



## Commission Recommends Grants Totaling \$2,642,341

At its meeting on November 17, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission recommended grants totaling \$2,642,341 for 26 projects that will improve the understanding of America's past. NHPRC Chairman John W. Carlin noted that the Federal budget for Fiscal Year 1999 includes \$10 million for NHPRC grants, of which \$4 million is a Congressionally-directed grant to the Center for Jewish History. At a special noontime ceremony, the Chairman presented the Commission's 1998 Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Frank G. Burke.

Chairman Carlin also welcomed the Commission's new Executive Director, Ann C. Newhall. Ms. Newhall introduced Mark Conrad, the Commission's new Director for Technology Initiatives, and also informed the Commission that Richard A. Cameron, its Director for State Programs, was recently made a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists.

The educational component of the Commission meeting dealt with copyright issues affecting the NHPRC and the projects it sponsors. Chris Runkel of NARA's Office of General Counsel, joined by Melissa Smith-Levine, Legal Advisor of the Library of Congress' National Digital Library Project, Nancy Smith of NARA's Office of Presidential Libraries, and Elizabeth Pugh, General Counsel of the Library of Congress, led a discussion of the issues involved in securing permission to publish from manuscript repositories, making NHPRC-sponsored editions available in online editions, and using material from NHPRC-sponsored volumes in secondary works.

At its meeting, the Commission recommended that the Archivist make grants totaling up to \$1,362,863 for eight founding-era documentary editing projects and for the publication subvention of seven volumes produced by those projects; up

to \$982,042 for nine state board planning, implementation, and regrant projects, as well as collaborative projects; and \$297,436 for two electronic records and technologies projects.

The Commission also selected the Samuel Gompers papers project at the University of Maryland and the Margaret Sanger papers project at New York University as the host projects for its 1999-2000 Fellowships in Historical Documentary Editing, with the Sanger project's selection dependent on the availability of sufficient FY 1999 funds. It also selected the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library at Duke University and the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College as the host institutions for its 1999-2000 Fellowships in Archival Administration, with Fort Lewis College's selection dependent on the availability of sufficient FY 1999 funds.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for February 24, 1999. The next deadline for grant applications is June 1, 1999, for consideration at the Commission's November 1999 meeting.

### Founding-Era Documentary Editing Projects and Subventions:

- Board of Regents, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI: A grant of \$160,000 to continue editing a selective book edition of *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*.

- Princeton University, Princeton, NJ: A grant of \$154,731 to support its work on a comprehensive book edition of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*.

- Supreme Court Historical Society, Washington, DC: A grant of \$216,150 to edit a selective book edition of *The Documentary History of the Supreme Court, 1789-1800*.

- University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA: A grant of \$143,661 to edit a comprehensive book edition of *The Papers of George Washington*.

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*Chairman John W. Carlin and Executive Director Ann C. Newhall. Photograph by Amy Young, NARA.*

## ANNOTATION

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## From the Editor

In November, the Commission recommended that up to \$2,642,341 be awarded to 26 projects that will make it possible for the nation to better understand its history. At a special ceremony, Chairman John W. Carlin presented the Commission's 1998 Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Frank G. Burke, who served as NHPRC's Executive Director from 1975 to 1988. The November meeting also included an interesting discussion of copyright issues affecting the NHPRC and the projects it sponsors.

We endeavor to have each issue of *Annotation* highlight a different aspect of the Commission's contribution to America's understanding of its past. This issue of our newsletter focuses on the theme of the exploration of nature, whether that relates to the expeditions which the United States government sent out in the early 19th century to explore the vast territories it had acquired in the West, or the desire of private individuals to study and familiarize the public with a portion of the country or an aspect of the natural world.

Because a recent issue featured a piece by Gary E. Moulton, editor of *The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, on his work with documentary film maker Ken Burns, we decided to give equal time to projects devoted to other explorers of the American West. Our first article is a general overview of *The Journals of Zebulon Montgomery Pike*, edited by Donald Jackson; see if you share our sympathy for Pike, whose career Professor Jackson so ably describes.

Then it's off to the Grand Canyon, where the Kolb brothers, two enterprising self-promoters, ran a photography studio that produced images still in demand today. Our next article takes us in the footsteps of the Pathfinder, John Charles Frémont, a great explorer whose subsequent careers as businessman and politician were somewhat less glorious. Behind Frémont stood another intrepid individual, his wife Jessie, a senator's daughter whose writing talents helped make her husband a 19th-century icon and later sustained her family when the Frémonts encountered hard times.

The Denver Museum of Natural History is the repository for a collection of historical ethnographic and wildlife photographs produced in Alaska by Alfred Marshall Bailey in the early 1920s. Our last article recounts the career of eminent botanist Joseph Ewan, whose papers are now in the Missouri Botanical Garden Library. Our back-page photograph captures something of the joy and wonder of exploring unfamiliar territory, as an Alaska native woman delves into the mysteries of photography.

# The Executive Director's Column

by Ann C. Newhall

As I prepared for my first meeting of the NHPRC, I was struck anew by the remarkable membership of the Commission, past and present. Where else do representatives of the three branches of our government regularly sit down with representatives of professional societies of historians, archivists, and documentary editors and, chaired by the Archivist of the United States, discuss the preservation of our nation's documentary heritage? The current membership of the Commission constitutes an extraordinary collection of individuals by any standard.

Since its establishment in 1934, the Commission has been noteworthy for its membership. Indeed, the list of former members of the Commission reads like a Who's Who of American History—the “movers and shakers” (including Justices Felix Frankfurter, William J. Brennan, Jr., Harry Blackmun, and William H. Rehnquist; Senators Leverett Saltonstall, Mark Hatfield, and Paul Sarbanes; and members of the House of Representatives John



Brademas and Lindy Boggs); the “keepers of the record” (including J. Franklin Jameson, Solon J. Buck, Elizabeth Hamer Kegan, Charles E. Lee, Mary Lynn McCree, and H. G. Jones); and the historians who publish and scrutinize that record (including Dumas Malone, Donald Jackson, Janet Wilson James, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Julian P. Boyd, and Arthur Link).

At its November 17 meeting, the Commission acknowledged the service of Dr. Alfred Goldberg, who has ably represented the Department of Defense on the NHPRC for 25 years. Dr. Frank G. Burke, the only individual to have served as President of both the Association for Documentary Editing and the Society of American Archivists, was honored with the Commission's 1998 Distinguished Service Award. The Commission congratulated retired Justice Harry Blackmun, who served as a Commission member for many years, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. And the Commission bade a reluctant farewell to Arizona State



*Justice David H. Souter listens as Chris Runkel of NARA's Office of General Counsel, Nancy Smith of NARA's Office of Presidential Libraries, and Melissa Smith-Levine, Legal Advisor of the Library of Congress' National Digital Library Project, discuss copyright issues affecting NHPRC projects at November Commission meeting. Photo by Amy Young, NARA.*

# NHPRC Application Deadlines

The Commission's meetings follow the fiscal year of October 1 to September 30. Consequently, the first meeting of the fiscal year is in November and the second is in February.

## June 1 (for the November meeting)

Proposals addressing the following top priorities:

- The NHPRC will provide the American public with widespread access to the papers of the founders of our democratic republic and its institutions by ensuring the timely completion of eight projects now in progress to publish the papers of George Washington, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and papers that document the Ratification of the Constitution, the First Federal Congress, and the early Supreme Court.
- The NHPRC will promote broad public participation in historical documentation by collaborating with State Historical Records Advisory Boards to plan and carry out jointly funded programs to strengthen the nation's archival infrastructure and expand the range of records that are protected and accessible.
- The NHPRC will enable the nation's archivists, records managers, and documentary editors to overcome the obstacles and take advantage of the opportunities posed by electronic technologies by continuing to provide leadership in funding research and development on appraising, preserving, disseminating, and providing access to important documentary sources in electronic form.

