

Annotation

Vol. 34.1
NEWSLETTER
Fall 2007



NHPRC

DOCUMENTING DEMOCRACY

National Historical Publications and Records Commission

Annotation

Annotation is the biannual newsletter of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), a Federal agency within the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC. Recipients are encouraged to republish, with appropriate credit, any materials appearing in *Annotation*. Inquiries about receiving *Annotation*, submitting material for it, or anything else related to it may be directed to the Editor, *Annotation*, NHPRC, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 106, Washington, DC 20408-0001; 202-357-5010 (voice); 202-357-5914 (fax); nhprc@nara.gov (e-mail); www.archives.gov/nhprc/ (World Wide Web).

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ISSN 0160-8460

Cover: Aldo Leopold. Courtesy Aldo Leopold Foundation.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Preservation of records takes many forms—the actual conservation and maintenance of the physical records, transcription (and annotation) of documents, copying to new media from microfilm to the Internet, and passing down the skills for all of these activities from one generation to the next. But perhaps as important as all of the preservation work being done in archives across the country is the push toward educating all citizens regarding the value of the historical resources.

Cultural preservationists have turned to the natural resources conservation movement that President Theodore Roosevelt championed as an inspiration for the conservation of our cultural heritage. Peter Brink, Vice President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has said, “Our measurement and ideal is the environmental movement, and that is where we would like eventually to be, where preservation is built into the way people think.” And while he is referring to the built environment, archivists recognize that in order to make the case for resources, the preservation of our documentary heritage must be part of the way people think. This issue focuses on new approaches in archives toward that preservation movement.

Change, however, is inevitable, even at the NHPRC. We say goodbye with this issue to the longest-serving Commissioner, Alfred Goldberg, who represented the Department of Defense for the past 34 years. And we bid a fond farewell to Max Evans, the Executive Director of the NHPRC for the past 5 years. They will both continue in their efforts to preserve the past for the future. Or as Teddy Roosevelt said in his 1905 inaugural:

... though the tasks set before us differ from the tasks set before our fathers who founded and preserved this Republic, the spirit in which these tasks must be undertaken and these problems faced, if our duty is to be well done, remains essentially unchanged. We know that self-government is difficult. We know that no people needs such high traits of character as that people which seeks to govern its affairs aright through the freely expressed will of the freemen who compose it. But we have faith that we shall not prove false to the memories of the men of the mighty past. They did their work, they left us the splendid heritage we now enjoy. We in our turn have an assured confidence that we shall be able to leave this heritage unwasted and enlarged to our children and our children's children.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Preservation and Access: Either One or the Other?

Archivists have long held the view that there is a fundamental tension between the archival principles of preservation and access. Perfect preservation, so goes the argument, requires no access or use, while optimal access soon results in diminished or destroyed archival holdings. The challenge is to find the right balance, assessing risks and taking steps to mitigate them.

These tensions certainly exist at the micro, or document, level. While the needs of our customers must be balanced against our responsibility for protecting and preserving archives, perhaps there is another way to look at this issue.

Viewing the question from the macro, or repository, level can reframe the entire issue. I suggest we consider what may seem like a logical paradox, that *access is preservation*. Archives kept perfectly pickled for preservation purposes might as well not exist at all, as far as the public is concerned. Yes, there may be an intellectual understanding that keeping historical records is a public good for its own sake. However, most people would agree that archives are kept primarily to be used, even if many people will likely not actively use original documents themselves. Public support for archives comes from a widely held perception that archives are producing a public good by ensuring present and future users open access to the records that document our national experience.

Fortunately, we live in an age in which it is relatively easy to preserve the contents of documents by publishing them. The NHPRC supports programs to do just that, including our long-time documentary editing grant programs. Documentary editors turn collections of historical records into books by carefully transcribing and annotating some of the most important sources that document American democracy. The products of many of these projects are beginning to find their way onto the World Wide

Web, promising to reach for the first time audiences of non-scholars, including teachers and their students.

Publishing is more than books of edited documents, however. The NHPRC mass digitization pilot project addresses the needs of archival institutions to publish their collections as comprehensive sets of digital images, without transcription or annotation, but with limited metadata. We expect the three projects we funded last year—the Michigan State Archives Civil War Muster Rolls, the Troupe County (Georgia) Court Records, and the Aldo Leopold Papers—to test and further demonstrate the usefulness and cost-effectiveness of this approach, and to begin to establish processes and best practices. We expect that this pilot project will become a regular NHPRC program. Check the grant opportunity announcements on our web site in the near future.

Many archives are considering opportunities developed by online content providers that offer to digitize archival holdings at no cost. Archives are approaching this gift horse with some caution. The Council of State Archivists (CoSA) has recently issued guidelines on digital access partnerships for archival institutions to consider. CoSA wants to make sure this gift is not a Trojan horse.

The caution expressed is well founded. All these publishing activities—producing documentary editions, digitizing and/or microfilming records, and making archival holdings more easily available—fulfill our obligation to preserve records and make them accessible. However, the larger needs of archival institutions are not well served when document images become separated from the repositories that continue to preserve the originals. The question may be, in part, one of branding in order to make it clear that publishing in each of these forms is built upon the foundation of thorough, disciplined, and thoughtful archival activities. Furthermore, what is published represents literally the tip of an enormous iceberg consisting of tens of *billions* of pages that will not likely find their way to the Web, but that are part of a “long tail” of historical materials.

Can publishing online a relatively few records for the many promote a deeper understanding of the roles of the nation's archives? Perhaps, but only if we become smarter and develop

a more articulate case that shows that the public values what archives produce, and that publishing in any form always has a price tag. In the end, archivists will have to demonstrate that publishing as a means to preservation is worth the cost. Only by drawing the connection between the highly valued, published records and the fundamental work of archives can we transform the value placed on public access into support for preservation activities.

