Electronic Records: Are We Gaining?
New Publication Reports on R&D Projects’ Progress

In 1985 three organizations of scholars and librarians declared publicly that America was in danger of losing its memory. A Committee on the Records of Government, created by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council, and the Council on Library Resources, reported that valuable information increasingly created with computers was at risk because libraries and archives lacked the methods and resources to preserve records in electronic form. Since then efforts have arisen across the country to do something about it, many of them financed by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

This spring, a new report says that archives are making progress but not yet enough. Entitled Electronic Records Research and Development, the new report presents findings from a conference in 1996 that the NHPRC also funded. Seventy-two participants got together at the University of Michigan to compare notes on the progress to date of research through which archivists are trying to solve electronic records problems. Leadership came from the university’s School of Information and the Bentley Historical Library, co-sponsors of the conference.

“For the archival community,” says the report, “the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has been the principal player in this endeavor, first by sponsoring several pilot projects during the 1980s, then by issuing a comprehensive research agenda on electronic records issues and sponsoring more than twenty funded projects to address them.” Major contributions also have come from the Commission on Preservation and Access, the Mellon Foundation, the Preservation and Access Division of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, and others.

Findings from research-and-development work so far are encouraging, the report says: “It is technically possible to create and maintain reliable and authentic records in electronic form.” But the report also identifies specific kinds of research and development yet needed to make electronic records preservation practical for archivists in a range of institutions. It recommends where different kinds of research would best be done. And it advises the NHPRC on future funding.

Funding required for all research needed in the future will be beyond the NHPRC’s ability to provide at current budget levels, the report observes. It calls on the Commission to “convene a series of high-level discussions with other organizations that currently or might potentially fund research and other projects related to electronic records,” and possibly devote its own funds to implementation grants “if additional sources of funding for research can be found.” Nonetheless, the report advises, “NHPRC should continue its support for electronic records initiatives at present or higher levels of funding, even if this means reordering priorities within the existing NHPRC grants budget.” On this point the report concludes:

“Participants in the conference agreed that the problems of electronic records management and preservation are becoming increasingly urgent, even with significant progress in research and archival program development during the past five years. Electronic records will soon represent the primary form of documentation in many organizations. By keeping electronic records issues as one of its top priorities, NHPRC will send an important message about the seriousness of this problem for our nation’s documentary heritage, build on its significant investments in electronic records research, and help enhance the capability of archives to preserve digital information.”

Copies of the report are available in both hard copy and electronically. The web version is at: <http://www.si.umich.edu/e-recs/>. Print copies may be ordered by writing to:

Electronic Records Report
Bentley Historical Library
1150 Beal Avenue
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2113
$4 Million Requested for NHPRC Grants

The budget proposed by the Administration to the Congress for fiscal year 1998 includes $4 million in grant funds for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The request is under consideration in appropriations subcommittees of the House of Representatives and the Senate this spring. Congressional approval of the request will provide the NHPRC with $1 million fewer grant funds than the Congress and the President approved for the current fiscal year.

Commission Staff Active in National Organizations

Two of the Commission’s staff members are active in several national organizations’ committees for 1997.

Joyce Ray, Acting Program Director, has been appointed to represent the Society of American Archivists (SAA) as its liaison to the Association of Information and Image Management (AIIM) C20 Committee on Libraries and Archives. The C20 Committee serves as the formal liaison between the library and archival user and producer communities and AIIM. It is responsible for identifying, advocating for and developing or revising all standards relating to library and archival micrographics and electronic imaging that are within the scope of AIIM standards activities. In the past, the C20 Committee has focused primarily on issues involving standards for microfilming. More recently, it has shifted its focus to electronic imaging. Dr. Ray also serves as the NARA representative to the AIIM C20 Committee.

Laurie A. Baty, one of the Commission’s Program Officers, is serving as the 1996-97 Chair of SAA’s Committee on the Status of Women. The committee, established in the 1970s, is charged with monitoring the status of women in the archival profession, encouraging the participation of women in all phases of SAA business and activities as well as in the archival profession as a whole, and promoting an awareness of the significance of women’s history and the sources that support it. Ms. Baty has been a member of the committee since 1995.