## October 1 (for the February meeting)

Proposals not addressing the above priorities, but focusing on an activity authorized in the NHPRC statute as follows:

- collecting, describing, preserving, compiling, and publishing (including microfilming and other forms of reproduction) of documentary sources significant to the history of the United States.
- conducting institutes, training and educational courses, and fellowships related to the activities of the Commission.
- disseminating information about documentary sources through guides, directories, and other technical publications.
- or, more specifically, documentary editing and publishing; archival preservation and processing of records for access; developing or updating descriptive systems; creation and development of archival and records management programs; development of standards, tools, and techniques to advance the work of archivists, records managers, and documentary editors; and promotion of the use of records by teachers, students, and the public.

**Application guidelines and forms may be requested from NHPRC, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 111, Washington, DC 20408-0001, (202) 501-5610 (voice), (202) 501-5601 (fax), <nhprc@arch1.nara.gov> (e-mail), or by accessing our Web site at <<http://www.nara.gov/nara/nhprc/>>.**

Archivist David Hooper, who is stepping down after twelve years as the representative of the American Association for State and Local History, and extended a warm welcome to me, on the occasion of my first Commission meeting.

Then the Commission set to work, recommending grants totaling \$2,642,341 for 26 projects to improve the understanding of America's past. These projects included founding-era documentary editing projects, and the publication subvention of volumes produced by those projects; state board planning, implementation, regrant, and collaborative projects; and electronic records and technologies projects. The meeting was noteworthy, too,

for the differing perspectives brought to the table by the Commissioners in stimulating discussions on how best to address the problems posed to archivists and documentary editors by electronic technology and by the impact of the new copyright law on NHPRC projects.

This unique and fascinating mix of viewpoints, agendas, and backgrounds continues to provide energetic and capable leadership to the effort to ensure America's documentary heritage. As we approach the millennium, the Commission can look back with pride upon its many achievements and forward with confidence to the many challenges still to come.

# Publishing the Journals of the Unfortunate Zebulon Pike

From the beginning, the NHPRC has had a mission to preserve the important records of this nation and to make them available to the public. In the days before the Commission was a grant-making entity (and before it had *and Records* added to its name), that mission was in large measure fulfilled by endorsing worthwhile projects and providing staff assistance to those that were researching materials in the National Archives and other Washington repositories. One such project, endorsed by the Commission in 1964, was *The Journals of Zebulon Montgomery Pike: With Letters and Related Documents*, the two volumes of which were published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 1966 under the editorship of Donald Jackson.

Zebulon Pike was a career army officer and explorer who led two parties of exploration into the lands acquired from France in the Louisiana Purchase in the years 1805-1807. As Donald Jackson put it in his foreword to the first volume of Pike's *Journals*, nothing Pike "ever tried to do was easy, and most of his luck was bad." In the summer of 1805, General James Wilkinson, commanding the United States Army, ordered Pike to lead a party in search of the source of the Mississippi River. The young lieutenant set out upriver from St. Louis that August in a keelboat with 20 men. Above the Falls of St. Anthony, they left the boat, built a stockade, and continued on foot to what Pike thought was their goal. In this he was mistaken, through no fault of his own. However, the expedition did allow the Americans to visit some British trading posts and hold councils with the Indians in the region, useful developments in terms of asserting United States ownership of the territory in question. Pike's party returned to St. Louis in late April 1806.

General Wilkinson soon had a new assignment for the young explorer. In mid-July 1806, he set out with another party to explore the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red Rivers. The two rivers formed part of the boundary between the lands of the Louisiana Purchase and New Spain, and searching for their headwaters was a matter of legitimate concern to the United States. However, a second part of Pike's instructions, which enjoined him to make a reconnaissance of the Spanish settlements in New Mexico, using great circumspection, amounted to espionage directed against a neighboring country in peacetime.

Pike's party proceeded up the Arkansas River to the vicinity of present-day Pueblo, Colorado, visiting Indian villages along the way. After an unsuccessful attempt to reach the summit of the peak which today bears his name, Pike continued his journey to the source of the Arkansas. He then moved southward in search of the headwaters of the Red River, which according to Baron Alexander von Humboldt's map rose at the foot of the Rocky Mountains near Taos, New Mexico. Pike accordingly crossed the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and built a log fort on a tributary of the Rio Grande River, presumably intending to winter in the area, not far from Taos. Pike's party was in fact far from the actual source of the Red River, which rises in northern Texas.

Upon learning of Pike's presence, the Spanish authorities sent troops to bring him to Santa Fe. This suited Pike fine, since he wished to visit the area and learn something about its geography and natural resources. However, the Spanish commander in Santa Fe decided to turn the matter over to his superior, and sent the Americans to Chihuahua. Pike's party was well treated, but the Spanish kept all Pike's papers. These were returned to the United States in the early 20th century, and are now part of National Archives Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office.

The Spanish provided Pike with an escort to the border, and he was back in United States territory by early July. Here he found that he was suspected of being part of the Burr-Wilkinson conspiracy to establish an empire in the Southwest. He protested his innocence to Secretary of War Henry Dearborn, who

exonerated him of any wrongdoing. In hindsight, it is clear that Wilkinson may have intended to use any information Pike might provide to further his own plans, but that Pike had no knowledge of the purpose for which the information might be used. Pike's 1806-1807 expedition ranks second in importance to that of Lewis and Clark in terms of knowledge gained about previously unexplored territory, but the courage and endurance of Pike and his men were fully equal to those of the more famous party of exploration.

Pike's subsequent career in the army was successful but brief. He had been promoted to the rank of captain according to normal sequence in 1806 while engaged in his expedition, and was made a major in 1808. In 1812, with the advent of the second



*Portrait of Zebulon Montgomery Pike by Charles Willson Peale, ca. 1807, oil on canvas. From the Independence National Historical Park Collection.*

war with Great Britain, Pike was promoted to the rank of colonel. He was made a brigadier general early in 1813, prior to the invasion of Canada. Pike was in immediate command of the troops that attacked York (now Toronto), Canada, that April. The attack was successful, but Pike was killed when a British powder magazine blew up during the fighting.

Pike's bad luck even survived his death. He and the men who took part in his expeditions were never compensated for their efforts during their lifetimes. Attempts to secure redress by act of Congress lapsed with Pike's death. A trunk filled with Pike's papers was lost in an 1845 house fire. In 1846, Senator Thomas Hart Benton interceded to ensure that Congress passed a bill granting Pike's widow \$3,000 in compensation for his services as an explorer, and then had to fend off Treasury Department efforts to attach part of this sum to settle the government's account against Pike.

The Jackson edition of Pike's journals is based upon a book published for Pike in 1810 by the Philadelphia firm of C. & A. Conrad & Co., entitled *An Account of Expeditions to the Sources of the Mississippi, and Through the Western Parts of Louisiana, to the Sources of the Arkansaw, Kans, La Platte, and Pierre Jaun, Rivers; Performed by Order of the Government of the United States During the Years 1805, 1806, and 1807. And a Tour Through the Interior Parts of New Spain ... in the Year 1807.*