* * *

With this message, I conclude my service as Executive Director of the NHPRC. The past five years have been a pleasure, as I have had the privilege of associating with the members of the Commission, leaders of the professional

associations, and our hardworking and long-suffering NHPRC staff. I have met many of you, the wonderful people dedicated to preserving and sharing historical

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records with the American people. I have enjoyed meeting many of you at professional conferences and in your facilities

where I saw for myself the important work you do, with and without NHPRC support.

There have been trials, of course, including the incessant budget battles we have fought together. And there is much left to be done, including establishing an expanded NHPRC grants program in the states to meet the needs of repositories and projects throughout the land. Still, in five short years, we have accomplished much.

While I am retiring from the NHPRC, I will remain active; I am responsible, in my new position, for archives, historical records, and a documentary editing project. I look forward to continuing my association with my friends and colleagues in the archives and documentary editing professions.



Al Goldberg, Archivist Allen W. ... (partially obscured), Max Evans, Kathleen Williams, and Kevin Graffagnino at a recent Commission meeting.

THE INFORMATION ECOLOGIES AND THE NHPRC

The art of history is always provisional. Drawing on a range of primary sources and tertiary commentary and observation, even the most comprehensive history relies upon sifting for detail, analysis, and selection to create a story, an edited and arranged narrative filtered through the web of an individual mind. The more stories that are preserved, the more complex and provisional our understanding becomes. Rather than establishing a single grand history, the work of preservationists encourages more questions, challenges to authority, and debate—the democratic and egalitarian clash of ideas.

The rise of new technologies in the late 20th and early 21st centuries has made creating, preserving, and disseminating these ideas, paradoxically, both easier and more difficult. On the one hand, digitization and the Internet have created a whole world of publishers from traditional multimedia organizations to the daily bloggers—at least 100 million—who have created between 15 and 30 billion pages and an exponential number of documents.

Writing in the November 5, 2007, issue of *The New Yorker*, Anthony Grafton provides a healthy tonic against the utopian vision of “a universal archive that will contain not only all books and articles but all documents anywhere—the basis for a total history of the human race.” While his essay focuses primarily on efforts to digitize and publish books, Grafton argues:

The rush to digitize the written record is one of a number of critical moments in the long saga of our drive to accumulate, store, and retrieve information efficiently. It will result not in the infotopia that the prophets conjure up but in one in a long series of new information ecologies, all of them challenging, in which readers, writers, and producers of texts have learned to survive.

“A long series of new information ecologies” encompasses as well those who care for the records, both the librarian and archivist. In their 1999 book, *Information Ecologies: Using Technology with Heart*, Bonnie Nardi and Vicky O’Day analyzed the role of librarians—and by extension all records caretakers—as “keynote species” a term borrowed from biology that identifies those species “central to the robust functioning of the ecosystems” (90). This metaphor was pushed further by Jessica George, Lisa Stillwell, and Marjorie Warmkessel in their report “The Essential Librarian? An Exploration of Academic Librarians as a Keystone Species” for the 2003 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) National Conference.

perhaps not surprisingly, point to the value of librarians: “from their complex character blend of the *human zeitgeist*. . . . The librarian essence is *interpretive of knowledge*, a quality that enables librarians ‘to help clients air their own needs’ and to ‘lead clients to more than they know how to ask for.’”

Librarians, archivists, and records managers will continue to serve as keystone species within the information ecologies, particularly in helping researchers understand what they are looking for as well as leading to what’s hidden within collections, and the long-term task of shaping, managing, and preserving collections. At the same time, however, the Internet is reshaping the relationship between the record keepers and those seeking information. Online self-retrieval of information is a step toward disintermediation—I’ll find it myself—and in the anonymity of the Web, it is hard to help lead people “to more than they know how to ask for.” Or, put another way, the archivist cannot show the way to hidden collections if the researchers themselves are hidden on the other side of a monitor.

Libraries and archives have been struggling to find their role in the new digital, online world. If, as Grafton argues, most research begins by Googling, then many students, historians, and patrons of archives and libraries have already developed and revised their expectations of access to records and information. *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, a 2005 study by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), substantiates the trend, pointing to the need for libraries to rejuvenate the “Library” brand. And the parallels for archives are self-evident.

Rejuvenating the brand depends on reconstructing the experience of using the library. While the need for localized points of distribution for content that is no longer available in just physical form is likely to become less relevant, the need for libraries to be gathering places within the community or university has not decreased. The data is clear. When prompted, information consumers see libraries’ role in the community as *a place to learn, as a place to read, as a place to make information freely available, as a place to support literacy, as a place to provide research support, as a place to provide free computer/Internet access* and more. These library services are relevant and differentiated. Libraries will continue to share an expanding infosphere with an increasing number of content producers, providers and consumers. Information consumers will continue to self-serve from a growing information smorgasbord. The challenge for libraries is to clearly define and market their relevant place in that infosphere—their services and collections both physical and virtual.

The keystone species of the information ecologies—librarians, archivists, documentary editors, and others—provide stewardship for records and public service for historians and researchers. How they respond to the latest ongoing phase to digitization and online access will determine the

future of delivery systems—archives, libraries, books, and other forms of preserving, retrieving, and publishing information.

The Role of Government

While no government can direct the evolution of the information ecologies or create an infotopia, it is apt and fitting that the Federal Government of the United States should play a catalytic role in ensuring that the common good is served. Along with the National Archives, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Library and Information Services, and the Library of Congress, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission has at the core of its mission the preservation of, and access to, the records and information systems that promote public understanding of our democracy, history, and culture.