Oops!

For the article on the sale of southeastern mill villages on the front page of the December 1996 issue of Annotation we inadvertently omitted the author’s name. We would very much like to thank Michael Kohl, Head, Special Collections, Clemson University, for preparing this special report for our readers. Mike may be reached at Clemson University Libraries, Strom Thurmond Institute Building, Clemson, SC 29634.
From the Executive Director

Small Program, Big Impact

Here’s one more way in which the NHPRC makes a lot of things happen with very little money. Consider the following:

In Alabama, record keepers in Mobile have microfilmed colonial records from the eighteenth century, and the Birmingham Public Library has processed its collection on the Civil Rights Movement. In Florida, a research organization has conserved films of wildlife from the mid-twentieth century, and the Seminole tribe has surveyed records on four reservations. In New York, Hunter College has surveyed Puerto Rican records, and the New York Public Library has opened collections illuminating the history of theater and dance. The City of Louisville has organized records of its Urban Renewal and Community Development programs, and Milwaukee County has inventoried public works and development records. The Historic Charleston Foundation has undertaken a collections inventory, and the Bates Museum in Maine has preserved early photographs and glass slides. A dozen colleges and universities in Pennsylvania have developed archival programs for institutional records of historical value, and Hawaii has surveyed the records of some 200 ethnic organizations. And Virginia has conducted workshops to help organizations protect their records from disasters natural and man-made.

Has all this been done with NHPRC grants? No, this and a lot more has or is being done with NHPRC “regrants.”

That is, such work is under way through the NHPRC’s partnership with State Historical Records Advisory Boards, with which we jointly finance programs that bring people together to meet documentary needs, build the nation’s archival infrastructure, help a great range of nonprofit institutions, and save many kinds of historical records for many kinds of users. In this partnership, NHPRC grants funds to State Historical Records Advisory Boards for regranting for documentary projects within the states, in accordance with priorities in state plans. Over the past decade, NHPRC funds totalling less than $2.75 million have been regranted through 21 programs in 17 states, which have contributed more than an equal amount in non-federal funds, including special appropriations from state legislatures. In these programs, NHPRC regrants have helped finance 483 documentary projects, 42 training programs reaching 1,576 individuals, and the development of 74 archival and records management programs.

That’s a lot of outcome for the money. And many historical records are in much less jeopardy because of it.

—Gerald George

What is the NHPRC’s Statutory Mandate?
A Legislative Chronicle

Deliberations over the strategic plan of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission have raised questions about its mission. What was the Commission’s original mandate and how has it evolved? What follows is a chronicle of legislation pertaining to the Commission, identifying what its statutes have instructed it to do.

1934: Public Law 73-432, approved 19 June 1934, established the National Archives and, within it, the National Historical Publications Commission (NHPC), later to become the NHPRC. Section 5 of this act created the NHPC, designated as members of the Commission the Archivist of the U.S. (as chair) and representatives of the State Department, War Department, Navy Department, Library of Congress, and American Historical Association (2 members), and set forth the Commission’s original statutory mandate, as follows:

[Sec. 5] That there is hereby created also a National Historical Publications Commission which shall make plans, estimates, and recommendations for such historical works and collections of sources as seem appropriate for publication and/or otherwise recording at the public expense . . . ;
Provided, That the preparation and publication of annual and special reports on the archives and records of the Government, guides, inventory lists, catalogs, and other instruments facilitating the use of the collections shall have precedence over detailed calendars and textual reproductions.

1949: Public Law 81-152, approved 30 June 1949, subordinated the National Archives and the NHPC within it to the General Services Administration. This legislation made no changes in the wording of NHPC’s statutory mandate.

1950: Public Law 81-754, approved 5 September 1950, entitled “The Federal Records Act of 1950,” dealt with the NHPC in Section 503, which expanded and redefined NHPC’s membership to include the Archivist of the U.S. (as chair) and representatives of the President (2), the Senate, the House of Representatives, the federal judiciary, the Departments of State and Defense, the Library of Congress, and the American Historical Association (2). Section 503 also redefined terms of appointment of Commissioners, provided for reimbursement of

(See NHPRC Legislative Mandate, p. 10)
Implementation of the revised plan of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission will be delayed to give organizations whose members have an interest in the NHPRC an opportunity to comment further on the nature and future of the Commission.

