC-supported documentary editing projects have been received in the Commission office since November 1995.

The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, Vol. 31, [November 1, 1779-February 29, 1780] (Yale University Press, 1995)

The Papers of General Nathanael Greene, Vol. 8, [March 30-July 10, 1781] (University of North Carolina Press, 1995)

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Vol. 26, [May 11-August 31, 1793] (Princeton University Press, 1995)

The Papers of Andrew Johnson, Vol. 12, [February-August, 1867] (University of Tennessee Press, 1995)

The Papers of John Marshall, Vol. 8, [March 1814-December 1819] (University of North Carolina Press, 1995)

The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution, Vol. 17: *Commentaries on the Constitution*, [April 1-May 9, 1788] (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1995)

The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution, Vol. 18: *Commentaries on the Constitution*, [May 10-September 13, 1788] (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1995)

Papers of William Thornton, Vol. 1, [1781-1802] (University Press of Virginia, 1995)

Our Nation's "Other" National Archives

by Richard Cameron, Assistant Program Director for State Programs

Reflecting on our Federal system of government, some of you might muse that the enduring records of our government are housed not only in the National Archives, but in state archives in every state of the union as well as in university and research libraries, and in county and parish court houses, town halls, municipal records offices, and school buildings in almost every community. While each state bears responsibility for the management and preservation of its own records and information as the Federal government does for the records and information it creates, in a larger sense the States and Federal government share stewardship for a large portion of the government records of our nation that have enduring value.

From this perspective, the report soon to be released on the Internet by the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators is a description of our nation's "other" national archives. The report, entitled *Maintaining State Records in an Era of Change: a National Challenge*, analyzes and summarizes a tremendous amount of information about state archives and records programs in the United States. Building on a 1993 Council report, the forthcoming report is based on a survey conducted jointly with the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators early last year. It is an attempt to assess the progress made by state government archives and records programs, especially as they confront the challenges posed by the ever accelerating information revolution.

An article in *Annotation* on the Council's 1993 report indicated considerable progress in state archival and records programs in the thirty years since Ernst Posner first reported on them in his seminal study, *American State Archives*. In the three years since the last Council report, the change is far less extensive, but in some areas no less dramatic.

In 1993 only five state archivists even had basic electronic mail capability, several only because they paid for a personal account themselves. Today, no fewer than 30 have Internet e-mail and 20 state archives have their own World Wide Web homepages. In 1993, 25 state archives reported providing some access to their holdings through automated systems. In the new report, 31 states report some use of automated descriptive systems, and 26 report participation in state, regional, or national bibliographic networks.

Although the report documents state archives' active participation in the new information age, it also cautions that in terms of access to records already in archival custody "the biggest impediment to full use of these automated tools may become a lag in traditional archival activities." Although most state archives (36 of those reporting) claimed to have descriptive control of 80 percent or more of their holdings at the record group level, only 10 state archives reported 90 percent or more of their holdings described in automated systems. Clearly, a tremendous amount of work remains to make Internet access to descriptions of state archives a realistic goal.

Another area in which technology is having an impact on access to government records is the development of the

Government Information Locator Service (GILS). The Federal government mandated that all Federal agencies provide Internet access to descriptions of their "core records" by the end of 1995. These are the records maintained in the Federal government agencies. NARA was chosen to develop guidelines and training to help Federal agencies implement GILS. (See page 4 for a related article.) A number of states are also developing their own GILS, but the report contains information on only a few states that have actually begun GILS efforts. In several of these, the state archives is playing an active role, building on previous experience in providing standardized descriptions and reference service for public access to government records.

The report also discusses state archives' efforts to develop sound programs for electronic records and to incorporate archival and records management perspectives into state information resources management and information policy development. While most states have a statutory or regulatory definition of records that includes electronic records, fewer (only 15) specifically include electronic mail. Moreover, state archives have come to recognize that requiring good electronic records management practices and achieving them are two different things.

But beyond the electronic frontiers of the information revolution, there is change and progress in other areas of interest to archivists and users of archives. The survey indicates facilities are continuing to be a focal point for state archives and records management programs with more than half the existing state archives constructed since 1970, six new buildings opened since 1990, and eight more being planned. Yet, the report also reveals that despite the growth in facilities, many state archives are filled to capacity.

The information on holdings, while not necessarily reflecting dramatic change, demonstrates the significant challenges archivists and records managers face in handling the diverse storage media that their holdings now include. In addition to the more than 1.7 million cubic feet of paper holdings held by state archives across the country, state archives now provide access to 2.5 million reels of microfilm and more than 10 million photographic images.

Interestingly enough, these aggregate figures are comparable to the 1.8 million cubic feet reported in the 1994 NARA annual report for its archival holdings (exclusive of the holdings of the presidential libraries). The state archives' paper holdings, again in the aggregate, are also growing at a rate comparable to that reported by NARA in 1994. These comparisons are meaningful only in that they suggest the national scope and importance of the state archives and records programs. These programs truly do represent our nation's other national archives.