In 1964 when the NHPRC first began awarding funds, the strategy was simple and straightforward. Grants were directed to documentary editing projects that sifted through papers of distinguished Americans to *preserve by publishing* segments of the historical record. The editors of these projects add value to the record through transcription—particularly important in late 18th- and early 19th-century documents—annotation, and indexing. Publishing in printed editions continues to be a major focus of the Commission, but it is not the only means of providing preservation and access (see the sidebar: “Four Modes of Preservation”). By the mid-1970s, when the mission expanded to include direct funding of archives and records, a structure of programming developed to include support for a broad range of projects, some aimed at addressing particular preservation needs, and others directed to the infrastructure of state and local archives and the education and training of archivists and documentary editors.

Over the past decade, the programs of the NHPRC have evolved in line with the changing nature of the information ecologies, particularly the explosion of electronic records, both those born digital and those preserved and made accessible in digital formats, and with the tremendous changes in the infrastructure of

state and local archives. Spurred by developments in the documentary editing and archival fields, the NHPRC also has responded to efforts at the Federal Government level to adopt new ways of interacting with the public, most importantly over the Web and through the growth of *Grants.gov*—an online resource designed to centralize Federal grant opportunities. Early in 2004, it became clear that *Grants.gov* would become mandatory for all Federal agencies, and this directive empowered the agency to recast its annual grant guidelines into a more nimble and flexible series of grant opportunities that better reflect and serve the needs of the field and the public. Simultaneously, it provided the Commission with the opportunity to rethink and discuss the purposes behind its grant award programs.

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The National Historical Publications and Records Commission now offers grants for publishing historical records; basic and detailed processing projects that aim to help archives deal with hidden collections and backlogs; digitizing historical records collections; implementing electronic records management programs; providing professional development opportunities for editors and archivists; creating fieldwide strategies and tools; and partnering with state archives. Grant opportunities in each of these areas are published on the Commission’s web site—*www.archives.gov/nhprc*—and through announcements made on *Grants.gov*, which users can browse, search, and use to set up automatic e-mail notification of new opportunities.

Publishing Historical Records

Changes in the information ecologies have been profound in the field of book publishing, particularly academic publishing, and historical documentary editions are no exception. Because of their nature and value, documentary editions—particularly multivolume sets—are sold mainly to research libraries at colleges, universities, and historical societies, as well as to individual scholars and through retailers. Invaluable to researchers, the editions have led to the publication of several prize-winning historical biographies and have been the foundation for classroom materials, scholarship, and new works on stage and film. In addition to grants to support the ongoing work of the editions, the NHPRC also provides publication subventions to nonprofit presses to cover losses in print editions.

University presses, the bulk of the publishers for documentary editions, have wrestled with the changes in the information ecologies, particularly over the issue of open access. The Association of American University Presses issued a *Statement on Open Access* in February 2007 that cogently summarizes the tension between the mission of scholarly exchange and its costs:

[W]hile proud of their achievements, university presses and scholarly societies have never been averse to change. Rather, being embedded in the culture of higher education that values experimentation and advances in knowledge, presses have themselves been open to new ways of facilitating scholarly communication and have been active participants in the process. Prominent examples from the last decade include Project MUSE, the History E-Book Project, the History Cooperative, California’s Anthro Source and eScholarship Editions, Cambridge Companions Online, Chicago’s online edition of *The Founders’ Constitution*, Columbia’s International Affairs Online (CIAO) and Guten-

berge, *The New Georgia Encyclopedia*, MIT CogNet, Oxford Scholarship Online and Oxford's recent experiments with open access journals, Virginia's Rotunda, and Michigan's new press and library collaboration, *digitalculturebooks*.

field regarding the long-standing challenge of backlogs. A task force organized by the American Research Libraries' investigation for exposing hidden collections and "More Product, Less Process: Pragmatically Revamping Traditional Processing Approaches to Deal with Late 20th-Century Collections,"

hidden collections by concentrating on expeditious processing. At the same time, the category is expansive enough to include collections cataloging, phased preservation, and/or collections development, and institutions seeking to establish archives. The first of these backlog grants will be awarded for projects beginning in 2008.

For collections of national significance with high research demand or substantial preservation challenges, the Commission created a second category, Detailed Processing, for applicants who have virtually all of their collections processed and procedures in place to prevent the creation of new backlogs that delay access to their holdings. Detailed Processing Projects may include reformatting records onto microfilm or other media in order to ensure their permanence in the face of high demand. Applicants may process and create detailed descriptions at the series or file level. Such descriptions will improve user access to historical records and help preserve collections. If parts of collections deserve processing to the item level, applicants must provide specific justifications for this detailed degree of work and provide estimates of the percentage of collections to be processed to the item level. The first of these detailed processing grants are to be awarded in 2008.

Several of the NHPRC-sponsored documentary editions have led the way in this experiment (see *Annotation*, Volume 33, Issue 2), and the Commission continues to seek a path that will accommodate the needs of preservation of primary source materials, annotation, and editing, with the desire for public access. The system that emerges from this complex problem is the key challenge for the future of historical documentary editions.