In November 1996, the NHPRC simplified its strategic plan and revised the plan’s priorities. Meeting again on February 20, the Commission accepted a recommendation from its executive director and Executive Committee to delay the plan’s implementation in order to honor requests for additional constituent-organization comment, to be reviewed at the next NHPRC meeting, June 19-20. The Commission is inviting interested organizations to respond to five questions having to do with how the Commission allocates its funds in attempting to carry out its statutory objectives. Notice of the invitation is being published in the Federal Register, and the questions and information on responding are available from the NHPRC, Room 607, National Archives Building, Washington, DC, 20408, and via the NHPRC Web site: <http://www.nara.gov/nara/nhprc/>. Inquiries also are welcome by telephone: (202) 501-5600, and by e-mail: nhprc@arch1.nara.gov.

The recommendation to invite additional comment came at the February meeting in the following statement from NHPRC’s executive director, Gerald George:

**Statement**

The governing bodies of the American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians have addressed to me personally the following identical resolution:

They ask “the executive director of the NHPRC to provide a time at a future commission meeting to reconsider the strategic plan, thus giving to constituent groups an opportunity to examine the issues its adoption raises, and to comment to the commission on their findings at that meeting.”

I remain convinced of the desirability of the plan adopted by the Commission’s majority, but I recommend that this request to extend the opportunity for constituent comment be honored. Therefore, I have requested and received permission from all Commissioners who joined in support of the plan revision adopted in November to place a discussion of the plan on the agenda for the June 1997 meeting, and to delay staff implementation of the revised plan in the interim. Additionally, I have worked on development of a process for this review with the Executive Committee, which will present its process recommendations at this meeting, along with a formal motion to put plan review on the June agenda. I hope all Commissioners will join in supporting this effort to accommodate fairly what seems to the Executive Committee and me a reasonable request.

**Resolution**

The executive director’s statement was incorporated in the following resolution, which the Commission approved on the recommendation of its Executive Committee:

Resolved, that the National Historical Publications and Records Commission

(a) accepts the recommendation of the executive director to place on the agenda of the June 1997 NHPRC meeting a review of the NHPRC plan as revised by the Commission in November 1996;

(b) instructs staff to invite interested organizations to respond, by May 1, 1997, to a set of questions (attached), including organizations that provided resolutions of support for NHPRC’s last two reauthorization bills, so far as this invitation is consistent with federal law and regulations on information-gathering by Federal agencies; and,

(c) authorizes the Executive Committee to meet in May to review the responses and forward them to the Commission with such further recommendations as may be desirable for review of the plan at the Commission’s meeting in June.

**Questions**

The following are the questions that the NHPRC invites organizations of constituencies to address.

a) How should the legislative history of the NHPRC affect decisions on how the Commission allocates its resources?

b) How effectively have past NHPRC allocations met the statutory objectives of the commission?

c) What public benefits should the Commission seek to achieve in the context of entering a new century, with changing circumstances in technology, user expectations, and scholarly communication?

d) What is an appropriate way for the NHPRC to determine, in principle, how its funds should be allocated?

e) What are the implications of the new strategic plan for the NHPRC’s ability to achieve its statutory objectives?

For a summary of the revised NHPRC plan, please see “NHPRC Revises Strategic Plan” on page 4 of the previous issue of Annotation (Vol. 24:3, December 1996).
F. Gerald Ham is the 1997 winner of the Distinguished Service Award of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The Commission approved the award at its February meeting for presentation at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Chicago in August.

Since 1989, the Commission has annually presented this award, the purpose of which is to recognize individuals whose careers have demonstrated exemplary accomplishment and extraordinary commitment in forwarding the mission of the NHPRC and individuals who have made notable accomplishments in the fields touched by the Commission’s work. Previous recipients have been (in chronological order) Arthur Link, H.G. Jones, Louis Harlan, Robert Warner, Dorothy Porter Wesley, Charles Lee, Carol Bleser, and Mark Hatfield.