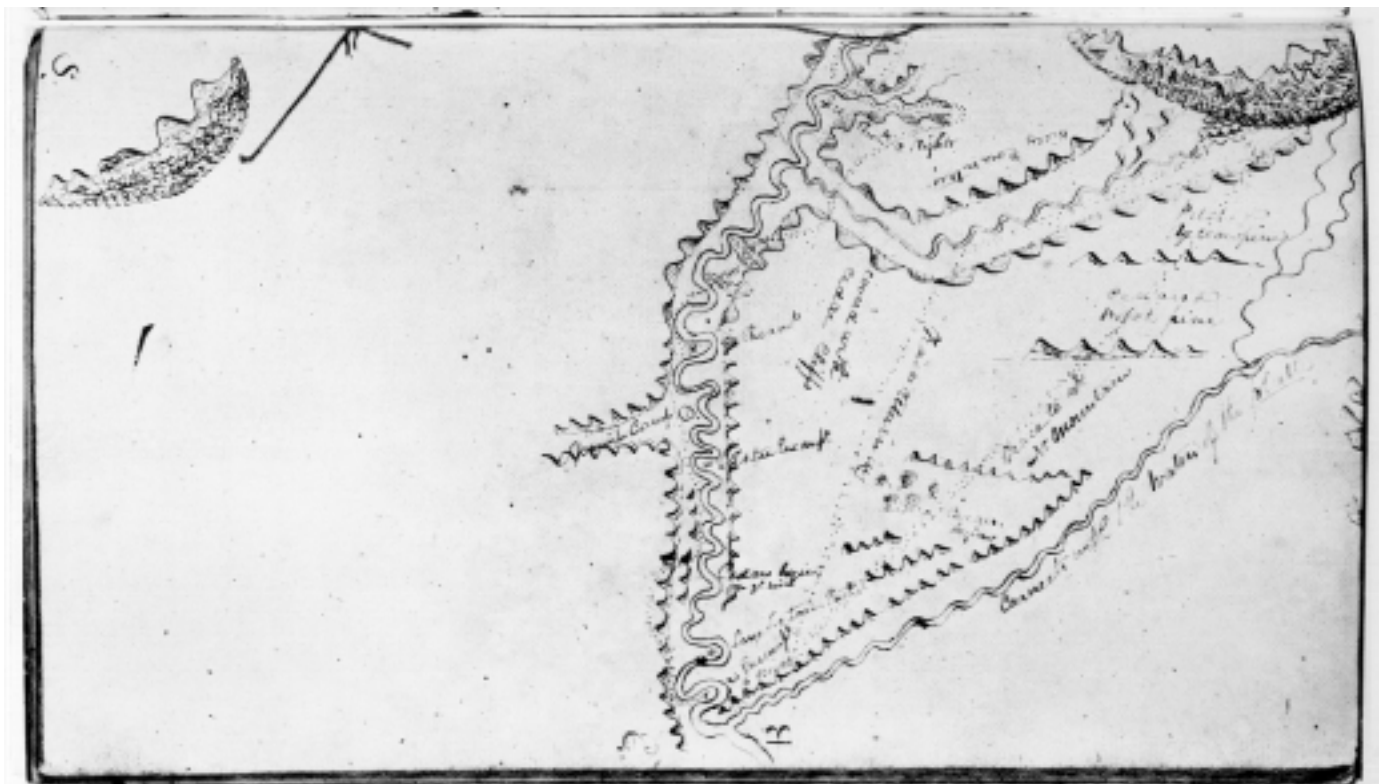
From all indications, Pike would have benefited greatly from a week at Camp Edit. Publisher John Conrad considered Pike's manuscript so poorly organized that he added a note to the author's preface in which he expressed doubt "whether any book ever went to press under so many disadvantages as the one now presented to the public." Part of the problem arose from the fact that Pike felt that he had made three expeditions rather than two,

the third being his involuntary journey to and from Chihuahua. He compiled a journal of events for each of the three expeditions, to which he added geographic data, ethnographic material, and related letters, but set forth as appendixes to each of the three parts of the journal. This arrangement of materials would have been fairly confusing, but the situation was aggravated when some items were printed in the wrong sections or out of sequence.

Subsequent editions in 1811 and 1895 attempted to improve matters by rearranging the material. However, Professor Jackson was dealing with an unpublished manuscript version of the Mississippi River expedition, as well as dozens of manuscript letters that were not in the original edition. These circumstances made a reissue of Pike's edition impossible.

Professor Jackson chose to regard every document, whether published or not, as raw material to be annotated and arranged without regard to the original edition. He replaced Pike's published version of the Mississippi River journal with the manuscript version. The letters in Pike's edition were used together with the unpublished ones.

In the Jackson edition, the story of Pike's expeditions is told in three versions: in the journals, the appended reports, and the letters. Jackson's method of dealing with the documentary materials thus eliminates most of the confusion resulting from Pike's original arrangement and earlier publication problems. Although Professor Jackson jokingly remarked that he was tempted to adopt John Conrad's disclaimer as his own, his edition clearly constitutes the most complete and best organized assemblage of materials on Pike's journeys of exploration. More than 150 years after his death, Zebulon Pike's writings have received proper treatment at the hands of posterity.



*Pike's manuscript field map of his side trip to Pikes Peak, from the Journals. Photograph by Earl McDonald, NARA.*



# Saving the Life Work of Two Daring Grand Canyon Photographers: The Emery Kolb Collection at Northern Arizona University's Cline Library

by Diane Grua

The turn-of-the-century Grand Canyon was a hopeful place. While prospectors still plied the rough country, the rapidly expanding tourist trade promised to be an even richer mine. Amidst the frenzied activity of the Santa Fe Railroad, the Fred Harvey company, and smaller tour operations run by locals, Emery and Ellsworth Kolb found their mother lode in emulsion and acetate.

The brothers Kolb hailed originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ellsworth, the elder, drifted west first, fleeing the danger and drudgery of steel mills. Arriving at the Grand Canyon in 1901, just months after the railroad, he found work at the Bright Angel Hotel. Emery joined him a year later. Eager to find a way to use his budding photographic skills, Emery was elated when the proprietor of a modest photo gallery in Williams—a small community not far from the Canyon—offered to sell him his business. The Kolbs set up shop, first in a tent, then in a building clinging to the rim of the Grand Canyon, and the legendary Kolb Studio was born.

The Kolbs specialized in photographing the tourists taking mule rides into the Grand Canyon. Water, however, was not readily available. Emery, a slight, energetic man, would run four and one-half miles down the Bright Angel Trail to a clear water source at Indian Garden where he could develop the films, and be back on the rim in time to sell the images to the returning mule parties. He frequently made the nine-mile round trip twice daily. It was not until 1928, when a more reliable water source became available at the Canyon rim, that print-making became a less aerobic endeavor.

Photographs of Grand Canyon scenery were also in high demand, and the adventurous pair went to great—and highly publicized—lengths to obtain them. They climbed cliffs, lassoed trees, and perched precariously on the edges of cliffs. One of their best-known images portrays Emery, view camera in hand, suspended by a rope from a log in a crevice while Ellsworth monitors the process from above.

In exploring the region, the brothers decided a boat trip down the Colorado River would offer many fine possibilities for

picture-taking, not to mention press coverage. On September 8, 1911, they launched two small wooden craft at Green River, Wyoming, taking out four months later in Needles, California. They wanted adventure, and they got it. They had to portage or line many of the rapids, which was dangerous, backbreaking work. On Christmas Eve, 1911, while running Walthenberg Rapid in Grand Canyon, Ellsworth was thrown from his boat. Emery, going to his brother's aid, crashed his boat on a submerged rock, tearing a large hole amidships. Acutely aware of the sensational appeal of such a story, the brothers posed with

the wrecked craft, then spent Christmas Day repairing it. After the trip, Emery embarked on a nationwide lecture circuit, while Ellsworth, largely for the sake of a book he was writing, completed the river trip by rowing from Needles to Mexico. The brothers signed and sold thousands of copies of *Through the Grand Canyon from Wyoming to Mexico*, richly illustrated and laden with death-defying tales, at the Kolb Studio. The remarkable motion picture footage taken during the expedition formed the basis of a film which Emery showed daily at the studio from 1915 until his death in 1976.

The “big trip” proved to be only one of several adventures undertaken by the brothers. In 1919, Emery was a photographer for the National Geographic Society's expedition to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes in Alaska. In 1921 and 1923, the Kolbs served as boatmen and guides for the U.S. Geological Survey, whose engineers were searching for suitable locations for dams on the Colorado River. When Glen and Bessie Hyde disappeared during their attempted

1928 Grand Canyon river run, Emery and Ellsworth participated in the fruitless search for the infamous “honeymoon couple.” Emery also accompanied a portion of the first commercial Grand Canyon River trip, in 1938, led by boatman Norman Nevills. Botanist Elzada Clover, who chartered the trip, and her graduate assistant, Lois Jotter, became the first women to successfully complete a Grand Canyon river trip.

While both Emery and Ellsworth were bold showmen, their fundamental personalities were quite different. Ellsworth was high-spirited and often reckless. A charismatic ladies' man, dozens of photographs portray him with attractive young women.