Basic and Detailed Processing

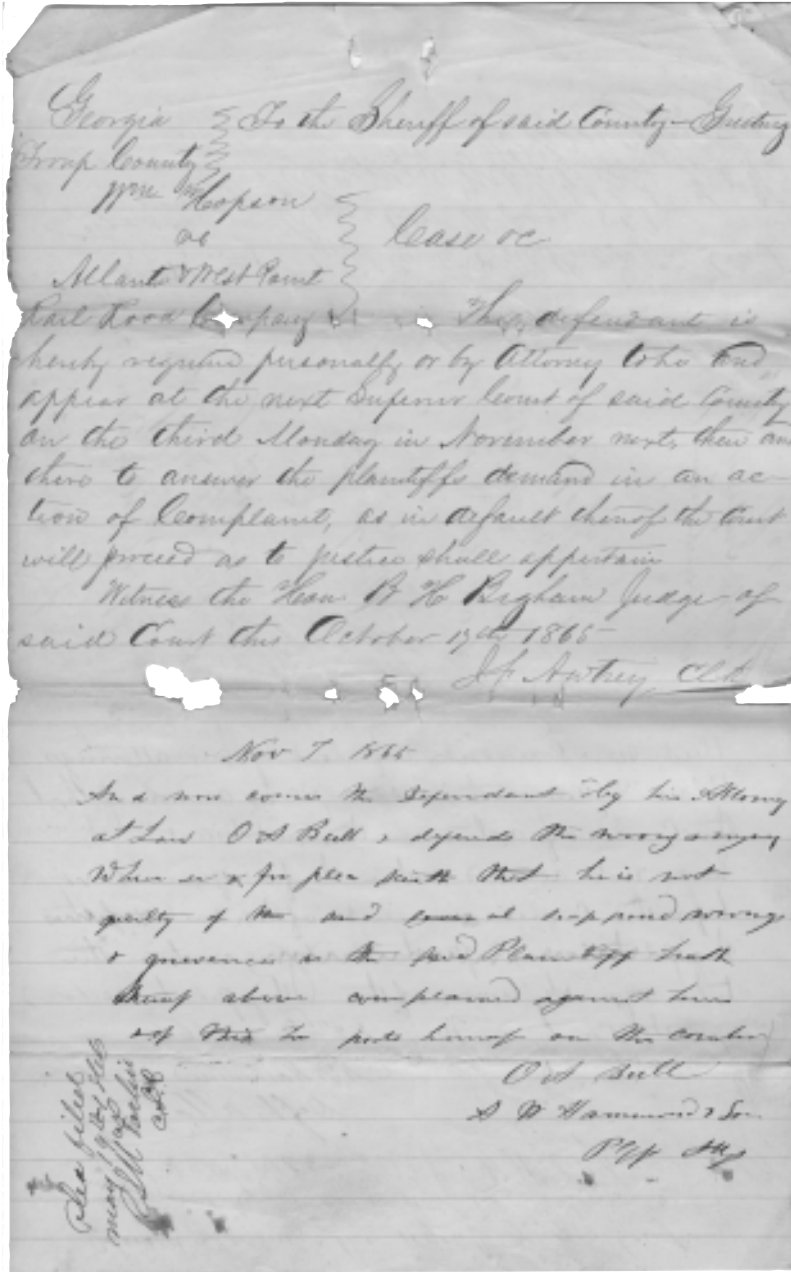
Since the mid-1970s, when the NHPRC began awarding grants for archives and records projects, the program was deliberately wide-open to encourage and stimulate the arrangement, description, and conservation of collections across the country. The category "Archives and Records" encompassed just about every kind of project that wasn't directly tied to publishing historical documentary editions or funding state historical records advisory boards. In 2006, the Commission approved new grant opportunities that channeled projects into more specific and targeted areas of support.

The Basic Processing category stems from research and discussion in the archives

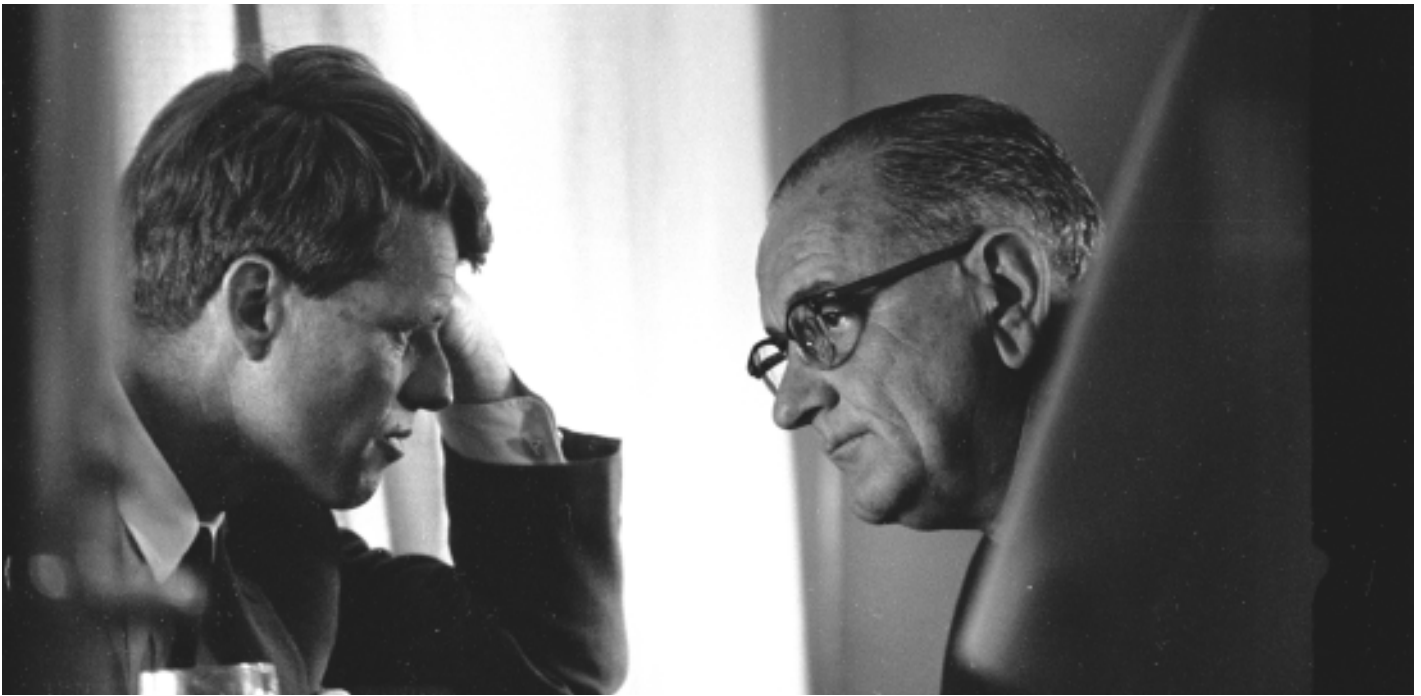
research by Mark Greene and Dennis Meissner, was instrumental in prompting the Commission to undertake a special grant opportunity to encourage repositories to reveal