Dr. Nicholas C. Burckel, Society of American Archivists (SAA) president and a member of the Commission, has provided the following description of the achievements for which the Commission is honoring Dr. Ham.

NHPRC Honors F. Gerald Ham with Distinguished Service Award

**Influence**

Dr. Ham received his undergraduate degree from Wheaton College and his Ph.D. in history from the University of Kentucky. He began his archival career as Associate Curator of the West Virginia Collections at West Virginia University, then in 1964 moved to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin where he served for over 25 years as the State Archivist and Head of the Archives Division. From 1967 to 1991, he also taught archival courses as adjunct professor in the University of Wisconsin’s School of Library and Information Studies.

As a teacher, Dr. Ham has influenced a generation of archivists, many of whom are now leaders in the field. His archival education sequence attracted scores of students to Wisconsin who used the rich collections of the society as the laboratory for their work. His graduates are found in repositories throughout the country and abroad. His extraordinary success in placing his students reflected the high esteem in which his program was held.

As a scholar, Dr. Ham’s influence has been even greater. Each profession needs its gurus, those who both challenge standard shibboleths and chart new directions. Dr. Ham’s writings have helped define the archival profession. In his widely reprinted address as president of SAA, “The Archival Edge,” he urged his colleagues to take a more active role in shaping the archival record of the future to bequeath to posterity a more useful and representative documentary heritage. Subsequent articles further defined strategies for the archivist’s role in what Ham coined “the post custodial era.” His provocative article on “Managing the Historical Record in the Age of Abundance” won the Society’s prestigious Fellows‘ Posner Prize, while in 1994 he received the coveted Waldo Gifford Leland Prize for “writings of superior excellence and usefulness in the field of archival history, theory, or practice” for his book, *Selecting and Appraising Archives and Manuscripts*.

Dr. Ham was also a practicing archivist under whose leadership the historical society’s statewide archival program became one of the more innovative and highly regarded in the country. In this effort he assiduously utilized the support and resources of the NHPRC.

Finally, Dr. Ham contributed significantly to the development of the profession through his leadership of SAA, where he served as member of the governing Council, Executive Secretary (a position antedating that of full-time director), President, and chairman of key committees, including the Committee on Education and Profession Development at the time it developed the first curricular guidelines for graduate education, and the original Task Force on Goals and Priorities. He was elected Fellow of the Society in 1968.
NHPRC Recommends 64 Grants Totalling $2,783,717

On February 20 the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) recommended $1,592,684 for 29 continuing documentary editions projects; $86,710 for nine publication subvention grants; $149,835 for two state board regrant projects; and $786,687 for 19 records access projects. Also recommended was $80,801 for two projects to improve documentary editing, one of which is the 26th annual Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents, and $87,000 for two archival and editing fellowships. The grant recommendations were made in response to more than $4,475,000 in requests.

During the meeting, the Commission welcomed a new member, Howard P. Lowell, state archivist and records administrator of Delaware, now represents the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators.

In other business, the Commission approved a resolution of its Executive Committee to discuss the changes in the NHPRC strategic plan, revised in November 1996, at its next meeting, currently scheduled for June 19, 1997. [See related article, page 4.]

Regrant Projects

South Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board, Columbia, SC: A conditional grant of $100,000 ($50,000 matching) to preserve and provide access to valuable historical materials in South Carolina’s repositories of private papers and non-governmental archives. At least 90 percent of grant funds will be regranted.

Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, TX: An outright grant of $49,835 to provide archival and records management training and program development assistance for records custodians throughout Texas. Ninety percent of grant funds will be regranted, with $20,000 allocated to the training component and $25,000 allocated to program development. Training grant applicants must provide ten percent of the requested grant funds as cost sharing, and program development applicants must provide 25 percent of the requested amount as cost sharing.

Records Access Projects

Central Arkansas Library System, Little Rock, AR: A grant of $37,149 for a one-year project, in collaboration with the Aerospace Education Center, to arrange and describe a portion of the Jay Miller Aviation History Collection. The records will be processed, a printed finding aid prepared, and descriptions of the records entered into OCLC (Online Computer Library Center).