*Emery Kolb, belayed by brother Ellsworth, prepares to photograph the Grand Canyon from an unusual perspective. Photo from the Emery Kolb Collection, Cline Library, Northern Arizona University.*

A Grand Canyon National Park employee who was acquainted with both brothers remembered Ellsworth as a “gentle gentleman;” Emery he recalled as a “game rooster.” Emery was more cautious than his older brother. In addition, he was a family man, marrying Blanche Bender in 1905. Two years later, Blanche gave birth to the couple’s only child, a daughter named Edith. Edith was a favorite photographic subject of her father’s, and one of the first Anglo children to be born and raised at the Grand Canyon.

Not surprisingly, Emery and Ellsworth Kolb ultimately had a parting of the ways. In 1924, Ellsworth moved to Los Angeles,

In 1979, three years after Emery’s death and 19 after Ellsworth’s, a \$22,285 grant from the NHPRC helped assure that the tremendous legacy compiled by the Kolb brothers would be preserved. Some 17,000 images were cleaned and cataloged; 15,000 negatives printed; 7,000 copy and duplicate negatives made; 10,000 feet of films copied; and a set of 12,000 xerographic browsing copies prepared. Matching and state funds through the years have further augmented the work initiated by the NHPRC grant. A Paradox database enables ready searching and tracking of images, and 63,000 pages of manuscript documents were microfilmed. The Kolbs’ film, reconstructed



*Emery Kolb thrusts head and shoulders through a hole torn in his boat while rescuing brother Ellsworth on Christmas Eve, 1911. Photograph from the Emery Kolb Collection, Cline Library, Northern Arizona University.*

while Emery stayed at the Grand Canyon to run the now thriving studio. Emery continued to photograph Grand Canyon’s many visitors, residents, scenery, and notable events; narrate the film; and sell copies of Ellsworth’s book. Through the decades, Kolb cameras captured Theodore Roosevelt, Albert Einstein, William Jennings Bryan, European royalty, and hosts of other dignitaries. By the time Emery passed away at age 95, he had amassed tens of thousands of photographs, letters from fans, and voluminous business records.

from footage and audio recordings, is available for viewing on videotape, as are the dozens of clippings of raw footage.

With visitation to the Grand Canyon steadily climbing, interest in the Kolb Collection continues to increase. The user base is broad, ranging from those searching for a captivating image to hang upon a wall to students preparing dissertations. Scientists from the fields of hydrology, geology, physical science, geography, archaeology, and biology frequently use Kolb images

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# In the Footsteps of the Pathfinder

John Charles Frémont (1813-1890) was arguably the greatest American explorer of the 19th century. The accomplishments of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark certainly captured the spirit of the new nation as it entered that century. Nor can the accomplishments of such explorers as Zebulon Montgomery Pike and John Wesley Powell be denigrated. However, the seven expeditions which Frémont undertook between 1838 and 1854 covered so much Western territory, and in some cases had such an impact on that territory's expansion, that he earned a special place in the annals of North American exploration as the Pathfinder.

Frémont, who acquired a good grounding in mathematics and the natural science in college, displayed an unusual ability to attract patrons throughout his career. He early caught the attention of Joel Roberts Poinsett, the leader of the Jackson wing of the Democratic Party in South Carolina. Poinsett, who had done a bit of exploring in the Caucasus and Persia in his younger days, first arranged a position for Frémont as teacher of mathematics aboard a naval vessel. He later helped the young man secure a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Topographical Corps. In the mid-1830s, Frémont helped survey the route of a prospective railroad between Charleston and Cincinnati, then undertook a reconnaissance of the Cherokee country in Georgia prior to the tribe's removal to the west.

Ordered to Washington, he then obtained, with Poinsett's help, a place in the expedition of J.N. Nicollet, a scientist who explored the plateau between the upper Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Nicollet trained Frémont in astronomical, topographical, and geological observation; the two men roomed together after their return from the expedition, and collaborated on a map and a scientific report. Through Nicollet, Frémont also met Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, whose thoughts on western exploration and expansion to the Pacific inspired the younger man to translate thought into action. He also met Benton's daughter Jessie, whom he would marry against her family's wishes after completing his first independent assignment: exploring the Des Moines River and

mapping much of Iowa Territory. Despite initial displeasure at the marriage, Benton soon grew reconciled to having Frémont for a son-in-law, and became his patron and adviser.

Frémont's first major expedition, undertaken in 1842, involved an examination of the Oregon Trail through South Pass; the official report of the journey, written with his wife's help, appealed to the growing interest in Oregon settlement and earned Frémont wide public recognition. The expedition that followed added even more luster to the young explorer's fame; after following the Oregon Trail to the Columbia River, Frémont turned south to explore the Great Basin between the Rockies and the Sierras. Upon reaching Nevada, he crossed the Sierras in the dead of winter, visited Captain August Sutter at his fort on the Sacramento River, then followed the Spanish Trail toward Santa Fe, but branched off to cross parts of Nevada and Utah on his way to Bent's Fort on the Arkansas River. His return to St. Louis in August 1844 was a sensation. He and Jessie spent the following winter writing the expedition's report, which again demonstrated that the Oregon Trail was not difficult, and added evidence that the Pacific Northwest was fertile and desirable.

With James K. Polk in the White House, westward expansion acquired added impetus. War with Spain over Texas was clearly in the offing. Frémont's next assignment was to make a survey of the central Rockies, the Great Salt Lake region, and part of the Sierra Nevada. His third expedition left St. Louis with the understanding

that if he learned that war had broken out when he reached California, he should transform his party into a military force. Such was not the case when Frémont reached Sutter's Fort in December 1845, but later communications from Washington left him convinced that aggressive action was warranted. His display of force in the Sacramento River valley inspired the Bear Flag Revolt in the summer of 1846. Frémont's California Battalion played a prominent role in the fighting, but its chief became embroiled in a dispute between the American army and naval commanders that resulted in his court martial. A panel of regular army officers found him guilty, at which point he resigned from the service.



*Portrait of John Charles Frémont by William S. Jewett, oil on panel. Courtesy National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution.*

Frémont subsequently led two privately funded expeditions (1848-1849 and 1853-1854) intended to discover railway routes to the Pacific. However, he had acquired a huge tract of land in California, the Mariposa estate in the Sierra foothills, which made him a rich man after gold was discovered in the vicinity. He would serve a short term in the Senate, become the Republican presidential nominee in 1856, hold prominent command in the Union army in the first years of the Civil War, and lead the radical wing of the Republican Party in the political maneuvers leading up to the presidential election of 1864. Militarily, politically, and financially inept, he lost his Mariposa estate in 1864. A postwar career as railroad president, which ended in the railroad's bankruptcy, cost him the last of his fortune and darkened his reputation. He was saved from poverty by Jessie's writings, by an appointment as governor of Arizona Territory (1878-1883), and by a pension as a retired U.S. Army major general. Frémont's later career was a tragic anticlimax when compared with his earlier achievements as an explorer.

When Donald Jackson and Mary Lee Spence began planning *The Expeditions of John Charles Frémont* (University of Illinois Press, 1970-1984), they quickly came to the conclusion that no sensible historical editor would undertake a complete edition of the great explorer's papers. Although a selective approach to Frémont's correspondence on his later activities was possible, the real meat of such an edition would be any documentation that had a bearing on the expeditions of 1838-1854. Ultimately, the two historians resolved to deal only with the expeditions.

Jackson and Spence (Spence took over as sole editor after 1973) chose to combine unpublished manuscript materials with Frémont's published reports and selections from his *Memoirs of My Life* (the first and only volume of which carried the

explorer only to 1847), which appeared in 1887. The *Memoirs* were written to stave off poverty, but Frémont and his wife had been collecting papers and other materials upon which to base such a work since the 1840s. The editors occasionally drew upon the journals and letters of other participants in the expeditions, as well as the letters of Jessie Benton Frémont.

In dealing with the botanical aspects of Frémont's expeditions, the editors received expert advice from Professor Joseph Ewan of Tulane University and his research assistant, Nesta Dunn Ewan. The major problem lay in how to resolve differences between Frémont's mid-nineteenth century plant identifications and modern botanical terminology. Annotation was conducted so as to avoid undue intrusion into the narrative, with contemporary and modern plant identifications being resolved in the index.