Digitizing Historical Records

An important policy shift happened in May 2006 when the Commission announced its decision to fund projects to digitize records.



An 1865 court summons from Troup County, Georgia, part of a \$75,000 NHPRC grant to the county's historical society to support a 17-month project for digitizing County Court and Government Records.



Attorney General Robert Kennedy and President Lyndon Johnson confer at an October 1964 meeting. The Presidential Recording Project at the Miller Center, University of Virginia, is preserving audiotapes through print transcriptions and audiofiles on their web site <http://www.millercenter.virginia.edu/academic/presidentialrecordings/>. Photo by Yoichi R. Okamoto, *courtesy LBJ Library*.

Preservation through copying into another medium had been a long-accepted and funded process, as early as the 1960s when microfilm publishing projects were funded, but because of the rapid expansion and associated costs of

digitization, the NHPRC was reluctant to spread already thin resources for these purposes. A pilot program was announced in 2006, and three grants were awarded to the Troup County (Georgia) Historical Society, the

Archives of Michigan, and the Aldo Leopold Foundation (see “Digitizing Aldo”). The singular advantage of digitization over microfilm is that the NHPRC guidelines call for the collections to be freely available on the Internet.

THE FOUR MODES OF PRESERVATION

At the heart of the mission of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission is the preservation of, and access to, America’s historical records. The NHPRC funds projects along four principal modes of preservation: fixing, maintaining, copying, and educating.

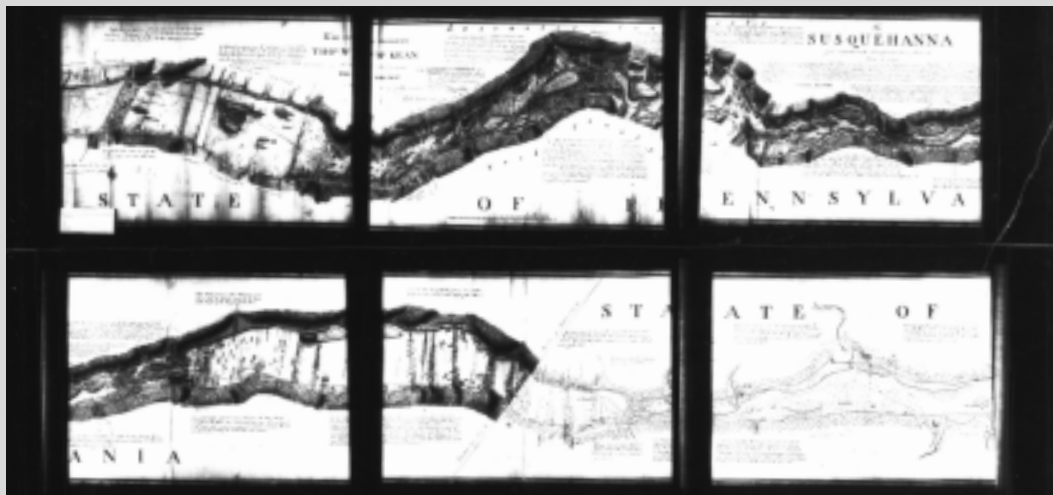
Preservation by Fixing

Perhaps the idea most often associated with preservation is that of “fixing” a physical object, that is, preventing it from changing, or freezing it in time. The original etymological sense of preservation stems from the processes for treating food to prevent decay. Meat and fish were salted; fruits were cooked

Microfilm—such as this edition of the Papers of Benjamin Henry Latrobe—preserves originals by copying into a different medium.

in sugar and water syrups to keep their shape and flavor. Vinegar pickled everything from cucumbers to hard-boiled eggs. An interesting paradox, however, is that efforts to “fix” an object always add new ingredients and that fixed objects continue to change, relentlessly albeit more solely.

For archivists, preservation by fixing is most often thought of as conservation. From the Declaration of Independence to nitrate films, National Archives conservation efforts are replicated throughout the country through state and local governments and other archives. The National



Electronic Records

One of the first Federal agencies to take up the challenges presented by the preservation of electronic records, the Commission adopted a research agenda in 1990, and over the next 15 years, it devoted considerable resources to research and development. Landmark projects such as the San Diego Supercomputer Center's Persistent Archival Testbed and the InterPARES project laid the groundwork for preservation services. A shift in policy occurred two years ago when the NHPRC moved toward assisting archives and other organizations in implementing programs. Four types of projects were supported to

1. Assess institutional capacity through program evaluation and planning
2. Create institutional capacity with program start-up support
3. Expand the scope of existing programs; and
4. Develop cooperative institutions that provide electronic records preservation services to repositories.