Regents of the University of California, Berkeley, CA: A grant of $121,815 for the first year of a two-year project to process a collection of more than 300,000 photographic negatives from the newspaper photo morgue of the San Francisco News-Call-Bulletin, 1916-1965, and to create finding aids for the collection using the Society of American Archivists’ emerging standard for Encoded Archival Description (EAD).

Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, CO: A grant of $13,944 to preserve an historically important collection of Alaska ethnographic images dating from the 1920s.

Government of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC: A grant of up to $2,500 to hire a consultant to assist with the development of a plan for establishing an archival program within the Recorder of Deeds Division.

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL: A grant of $40,000 for a 15-month project to process the architectural records of the Institute’s David Adler Archive. A finding aid/study guide will be published, and record descriptions will be made available through RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network).

Wichita Public Library, Wichita, KS: A grant of $2,040 for a six-month consultant project to develop a plan to preserve, describe, and provide access to 314 cubic feet of unprocessed archives and manuscripts relating to the history of Wichita and Sedgwick County.

Concord Free Public Library, Concord, MA: A grant of $7,547 for a 12-month project to provide access to and preserve 1,735 negatives (1870-1937) contained in five collections.

Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, MD: A grant of $65,402 for a 17-month project to catalog two significant photograph collections relating to life in Baltimore from the 1940s to the 1970s.

Nebraska State Building Division, Lincoln, NE: A grant of $17,573 for an eight-month project to process and describe 4,860 drawings and blueprints documenting the construction of the state’s capitol.

University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Pembroke, NC: A grant of up to $5,000 for a one-year project to hire a consultant to assist with the development of a plan for an archives and records management program for the university’s records and for the records of the Lumbee Tribe.

City of Manchester, Manchester, NH: A grant of $35,489 for a one-year project to continue an archival project to process and rehouse over 150 years of municipal records dating from the mid-19th century.

New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, NJ: A grant of $41,322 for a one-year project to preserve, arrange, describe, and publicize 60 collections relating to the history of health care in New Jersey. The collections, comprising approximately 160 feet of records, cover a time span of more than 250 years dating from the mid-18th century.

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ: A grant of $55,206 for an 18-month project to organize, describe, catalog, and provide more effective access to three major collections and seven smaller collections (comprising 631 linear feet) in its Seeley G. Mudd Library relating to Cold War era liberalism. The major collections include the Fund for the Republic Archives, Freedom House Archives, and the records of Franklin Book Programs, Inc.

New York City Department of Records and Information Services, New York, NY: A grant of up to $31,725, contingent upon the availability of additional FY 1997 grant funds, for a one-year project to transfer approximately two million feet of film created by WNYC (the city’s municipal broadcast station) to videotape.
The Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn, NY: A grant of $65,000 for an 18-month project to provide enhanced access to 1,076 linear feet of the society’s holdings. Project staff will arrange and describe those records which have not previously been processed and prepare collection data forms or other finding aids for those records which have been arranged but only inadequately described. MARC AMC records will then be created and made available through RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network) and OCLC (Online Computer Library Center).

Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI: A grant of $109,541 for a two-year project to establish an archives and records management program for the school’s records.

University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC: A grant of $69,353 for an 18-month project to process 15 historically significant manuscript collections relating to the history of South Carolina and the South in the South Caroliniana Library, a special collections library of the university. The collections, with a total volume of 535 linear feet, cover topics in women’s history, slavery and race relations, the Civil War, and political and military history.

National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, Arlington, VA: A grant of $4,500 to engage the services of a consultant for assistance with the development of an archives and records management program.

Museum of History and Industry, Seattle, WA: A grant of up to $61,580 for a two-year project to survey the images comprising the Seattle Post-Intelligencer collection (ca. 293,000 negatives; 1924-1972).

Projects to Improve Documentary Editing

Wisconsin History Foundation, Madison, WI: A grant of $21,969 for the 1997 Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents.

Association for Documentary Editing: A grant of $58,832 to plan and conduct two seminars in electronic publishing.

Documentary Editing Projects and Subventions

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 $41,041 for continuing work on the Correspondence of James K. Polk.

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


University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC: A grant of $40,299 continuing work on The Papers of John C. Calhoun.

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.

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

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

New York University, New York, NY: A grant to $182,738 for continuing work on The Papers of Margaret Sanger.