Jackson and Spence published the first volume of their edition, which covers the period through Frémont's second expedition to the Pacific Northwest, or the chronological period 1838-1845, in 1970. That same year saw the appearance of the edition's map portfolio, containing the five detailed maps produced by Frémont's expeditions for the United States Topographical Service, plus comments by Professor Jackson.

The second volume, which covers 1845-1848, the period of Frémont's third major expedition and his involvement in the U.S. acquisition of California, came out in 1973, together with a supplement containing the proceedings of Frémont's 1847-1848 court martial. The third and final volume, which appeared in 1984 with Dr. Spence as sole editor, deals with Frémont's 1848-1849 and 1853-1854 expeditions, as well as his other activities in the period 1848-1854. Each volume acknowledged the Commission's continuing support for the Frémont project.



*San Juan Mountains, 1848. From the "Prospectus" for Frémont's Memoirs. Reproduced by permission of The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.*

# Keeping the Pathfinder on Track

In 1993, the University of Illinois Press published *The Letters of Jessie Benton Frémont*, edited by Pamela Herr and Mary Lee Spence. The one-volume edition followed the editorial procedures and style established by Donald Jackson and Mary Lee Spence in *The Expeditions of John Charles Frémont*, another University of Illinois Press publication.

Now professor emerita at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Dr. Spence coedited this volume with Pamela Herr, a historian and writer living in Palo Alto, California. A former managing editor of *American West*, Ms. Herr had authored *Jessie Benton Frémont: A Biography* (New York: Franklin Watts, 1987). The NHPRC provided both financial and staff support for the production of the *Letters* volume.

As the daughter of Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton and the wife of John Charles Frémont, Jessie Benton Frémont (1824-1902) both witnessed and endeavored to influence many of the major events of the mid-19th century. Despite the restrictions faced by all women of her time, she carved out an important role for herself as a writer, a dedicated abolitionist, and the “secretary and other self” to her mercurial husband. She collaborated on Frémont’s best-selling exploration reports, served as his political adviser and chief Civil War aide, and even worked as a lobbyist for Arizona mining interests.

Herr and Spence selected 271 of Jessie’s letters for publication from the 800 they discovered. Among the correspondents are Horace Greeley, Abraham Lincoln, Dorothea Dix, John Greenleaf Whittier, William Tecumseh Sherman, and Theodore Roosevelt, as well as Elizabeth Blair Lee, who was her close friend. Jessie’s letters provide enlightenment on the westward movement, the Civil War, and the Gilded Age, and constitute a rich addition to the field of women’s studies.

Jessie Ann Benton eloped with John Charles Frémont at the age of 17. Soon reconciled with her family, she collaborated

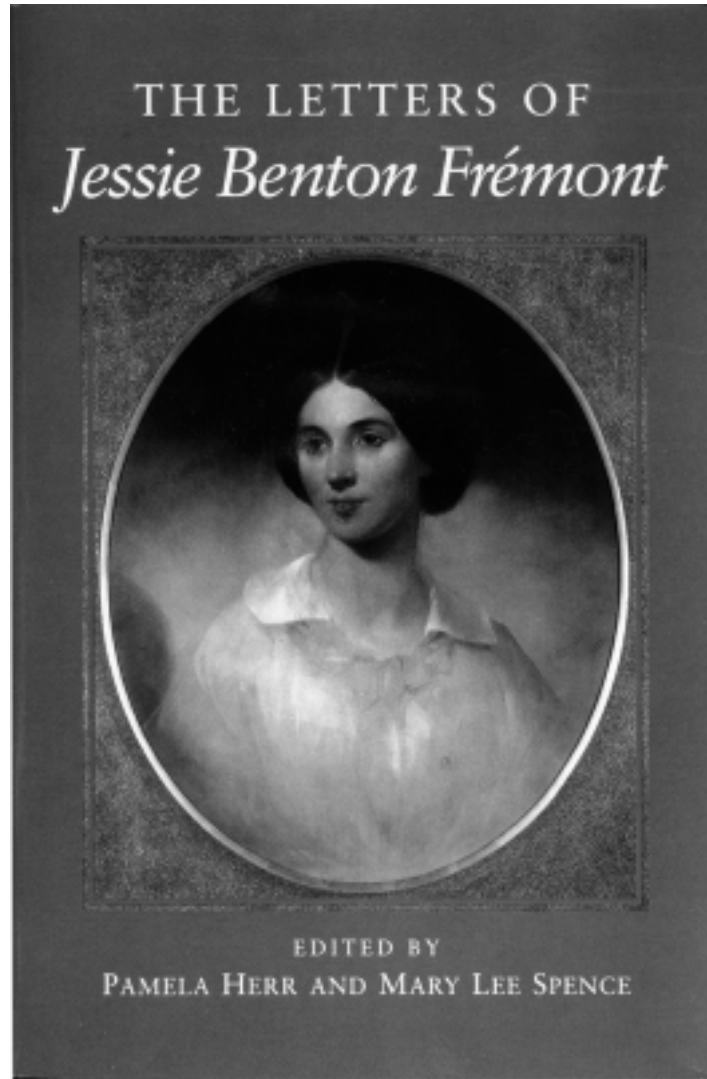
with her husband on the accounts of his explorations, which made him famous and persuaded many to settle in the west. After gold was discovered in California, her husband’s

Mariposa estate yielded a fortune. The Frémonts worked together in the presidential campaign of 1856 and during his Civil War military career. Frémont was not cut out for either politics or high command; by the mid-1870s, he had also lost his fortune as the result of dubious business maneuvers.

As previously noted, Jessie’s skill in literary endeavors was first manifested through helping her husband with the reports of his explorations. Her first book was *The Story of the Guard: A Chronicle of the War* (1863), an account of the capture of Springfield, Missouri, on October 25, 1861, by the Frémont Bodyguard. Jessie evidently intended the profits from the book’s sales to go into a fund for the families of the 16 soldiers who died in the battle.

After the loss of their fortune, the Frémonts learned that the health of one of their sons dictated a change of climate, but they had no money for this purpose. To meet the family’s need, Jessie offered Robert Bonner of the *New York Ledger* a series of articles at \$100 each. These

newspaper accounts were followed by regular contributions to a number of periodicals. Most were travel and historical sketches or children’s stories. In 1878, Jessie published *A Year of American Travel*, which described the hardships of travel to and conditions in California in 1849. Selections from her writings appeared as *Souvenirs of My Time* (1887), *Far West Sketches* (1890), and *The Will and the Way Stories* (1891). She also helped her husband write the first and only volume of his *Memoirs* (1887). After his death, Jessie lived with her daughter in Los Angeles, in a house given to her by the ladies of southern California in recognition of her husband’s contributions to the state’s early history.



*Photo by Earl McDonald, NARA.*

- Yale University, New Haven, CT: A grant of \$154,000 to assist its work on a comprehensive book edition of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*.

- The George Washington University, Washington, DC: A grant of \$187,140 to continue editing *The Documentary History of the First Federal Congress, 1789-1791*.

- University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA: A grant of \$139,200 to continue work on a comprehensive book edition of *The Papers of James Madison*.

- Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA: A grant of up to \$140,832 to support the preparation of a comprehensive book edition of *The Adams Papers*.

- University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA: A subvention grant of \$10,000 for *The Papers of James Madison*, Presidential Series, Vol. 4.

- University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA: A subvention grant of \$10,000 for *The Papers of George Washington*, Retirement Series, Vol. 3.

- University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA: A subvention grant of \$10,000 for *The Papers of George Washington*, Retirement Series, Vol. 4.

- University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA: A subvention grant of \$10,000 for *The Papers of George Washington*, Presidential Series, Vol. 8.

- University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA: A subvention grant of \$10,000 for *The Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, Vol. 9.

- University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA: A subvention grant of \$7,149 for *The Papers of George Washington*, one-volume diaries abridgement.

- Yale University Press, New Haven, CT: A subvention grant of \$10,000 for *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, Vol. 35.