The Council's report should add to our understanding and appreciation of the role these agencies play in a national information system, and it should further their efforts to learn more about each other's programs and incorporate the best features toward the betterment of their own. It should also advance efforts to find solutions to common challenges at the national level.

NHPRC Application Deadlines

June 1, 1996 (for November 1996 meeting)

Proposals addressing the following objectives:

- To strengthen the efforts of state historical records coordinators and boards by offering grants for creating and updating state strategic plans for meeting records needs, based on the previous state assessments, and encompassing both documentary preservation and publication.
- To bring to completion within the next 20 years nine present projects that document the formation of basic American political institutions—editions of the papers of Adams, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, and Washington, and papers on the ratification of the Constitution, the First Federal Congress, the early Supreme Court, and the beginnings of U.S. foreign relations.
- Through matching grant offers and other means, to develop consortia and centers to edit documents, deal with documentation problems, raise funds for projects, share equipment and staff, and provide training as well as editing.
- To carry out the recommendations in the report of the Working Meeting on Research Issues in Electronic Records.

October 1, 1996 (for February 1997 meeting)

Proposals addressing the following objectives:

- To help local organizations preserve records and make them accessible by providing grants to state historical records coordinators and boards for state regrants.
- To bring to completion within the next 20 years 36 present, Commission-funded projects that help document a range of historical subjects including the history of American women, the history of minority groups, and historical developments during and after the founding era.

- In collaboration with the Association for Documentary Editing, to help editors resolve issues and improve techniques, tools, media, training, and standards for documentary editing.
- To increase access to and use of records, based on recommendations in the reports of the Historical Documents Study and the Society of American Archivists' Task Force on Goals and Priorities.

February 1, 1997 (for June 1997 meeting)

Proposals addressing the following objectives:

- To continue the current cooperative agreement whereby the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators informs the Commission on needs and progress nationally.
- To collaborate with the states to promote archival and records management by and among state and local governments.
- To assist new documentary projects, in various forms of publication, that help teachers improve history education and that help researchers pursue significant lines of inquiry in historical scholarship.
- To increase document use by teachers, students, scholars, and the public.
- To help carry out agendas for archival progress put forward by the Society of American Archivists and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, particularly to meet needs for preservation, planning, training, and institutional self-evaluation.

Application guidelines and forms may be requested from NHPRC, National Archives Building (Archives I), Room 607, Washington, DC 20408, (202) 501-5610 (voice), (202) 501-5601 (fax), nhprc@arch1.nara.gov (e-mail).

Adams Editors Win Award

The editors of *The Adams Papers*, a documentary editing project supported in part by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, have won the J. Franklin Jameson Prize of the American Historical Association. Named for a founder of the Association and longtime managing editor of the *American Historical Review*, the Jameson Prize is awarded every five years for outstanding achievement in the editing of historical sources. The Adams editors have received the award for their work on volumes five and six of the *Adams Family Correspondence*, published in 1993 by the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. These volumes, in the words of the prize committee, exhibit “impeccable textual editing, importance of selected documents, intelligent annotation, and elegant design,” and present “documents of wide interest in a format that scholars and general readers can depend upon for accuracy and enjoyment.” Receiving the award are Richard A. Ryerson, editor in chief of *The Adams Papers*, and his colleagues Joanna M. Revelas, Celeste Walker, Gregg L. Lint, and Humphrey Costello. The Adams project is based at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston.

Bleser Accepts Award

At a festive luncheon in the Archivist's Reception Room on February 27, Archivist of the United States John W. Carlin presented the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) 1995 Award for Distinguished Service in Documentary Preservation and Publication to Dr. Carol K. Bleser. In his remarks, Carlin praised Bleser for her contributions to American history and documentary scholarship and to the work and mission of the NHPRC. A specialist in Southern history, Bleser, who is the Kathryn and Calhoun Lemon Distinguished Professor of History at Clemson University, is author and editor of several outstanding volumes. In 1982, Bleser was appointed by the American Historical Association as a commissioner to the NHPRC and served until 1990. Bleser joins a growing list of distinguished individuals—Arthur Link (1989), H. G. Jones (1990), Louis Harlan (1991), Robert Warner (1992), Dorothy Porter Wesley (1993), and Charles Lee (1994)—the Commission has been proud to honor with its highest award.



Log Jam on Penobscott [near Lincoln, Maine], ca. 1900. Unknown photographer. Modern silver-gelatin photograph from a glass-plate negative in the collection of the Lincoln Historical Society. A number of small Maine institutions have received assistance from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission through a state regrant project overseen by the Maine State Archives and the Maine State Historical Records Advisory Board. For additional information on the state boards and their activities, see the article on page 10 of this issue of *Annotation*. (Courtesy of the Lincoln Historical Society.)

National Historical Publications and Records Commission
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