The first grants under these new guidelines will be awarded in 2008. Projects designed

to develop new tools for the field have now been shifted into the Strategies and Tools category (see below).

Professional Development

Since 1972, the Commission has funded the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents, known fondly as "Camp Edit," and in three dozen years, some 500 scholars have taken part in this weeklong program. At least 70 graduates have led important documentary projects, and many others have worked as full-time editors. Institute graduates include history faculty, editors, archivists, manuscript librarians, and government historians. In the summer of 2008 at the University of Wisconsin's training, a new group of archivists and records managers will be among the first class of the Archives Leadership Institute, run by the School of Library and Information Sciences. If archivists are a keystone species in the information ecologies, they deserve a place to hone their leadership skills.

This new grant category, expected to run annually, continues the NHPRC tradition of awarding grants for professional development purposes, which in addition to the Editing Institute, have included the

Society of American Archivists National Forum on Archival Continuing Education; an institute on electronic records for archives managers; and Archival Research Fellowships Programs.

Strategies and Tools

Another new category for the NHPRC, Strategies and Tools is designed to look across issues to develop new strategies and tools that can improve the preservation, public discovery, or use of historical records. Projects may also focus on techniques and tools that will improve the professional performance and effectiveness of those who work with such records, such as archivists, documentary editors, and records managers. The first grants in this category will be awarded in 2008.

State and National Archives Partnership

Legislation passed in 1974 fundamentally changed the mandate of the Commission to include in its scope records and archives projects in the states, and as part of the evolving information ecologies, the state archives have grown into a keystone of the national archival network. In the early years, funds went to the development of

Historical Publications and Records Commission has funded scores of conservation efforts since it first began to fund records projects in the mid-1970s. By stabilizing records—whether 18th-century paper to photographs to microfilm—preservations then move to the next form, maintaining records, usually by creating suitable environmental conditions.

Preservation by Maintaining

A second form of preservation, related to the first, is the central focus for the majority of records held in archives. Ideal storage conditions and media-specific standards are the hallmarks of good programs, and ancillary to preservation by maintaining is records recovery from disaster. The National Archives promulgates best practices, and the latest information on maintaining records can be found at [http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/initiatives/](http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/initiatives/index.html)

[index.html](http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/initiatives/index.html) and through the Society of American Archivists.

Preservation by Copying

The third mode of preservation is copying the content to be preserved onto a new medium. Here the focus is not on preservation of the physical object, but rather on preserving the informational or cultural content of the original by making a surrogate from the original. Since ancient times, scribes have preserved documents by copying them, and copies also provide a mechanism for dissemination of content. Publishing is thought of today as a tool of dissemination, but it is equally appropriate to think of it as a radical means of preservation.

In the past century, techniques were developed to preserve the content of paper documents more scrupulously than by scribal copying. Some of these techniques are photographic: the printed page is photocopied onto another medium. Microfilm is a 20th-century form of preservation that strives to mimic the shape and content of the original printed page. Among the very first grants awarded by the NHPRC were for projects to microfilm historical documents.

Perhaps the most significant preservation effort has been through the publication of historical documentary editions. These

Documentary Editions—the collected papers of key figures or movements in American history—preserved through transcription and annotation in print publications.



state historical records advisory boards, and over the past decade, the main conduit for Federal funding has been a regrant program that has enabled a number of states to build and support statewide services. In the past five years, the Council of State Archivists, representing the network, has seen its influence grow, particularly through its support of a national program of disaster preparedness for state archives. Reflecting the changing nature of its relationship with the network, the NHPRC has recently adopted a new program: the State and National Archives Partnership.

For the first time, the Commission will award grants to all qualified state boards to

- Provide statewide archival services, including professional education, public information about records and archival programs, and other activities to implement state plans.

- Operate grant programs for eligible archives, manuscript repositories, and other organizations within a state.

- Collaborate on projects with other

organizations to address common problems or shared opportunities within a state or among a consortium of state archives.

- Assess the health of archival and records programs, the conditions of records, and the challenges and opportunities facing historical records keepers and users; and to implement strategies and programs to address pressing archival issues.

- Hold meetings and public forums on statewide or national archival issues.

- Participate in national archival organizations.

The first grants for this new partnership will be awarded in 2008.

In the ongoing and ever-shifting information ecologies, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission will continue to play a small, catalytic role in developing new strategies for the keystone species—the archivist, the documentary editor, and government archives

leadership. Public policy must evolve along with the field and in service to our citizenry to the new tools that communications technologies create nearly every day. These are exciting times for the profession, fraught with a certain anxiety over the pace of change, but eager to create a new brand for archives and documentary editions, and willing to meet the challenges set by users of records for faster, better, and more comprehensive access to the very stuff that makes possible the many tellings of history.

Works Noted

George, Jessica, Lisa Stillwell, and Marjorie Warmkessel, "The Essential Librarian? An Exploration of Academic Librarians as a Keystone Species," paper presented at the Association for College and Research Libraries 11th National Conference, April 2003. <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlvents/jgeorge.pdf>—accessed November 2007.

Grafton, Anthony, "Future Reading," *The New Yorker*, November 5, 2007, 50-54.



The originals of the Lewis & Clark journals from the Voyage of Discovery needed conservation treatment before preservation in a documentary edition.

volumes, which gather, copy, and transcribe the papers of major figures in American history, are essentially preservation projects.

Similarly digitizing and publishing to the Web or on other media is a preservation technique. The multiplying tools for copying have become part of a common information ecology, but the tools, paradoxically, have also created multiple preservation problems.