#### **State Board Planning, Implementation, and Regrant Projects; Collaborative Projects:**

- California State Archives, Sacramento, CA: A 21-month grant of \$59,020 for its SHRAB Statewide Planning Project to: 1) investigate the programs of the state archives to determine the condition and needs of state records; 2) survey counties and cities to determine the condition and needs of local government records; 3) survey a representative number of the state's historical records repositories to determine the condition and needs of non-governmental records; and 4) develop a strategic plan, including a mission statement, goals and objectives, and funding priorities.

- Delaware Public Archives, Dover, DE: An 18-month grant of \$17,553 for its SHRAB Strategic Planning Project to develop a strategic plan with emphasis on possible cooperative opportunities related to the completion of a new archives facility.

- Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, ID: A two-year grant of \$64,200 for its SHRAB Records Assessment and Strategic Planning Project to assess the status of records in the state and prepare a strategic plan that addresses identified needs.

- Illinois State Archives, Springfield, IL: A two-year grant of \$58,291 for its SHRAB Strategic Planning Project to identify and address records needs and issues within the state.

- Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board, Boston, MA: A two-year grant of up to \$150,000 for its SHRAB Collaborative Action Regrant Project to help local repositories increase the accessibility of historical records, improve the documentation of Massachusetts history, develop networks that can have a long-term impact on records and the historical records community, identify permanent funding sources for outreach and grant programs, and revise the strategic plan.

- New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board, Santa Fe, NM: A two-year grant of \$156,499 (\$25,000 matching) and an additional conditional matching grant of \$25,000 for its SHRAB Plan Implementation and Regrant Project to implement the board's strategic plan, develop and conduct a training program to address the needs of repositories throughout the state, and support projects to improve preservation and access to historical records in New Mexico's repositories.

- New York State Historical Records Advisory Board, Albany, NY: A two-year grant of \$156,698 for its SHRAB Documentation Demonstration Project to test a practical approach to create topical documentation plans, engage records creators and users in the documentation process, take action to preserve the most important records, and raise public awareness of the value of an even and equitable historical record.

- Wisconsin State Historical Records Advisory Board, Madison, WI: A 30-month grant of up to \$94,781 for its Archives Repositories Assessment and Mentoring Project to develop and coordinate a repository assistance and mentoring program and to strengthen the board's partnerships with statewide associations of records creators, keepers, and users.

- American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, TN: A two-year grant of up to \$200,000 to work with the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators to develop a national conference on archival continuing education that specifically addresses the needs of small historical records repositories, and to support the Council's work to identify and share best practices among state boards, state archives, and the professional organizations serving historical records repositories.

#### **Electronic Records and Technologies Projects:**

- Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS: A two-year grant of \$74,996 for its Electronic Records Applied Research Project to: 1) conduct applied electronic records management research by testing key elements of the NHPRC-funded electronic records management and preservation guidelines; 2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of the guidelines; and 3) modify the guidelines based upon the research results.

- University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC: An 18-month grant of \$222,440 for the Model Editions Partnership to: 1) complete the markup guidelines, reference guide, and encoding report for electronic historical editions; 2) publish five mini-editions to explore the effectiveness of automated conversion; 3) prepare and publish two mini-editions to demonstrate the interoperability of SGML digital library resources; 4) develop a series of utilities to automate the conversion of project word processing files into SGML files; and 5) prepare and publish a study describing the uses of documentary materials in an electronic environment.

## Former Executive Director Receives Distinguished Service Award

At a special noontime ceremony during the November 17 meeting of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, Chairman John W. Carlin presented the Commission's 1998 Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Frank G. Burke, who served as its Executive Director from 1975 until 1988.

Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. He was one of the first National Archives employees to advocate the development of computer software for storage of archival information. Dr. Burke served as Acting Archivist of the United States for two and a half years of his career with the National Archives and Records



*Left to right, Deputy Executive Director Roger A. Bruns, Executive Director Ann C. Newhall, Frank G. Burke, Hildegard Burke, and Chairman John W. Carlin. Photo by Amy Young, NARA.*

Dr. Burke's work has had a profound impact on the field of historical documentary editing and on the preservation and accessibility of historical records. In 1976, the Commission, under Dr. Burke's leadership, launched its records program to provide support across the country for the preservation of and access to documentary materials. Under his direction, the Commission also launched a series of conferences at which historical editors discussed the practices and problems of their work. The exchange of ideas at these conferences led to the creation of the Association for Documentary Editing (ADE) in 1978.

Dr. Burke joined the staff of the National Archives and Records Service in 1967 as an information retrieval specialist, after holding previous positions at the University of Chicago library and the

Administration, and later enjoyed a number of years teaching at the University of Maryland.

Dr. Burke is the only individual to have served as President of both ADE and the Society of American Archivists. His demonstrated commitment to both historical documentary editing and the preservation of historical records make him a particularly appropriate recipient of the Commission's Distinguished Service Award.

The award honors individuals whose careers have exemplified extraordinary commitment in forwarding the mission of the NHPRC and who have made notable accomplishments in fields touched by the Commission's work. 1998 is the tenth year in which the award has been presented.

# 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 received since the June meeting.*

Ford, Jean, comp. *Nevada Women's History: A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in Nevada Repositories*. Reno, NV: University of Nevada, Reno, 1998. Information concerning this guide is available from the Special Collections Department, University Archives, University Library/322, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV 89557-0044; or call (702) 784-6538.

*Freedom House, Inc., Records, 1941-1996*. Boston, MA: Northeastern University Libraries, 1998.

*Muriel S. And Otto P. Snowden Papers, ca. 1911-1990*. Boston, MA: Northeastern University Libraries, 1998.

Inquiries about these two finding aids should be directed to the Archives and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, Northeastern university, Boston, MA 02115; they are also available on the department's Web site at <[www.lib.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m16find.htm](http://www.lib.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m16find.htm)> and <[www.lib.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m17find.htm](http://www.lib.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m17find.htm)>.

*Guide to Health Care and Social Welfare Manuscript Collections at the New Jersey Historical Society*. Newark, NJ: New Jersey Historical Society, June 1998.

Finding aids and container lists for the following collections:

Academy of Medicine of New Jersey Archives, 1775-1961

Blue Shield of New Jersey Records, 1940-1988

J. Henry Clark Papers, 1836-1914

Congar Family Papers, 1787-1876

Cooper Family Papers, 1865-1922

Dr. George Wyckoff Cummins Collection, 1762-1893

De Zeng Family Papers, 1729-1925

Ebenezer Elmer Papers, 1776-1785

William Elmer Records Books, 1837-89

Gabriel Grant Papers, 1854-1907

Howe Family Papers, 1844-1934

Sanford B. Hunt Papers, 1834-1892

Dr. John James Hervey Love Papers, 1862-1864

Kinney Family Papers, 1783-1900

Medical Society of New Jersey Records, 1766-1887

McDowell Family Papers, 1792-1966

Newark Female Charitable Society

Orange Memorial Hospital School of Nursing (NJ) Records, 1882-1982

Mary Philbrook Papers, 1843-1954

Edward A. Pierson Papers, 1796-1872

Shippen Family Papers, 1750-1775

Stanford Pharmacy Records, 1853-1905

Terrill Funeral Home, Irvington, NJ, Records, 1901-1946

William Turk Papers, 1824-1835

Dr. Felix Vann Papers

Whittier House Social Settlement (Jersey City NJ) Records, 1894-1974

Requests for information about this guide and the other finding aids may be directed to the Library, New Jersey Historical Society, 52 Park Place, Newark, NJ, 07102-4302.

Kelly, Kristine L, Alan Kowlowitz, Theresa A. Pardo, and Darryl E. Green. *Models for Action: Practical Approaches to Electronic Records Management & Preservation*. Albany, NY: Center for Technology in Government, 1998.

This report may be found on the Web site of the Center for Technology in Government located at <[www.ctg.albany.edu/resources/pdfrwp/mfa.pdf](http://www.ctg.albany.edu/resources/pdfrwp/mfa.pdf)>. Inquiries may also be directed to the center at the University at Albany, SUNY, 1535 Western Avenue, Albany, NY, 12203; or call (518) 442-3892; or e-mail <[info@ctg.albany.edu](mailto:info@ctg.albany.edu)>.