William Marsh Rice University, Houston, TX: A grant of $82,108 for continuing work on The Papers of Jefferson Davis.

University of Maryland, College Park, MD: A grant of up to $95,189 for continuing work on Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation.

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

Regents of the University of California, Berkeley, CA: A grant of $100,000 for continuing work on The Papers of Emma Goldman.

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

University of Arizona, Arizona State Museum, Tucson, AZ: A grant of up to $38,954 for continuing work on the Civil/Military series of Documentary Relations of the Southwest.

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


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

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


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 Edison.

West Virginia University Research Corporation, Morgantown, WV: A grant of $15,052 for continuing work on The Papers of Frederick Douglass.

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

The Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, CA: A grant of $7,750 for continuing work on The Salmon P. Chase Papers.

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

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

(continues next page)
In Memoriam
Stuart B. Kaufman

Stuart B. Kaufman, a historian who studied the American labor movement and served as the editor of the Papers of Samuel Gompers, died January 19, 1997, at his home in Garrett Park, Maryland. A professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, he received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Florida and his doctorate from Emory University. Prior to coming to the Washington area, he taught at Morris Brown College and Texas A & M University. He served as acting historian of the Department of Labor in 1974, and headed the George Meany Memorial Archives and Historical Center at the George Meany Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, from 1987 to 1989. He was also a member of the National Park Service Advisory Board from 1991 to 1994. In addition to his work on the Samuel Gompers volumes, he was the author of Samuel Gompers and the Origins of the American Federation of Labor, 1848 to 1896, and the founder and editor of the quarterly magazine Labor’s Heritage.

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.

- Excerpts from the Diaries of Osmond K. Fraenkel Relating to the American Civil Liberties Union, 1933-1968

Further details concerning these finding aids are available from Ben Primer, University Archivist, Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University, 65 Olden Street, Princeton, NJ 08544-2009; or call (609) 258-3242.

Finding aids to the following collections have been prepared by the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives of LaGuardia Community College:
- East Side House Records
- Goddard-Riverside Community Center Records
- Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center Records
- LaGuardia Memorial House Records
- Moshulu Montefiore Community Center Records
- Union Settlement Association Records

A finding aid to the following collection was prepared by the Schomberg Center for Research in Black Culture:
- James Weldon Johnson Community Centers, Inc., Records

For further information about the New York City Settlement House Records Preservation Project, contact Richard K. Lieberman, Director, LaGuardia and Wagner Archives, LaGuardia Community College, The City University of New York, 31-10 Thomson Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101; or call (718) 482-5065.

Further details regarding these guides are available from Ronald Becker, Head, Special Collections, Rutgers University Libraries, Rutgers, The State University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903; or call (908) 932-7006.

- Improving the Preservation and Use of Historical Records in Wisconsin: The Grants Program of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board, 1996. (pamphlet)


Copies of these publications are available from Peter Gottlieb, State Archivist, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706; or call (608) 264-6480.

- Powderly, Kathleen, Jack Termine, and Debra Tadevich, ed. Guide to the Archives. Brooklyn, NY: State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn, 1996. For information about this guide, contact Jack Termine, Archivist, State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 116, Brooklyn, NY 11203-2098; or call (718) 270-3780.

- Virginia Home for Boys Archives Index. Richmond, VA: Virginia Home for Boys, n.d. For more information, contact the Virginia Home for Boys in Richmond, Inc., 8716 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23294-6206; or call (804) 270-6566.

Documentary Publications


The Papers of Andrew Jackson, Vol. 5 [1821-1824] (University of Tennessee Press, 1996)

Correspondence of James K. Polk, Vol. 9 [January-June 1845] (University of Tennessee Press, 1996)

Senator James M. Jeffords
Appointed to NHPRC

United States Senator James M. Jeffords of Vermont now represents the Senate on the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott has chosen Senator Jeffords to succeed Mark Hatfield, who retired last year from the Senate.

“As an avid history buff, I know first-hand the importance of preserving our nation’s historical treasures,” Senator Jeffords said in accepting the appointment. “The inscription on the National Archives Building rings true: The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future.”