Copying is always more compelling if it seems that a one-time action will provide

permanent preservation, as indeed, it has seemed in bygone centuries. Medieval vellum parchment is among the hardiest of preservation media; non-acid paper can be wonderfully long-lived; and aluminum disc recordings are inordinately stable once they form a thin surface of aluminum dioxide. But all media eventually decay, and contemporary digital tools have uncertain futures. Many specialists have quietly concluded that we should start getting used to

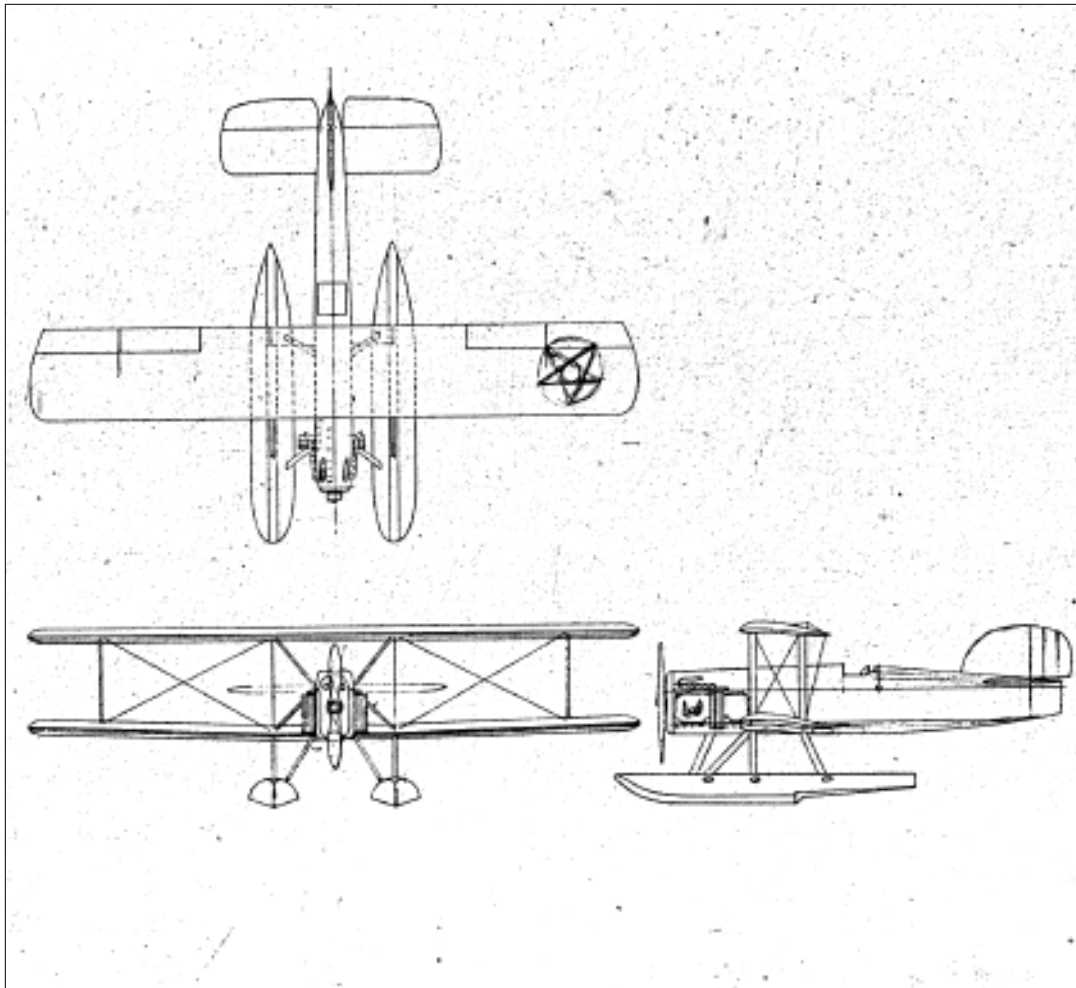
the idea of preserving information by copying it to a new format every generation or so.

Preservation by Educating

Finally, preservation occurs through the age-old processes of education and training.

All education is essentially a form of preservation of knowledge, but in speaking of preservation by educating, we refer to the more specific ways by which specific knowledge is passed along.

Preservation work is exacting and intricate and requires a reservoir of technical know-how and experience. Many advocates of historic preservation have come to realize that the idea of preservation is an empty dream without a cadre of



Greene, Mark, and Dennis Meissner, "More Product, Less Process: Pragmatically Revamping Traditional Processing Approaches to Deal with Late 20th-Century Collections," *American Archivist*, 68:2, Fall/Winter 2005.

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Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources, Online Computer Library Center, 2005.

"Statement on Open Access," Association of American University Presses, February 2007. <http://aaupnet.org/aboutup/issues/oa/statement.pdf>—accessed November 2007.

From the Museum of Flight's Douglas Aircraft Company Collection Project, one of 717 engineering drawings digitized and preserved on CD. *Courtesy Museum of Flight.*

people with the requisite skills. Thus research, systematic dissemination of knowledge, and formal training and apprenticeship have been incorporated into preservation work. Public-sector institutions have sprung up, both as independent entities and within larger institutions, and private-sector companies have become specialists in various facets of preservation.

But at a broader level, preservation by educating merges into the general process of cultural maintenance. Programs such as the Institute for Historical Documentary Editing and the new Archives Leadership Institute are joined by archives and information management divisions at major universities, apprenticeships at state and local government archives, and many programs designed to pass on the skills—and discover new skills for preservation in the 21st cen-

ture—necessary to continuity of the preservation profession.