## Documentary Publications

*The following products from NHPRC-supported documentary editing projects have been received in the Commission office since June 1998.*

*Ethan Allen and His Kin: Correspondence, 1772-1819*, Vol. 1 [August 1772–November 1791] (University Press of New England, 1998).

*Ethan Allen and His Kin: Correspondence, 1772-1819*, Vol. 2 [January 1792–September 1819] (University Press of New England, 1998).

*The Papers of John C. Calhoun*, Vol. 23 [April 1, 1846–December 5, 1846] (University of South Carolina Press, 1996).

*The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, Vol. 21 [November 1, 1870–May 31, 1871] (Southern Illinois University Press, 1998).

*The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, Vol. 22 [June 1, 1871–January 31, 1872] (Southern Illinois University Press, 1998).

*The Selected Papers of Thaddeus Stevens*, Vol. 2 [April 1865–August 1868] (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1998).

*The Journals of don Diego de Vargas, Vol. 4: Blood on the Boulders* [1694–1697], Book 1 (University of New Mexico Press, 1998).

*The Journals of don Diego de Vargas, Vol. 4: Blood on the Boulders* [1694–1697], Book 2 (University of New Mexico Press, 1998).



# Alaska in Denver: The Bailey Photographic Collection

by Liz Clancy

In 1997, the Denver Museum of Natural History (DMNH) received a grant from the NHPRC to preserve an important collection of historical ethnographic and wildlife photographs from Alaska, dating from the early 1920s.

Alfred Marshall Bailey began working in southeast Alaska for the U.S. Biological Survey in 1919. In 1921, the DMNH hired Bailey to collect birds and mammals far north of the Arctic Circle. Bailey and his associate Russell W. Hendee spent 16

The collection is rare in its size, scope, and depth. It not only documents the environment and wildlife, but also the people, their settlements, and cultural and social activities of Alaska. Bailey produced about 600 high-quality photographs of the people with whom he visited and worked.

Accompanying the photographs of the entire period are field notes by Bailey. Each image and its context is documented in some way, often in detail. In addition, the complete body of



*Bailey and Hendee "at home," Wainwright, Alaska, 1921-1922. Photograph by A. M. Bailey, courtesy of the Denver Museum of Natural History Photo Archives.*

months in the Arctic collecting specimens for study and exhibit. No other researchers or collectors had ever spent such a prolonged period of time in the Arctic. Together they took over 1,500 black-and-white photographs throughout southeastern Alaska, the Bering Strait region (including Siberia), and along the entire North Shore from Cape Prince of Wales to the Canadian boundary.

work from this Alaskan expedition includes publications, exhibits, and correspondence.

This extraordinary collection was selected for this preservation project because it is well organized, identified, documented, and published. Photographically, the images are beautifully composed, are in sharp focus, and have been well exposed. As American history, this collection is an important



*Natives dragging a bearded seal, Bering Strait, Alaska, May 1922. Photograph by A. M. Bailey, courtesy of the Denver Museum of Natural History Photo Archives.*

contribution to the chronicle of the time and region, its wildlife and native populations. These photographs document a people and a way of life on the brink of change, just prior to the modern era. We can see a way of life that changed quickly and completely when the radio made possible rapid communication and the airplane became a common means of transportation across such vast distances. Bailey's keen observations led to an outstanding archive of cultural information. His unique visual and documentary record is essential as it comes at a time when the traditional economies and belief system were beginning to change to heavy reliance on objects and behaviors brought about by schools, tourists, the military, and oil field developers.

Alfred Bailey was a leading early photographer. The photographic documentation of many of the birds and mammals he encountered adds value and credibility to his written records. The quality of those images provides indisputable verification for many of the species he noted. These may well be the first (they certainly rank among the earliest) photographs taken of the pristine habitat and arctic wildlife found in the region.

As the collection has become more well known, there has been a steady increase in demand for its use. Every year the Museum's Photo Archives receives requests from Museum staff, outside scholars, researchers, and major publishers from around the world to research, exhibit, and/or publish these images in popular or scholarly publications and video productions. In recent years, these photographs have been used extensively in Alaskan

Eskimo programs, posters, calendars, oral histories, and brochures. Copies of many of these photographs have been obtained by the North Slope Borough School District (Barrow, AK) for historical and educational programs. This demand made it imperative that a stable and more durable product be used to provide access, while preserving the original images. An added, and very important, benefit resulting from the successful grant application has been the opportunity to inform and educate administrators and managers within the Museum about the inherent problems with cellulose nitrate film, the significance of the photographic collections as a whole, their importance to the institution, and the amount of staff dedication and protracted commitment of time and money needed to insure their preservation.

Prior to this grant-funded project, the Museum had no system or routine plan in place for the duplication of the nitrate negative collection, and no budget was provided. The grant enabled us to take our first major step in a program of addressing this serious preservation problem. Long-range plans now call for a regular routine of duplicating a portion of significant nitrate negatives each year. Costs will be paid out of the regular operating budget. The original negatives can then be permanently removed to an on-site freezer in another part of the building, and the copy negative will become the use copy, bringing the collections to an optimum level of management and storage.

*(Liz Clancy is the photo archivist of the Denver Museum of Natural History.)*

# A Botanist's Life: The Ewan Papers at the Missouri Botanical Garden

by Connie Wolf

For more than ten years, from 1986 until 1997, lunch with the Ewans in the Missouri Botanical Garden's Museum Building served as a forum for botanists, librarians, bibliophiles, and students of natural history. It was the Museum Building that held the treasures collected over a lifetime by Joe and Nesta Ewan. Whatever the topic of conversation, Joe would trot off to find a book, a letter, or a bit of biographical information to illuminate the subject at hand.

"Knowledge is so much more than a collection of isolated facts," he is fond of saying. "The interrelationships among disciplines yield a far deeper insight. For example, knowing about insects illuminates the understanding of pollination. Understanding a botanical specimen involves knowing when, where, and why it was collected, at what season, and what forces may have influenced its development." It is this deep understanding of interrelationships among all living organisms that inspired the Ewans' careful collecting in the field of natural history, and gave them a wealth of knowledge and rich resources from which to draw for their research, writing, and teaching.

Joe Ewan began his bibliographical and historical studies in the 1920s while he was an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley. Early in his career, he made a major scientific contribution with his study on *Delphinium*, a large and difficult group of plants. In graduate school, he served as research assistant to Willis Linn Jepson, who was then preparing his *Flora of California*. After four years with Jepson, he taught at the University of Colorado, 1937 to 1944. He spent a year during World War II in Colombia, South America, with the Cinchona Survey, helping to locate new sources of quinine. He then received curatorial appointments with the Smithsonian Institution and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Ewan returned to academic life in 1947 at Tulane University, where he remained for 39 years, teaching, collecting books, and

influencing students and biologists who sought his counsel. In 1977, he retired as the Ida Richardson Professor of Botany Emeritus and remained at Tulane until 1986. He spent the 1954-1955 academic year in Europe as a Guggenheim Fellow studying early American natural history, and 1984-1985 as Regents Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution. Throughout his career as a botanist and teacher, he published more than 400 books, essays, and

reviews. Joe, with the assistance of his wife, Nesta Dunn Ewan (especially in the later years, after their three daughters were grown), continually searched for just the right book, just the right reference, just the right word, all the time forming the Ewan Collection.