Senator Jeffords has a B.S.L.A. degree from Yale University and an LL.B. from Harvard University. He served in the Navy and practiced law before winning election to the Vermont State Senate and then becoming Attorney General. He won election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974 and to the Senate in 1988, where he is now serving a second term.

Senator Jeffords has been, among other things, co-founder and co-chairman of the Congressional Arts Caucus, vice chairman of the Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus, and an advisory member of the National Commission on Employment and Unemployment Statistics. He has served on Senate Committees on Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources, Labor and Human Resources, and Veterans’ Affairs, and his committee service has included chairing the Senate Labor and Human Resources Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities.
Increased the per diem subsistence allowance for non-federal Commission members attending meetings. This legislation made no changes in the wording of NHPC’s statutory mandate.

1974: Public Law 93-536, approved 22 December 1974, amended NHPC’s statute in these ways: (1) it expanded the name of the NHPC to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission; (2) it provided for four additional NHPRC members, two to be appointed by the Society of American Archivists and two to be appointed by the American Association for State and Local History; and (3) it authorized appropriations not to exceed $4 million annually in fiscal years 1975-1979 (a doubling of the previous annual authorization of $2 million in fiscal years 1975-1977). This legislation made no changes in the wording of NHPC’s statutory mandate.

1979: Public Law 96-98, approved 1 November 1979, amended NHPRC’s statute in these ways: (1) it authorized appropriations not to exceed $4 million annually in fiscal years 1980-1981; and (2) it changed the per diem allowance for non-federal Commission members attending meetings. This legislation made no changes in the wording of NHPC’s legislative mandate.


1984: Public Law 98-497, approved 19 October 1984, which made the National Archives and Records Administration an agency independent of the General Services Administration, amended NHPRC’s statute to transfer authorities from the Administrator of General Services to the Archivist of the United States and otherwise provided for releasing NHPRC along with NARA from the jurisdiction of GSA. This legislation made no changes in the wording of NHPC’s statutory mandate.

1988: Public Law 100-365, approved 13 July 1988, amended NHPRC’s statute in these ways: (1) it clarified several things concerning appointments to the Commission, qualifications for appointment, terms of service, filling of vacancies, appointments of staff, reimbursement for travel expenses, and other minor matters; (2) it authorized appropriations not to exceed $6 million in fiscal year 1989, $8 million in fiscal year 1990, and $10 million in fiscal years 1991-1993; and (3) in Section 4, “Duties and Functions,” it made substantive changes in the language of NHPRC’s statutory mandate, which continue in effect today, as follows:

Section 4, Duties and Functions

(a) The Commission shall make plans, estimates, and recommendations for historical works and collections of sources it considers appropriate for preserving, publishing or otherwise recording at the public expense. The Chairman of the Commission shall transmit to the President and the Congress from time to time, and at least biennially, the plans, estimates, and recommendations developed and approved by the Commission.

(b) The Commission shall cooperate with, assist and (continues next page)
NHPRC Application Deadlines

June 1, 1997 (for November 1997 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, 1997 (for February 1998 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.

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).

(e) The Archivist of the United States may, within the limits of available appropriated and donated funds, make grants to State and local agencies and to nonprofit organizations, institutions, and individuals, for those activities in subsection (d) after considering the advice and recommendations of the Commission.


Siberian Native at Emma Harbor, July 1921. At its February meeting, the Commission awarded $13,944 to the Denver Museum of Natural History to support the preservation of the Bailey Alaska Collection. Alfred M. Bailey, a former director of the museum, had been hired to travel to Alaska to collect specimens for the museum. Bailey’s description of the man, published in the Colorado Museum of Natural History’s Birds of Arctic Alaska (Popular Series No. 8, 1948, p. 47), reflects the sentiments of the times. “We haggled with one of the natives for his services; he had a rowboat made of the skin of a walrus stretched over a frame of driftwood, and he knew enough English words to make him a valuable ally. After considerable negotiation, he agreed to help me for the afternoon for one pound of tobacco, and in the ensuing five days he aided us in securing many specimens, taking tea, tobacco and hard tack in payment. He was a picturesque bare-headed fellow, dressed in deerskins, and his glossy black hair trimmed about the crown added to his barbaric appearance.