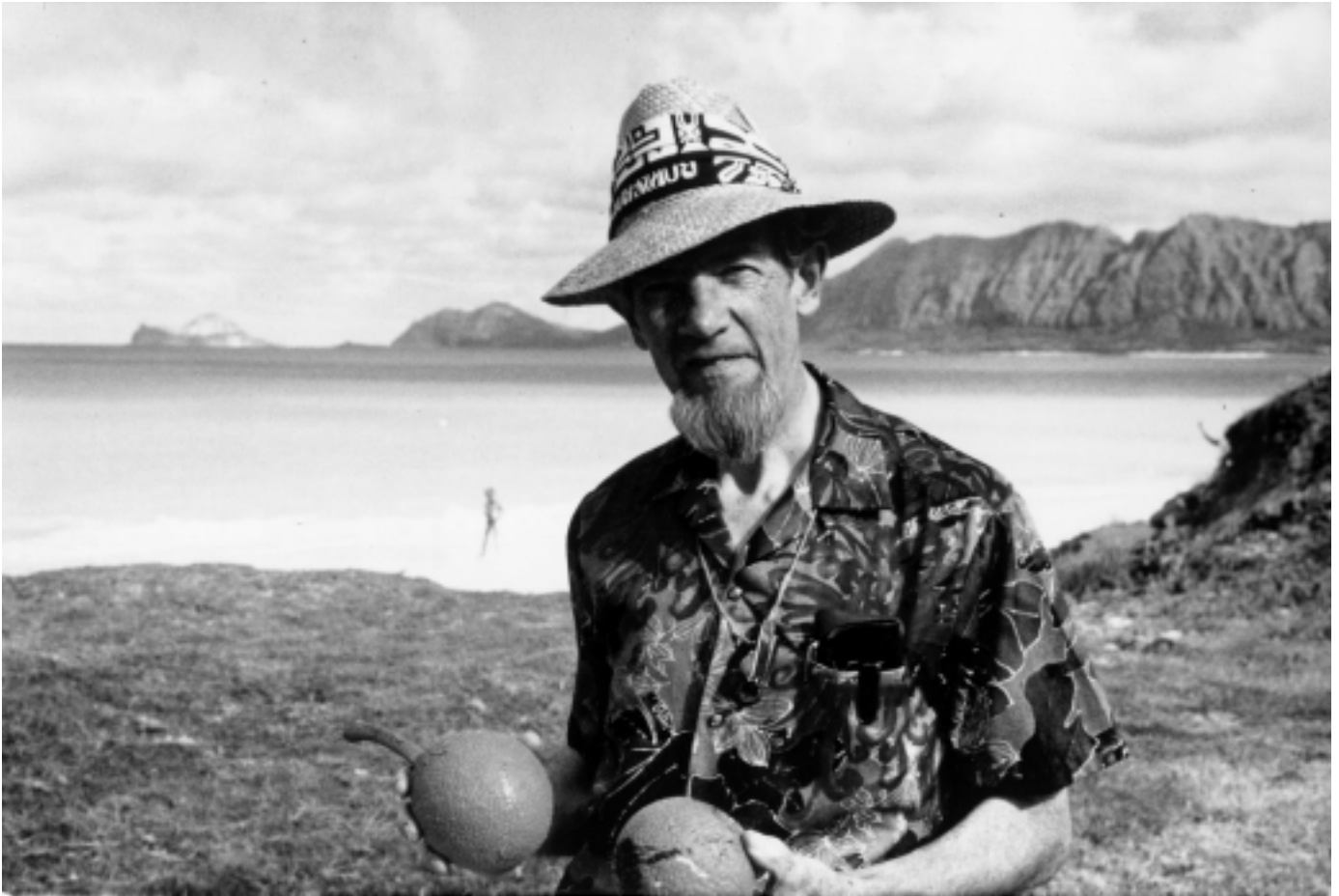
By the time the Missouri Botanical Garden purchased the Ewan Collection in 1986, it had become one of the largest and richest privately owned natural history collections in the world. It had expanded from an initial emphasis on taxonomic botany into the history of biology, including botany, entomology, ornithology, mammalogy, and geology, involving biography, bibliography, and exploration. An important feature of the Ewan Collection is the foreign-language editions of better-known English titles. Also important are the Association copies, preserved dust wrappers, and relevant bibliographic notes. The Ewan Papers complement the Ewan Book Collection by including materials directly associated with the books. The papers contain unique materials, including correspondence with international personages, botanists, bibliophiles, physicians, students, and professors; manuscript notes; printed

biographies; photographs; autographs; cards; memorabilia; and bits of little-known biographical material about botanists who contributed to science but may not have made it into the major biographical reference works.

The Ewans, nearly 80 years old, moved to St. Louis with their books and papers to continue using them, along



*Joe Ewan rests during a hike in the Flatirons above Boulder, Colorado, 1942. Photograph by Lincoln Ellison, from the Ewan Collection, Missouri Botanical Garden Library.*



*Joe Ewan examines examples of native flora on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, July 1967.  
Photograph by Hugh Iltis, from the Ewan Collection, Missouri Botanical Garden Library.*

with the Garden Library, for their research and writing. They also continued collecting, so that their book collection currently exceeds 6,000 titles, and their archival collection is larger than ever. The combination of the Ewans and their collections resulted in an in-depth resource for learning about natural history at the Garden. Their concern as they approached 90 years of age was how to make their collections useful to researchers in the future, when they no longer would be available to find the materials. Without the Ewans, how could researchers, in the habit of calling or writing to find this or that bit of information, know what is contained in the Ewan Collection? The Garden had committed itself to catalog the book collection, thereby making it accessible worldwide through the Internet. But it is the Ewan Papers that contain the unique archival materials. How would anyone know what the Ewan Papers contained without traveling to the Garden?

The only answer seemed to be a guide to the Ewan archival papers. The Ewans, along with the Garden archives staff, were anxious to create the guide, but financial assistance would be needed to assemble and publish all of the information. Enter the NHPRC. With a generous grant of almost \$21,000, the Garden was able

to hire archives assistant Douglas Holland and purchase archival containers to preserve the materials. Doug worked with archives staff members Martha Riley and Mary Stiffler, as well as many dedicated volunteers, to organize the project; to arrange, preserve, and describe the materials; to key the descriptions into a computer program; and to prepare the manuscript for publication. The resulting *Guide to the Ewan Papers* provides access to these significant primary source materials on American natural history and biography. It was published in 1997 by the Missouri Botanical Garden Press, and will soon be available via the Internet.

As the *Guide* was being completed, the Ewans retired closer to where they had lived during their 39 years at Tulane. They continue to be interesting people in part because they are interested in, and ever so curious about, the living world. Joe is fond of telling how a fellow student inscribed the following words in his high school yearbook: "May you get better than you deserve." All who know the Ewans know they deserve all they receive, and then some. They freely share their knowledge, and they receive in the measure in which they give.

*(Connie Wolf is the Missouri Botanical Garden's Librarian.)*

Continued from page 8

for the basis of repeat photography, enabling them to study change through time to the landscape. Within the publishing and motion picture worlds, a Kolb photograph is almost required for a Grand Canyon or river running book,

Thanks in large part to the distinction and prominence of the Kolb Collection, the Cline Library Special Collections and Archives Department (SCA) has amassed a large number of other Canyon and river running collections. We now offer researchers a substantial amount of primary and published



*The Kolb Studio, perched on the rim of the Grand Canyon. Photograph from the Emery Kolb Collection, Cline Library, Northern Arizona University.*

periodical, or film. Videotape copies of the Kolbs' film are a favorite with Grand Canyon aficionados (and sell sufficiently well for us to keep a stock on hand). River guides revel in perusing the words and images of their forefathers, and frequently aid in providing more complete identification of places and boat types. Two years ago, the Grand Canyon Association (GCA) commissioned one of the more intriguing Kolb projects: an interactive computer program featuring stills, footage, audio recordings, and writings by and about the Kolbs. The program resides in a kiosk in the old projection booth within the Kolb Studio, and GCA is investigating the possibility of marketing it in a compact disc format.

material representing a wide variety of viewpoints. The journals and papers of botanist Lois Jotter reflect her side of the 1938 Grand Canyon river trip story, for example. The work of renowned photographer Bill Belknap, who like the Kolbs participated in river trips and photographed many of the Canyon's more notable characters, complements that of his predecessors. By funding the original Kolb preservation project, the NHPRC created a strong collection base which continues to benefit the region's scholarly community, students, and the general public.

*(Diane Grua is a library specialist at Northern Arizona University's Cline Library.)*

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Commission (NHPRC)**

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*Flossie with camera, Wainwright, Alaska, 1921. Photo by A.M. Bailey, from the Bailey Photographic Collection, Denver Museum of Natural History. A related story begins on page 15 of this issue.*