At the broadest level, preservation by educating also includes reaching out to the general public, guiding them to the vitality of archives and records, assisting with research large and small, and revealing the gems in hidden collections. Here the true purpose of Federal funding becomes clear, for it is only

The ravages of time. This early 20th-century image of the Crystal Ice Company shows the fragility of works on paper. *Courtesy American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming.*

by providing both preservation *and* access that the National Historical Publications and Records Commission demonstrates government's role in bringing together citizens and their records.



ARCHIVES LEADERSHIP

ARCHIVES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the first annual Archives Leadership Institute will be held June 21–28, 2008, at the University of Wisconsin.

The weeklong event will feature presentations by dynamic people in the archival field and relevant leaders outside the profession. The goal of the project is to examine the leadership needs of the archives profession and to prepare participants to influence policy and effect change on behalf of the profession (and ultimately, on behalf the public served now and in the future.) Sessions on Leadership, the Public Sector, Entrepreneurship, Collaborations, Fundraising, and Case Studies will form the bulk of the program. Produced by the university's School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), the program is directed primarily at mid-level to senior staff and archivists who aspire to leadership roles in their organizations and/or professional associations.

For more information, contact Jane Pearlmutter, Associate Director of the School of Library and Information Studies, 608-262-6398 or jpearlmu@wisc.edu

In addition to the annual Archives Leadership Institute, the NHPRC also sponsors an annual Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents, also at the University of Wisconsin, now in its 38th year.



DIGITIZING ALDO

By Tom Hyry

Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets, but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how. To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet; one need only own a good shovel. By virtue of this curious loophole in the rules, any clodhopper may say: Let there be a tree—and there will be one.

—*A Sand County Almanac*, 1948

The quiet wisdom and passionate dedication to conservation are evident on every page of Aldo Leopold's writing. An ecologist and environmentalist, Leopold was instrumental in the development of environmental ethics and was a leader in the movement for wilderness preservation. Born in 1887 and raised in Burlington, Iowa, Aldo Leopold developed an interest in the natural world at an early age, spending hours observing, journaling, and sketching his surroundings. Graduating from the Yale Forest School in 1909, he pursued a career with the newly established U.S. Forest Service in Arizona and New Mexico. By the age of 24, he had been promoted to the post of Supervisor for the Carson National Forest in New Mexico. In 1922, he was instrumental in developing the proposal to manage the Gila National Forest as a wilderness area, which became the first such official designation in 1924.

Following a transfer to Madison, Wisconsin, in 1924, Leopold continued his investigations into ecology and the philosophy of conservation, and in 1933 published the first textbook in the field of wildlife management. Later that year he accepted a new chair in game management—a first for the University of Wisconsin and the nation.

In 1935, he and his family initiated their own ecological restoration experiment on a worn-out farm along the Wis-

Aldo Leopold writing at the Shack, along the Wisconsin River, ca. 1940. *Courtesy Aldo Leopold Foundation.*

consin River outside of Baraboo, Wisconsin. Planting thousands of pine trees, restoring prairies, and documenting the ensuing changes in the flora and fauna further informed and inspired Leopold.

A prolific writer, authoring articles for professional journals and popular magazines, Leopold conceived of a book geared for general audiences examining humanity's relationship to the natural world. Unfortunately, just one week after receiving word that his manuscript would be published, Leopold experienced a heart attack and died on April 21, 1948, while fighting a neighbor's grass fire that escaped and threatened the Leopold farm and surrounding properties.

The Aldo Leopold Collection, housed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Archives consists of 27 cubic feet of papers and 19 bound diaries and journals. In 2007, the NHPRC awarded the Aldo Leopold Foundation a grant of \$110,000 to fund a multipartner effort—including the UW Digital Collections Center—to digitize the collection, one of the most heavily used at the university. With the frequency and range of citations to Leopold increasing, work is progressing. The first phase covers the Leopold journals (such as his *New Mexico Journal* and *Shack Journals* 1925-1942 and 1943-1945), which are heavily used but fragile, containing hand-drawn and colored maps, other drawings, and pasted-in photographs.

To complete the project, the Foundation will link the resulting images to their existing EAD finding aid, developing tracking methods to explore the use of the digitized collections over the next three years, and publicize the results of the processes used with its partners at the University Archives and Digital Collections Center. Like a national park threatened to be "loved to death" by overuse, the collection—particularly the journals—will now be protected and made available to researchers and readers around the globe. Acts of preservation, like acts of creation, are open to all.



NHPRC AWARDS GRANTS

Commission recommends \$3.5 million in grants at May 2007 meeting.

At its spring meeting, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission recommended to the Archivist of the United States 50 grants totaling \$3.5 million for projects in 25 states and the District of Columbia. These recommendations include \$1.5 million for 18 archives and records projects, including grants for the Lowell Thomas Collection at Marist College; an online access program for the Johnson County, Kansas, archives; the television preservation and access project at Appalshop in Whitesburg, Kentucky; and the establishment of a records management program at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado. Seven grants were awarded to state agencies to further archives and records programs in their individual states.

Grants totaling \$1.85 million were recommended for 21 documentary editing projects—from the Thomas A. Edison Papers to the Papers of Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Two new projects were also included: The Ah Quin Diaries, detailing the life of this 19th-century Chinese American entrepreneur, and the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. Five subventions were awarded to university presses to defray the cost of publishing new volumes, including selected correspondence between Salmon P. Chase and his daughters and the correspondence of Frederick Douglass.

The NHPRC also approved new funding opportunities for FY 2008. In addition

As he was dying, Ulysses S. Grant finished his remarkable memoirs. Through the long-standing support of the NHPRC, a comprehensive edition of the *Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* is now near completion. *Photo courtesy Library of Congress.*

to continued support for Publishing Historical Documents and Historical Editing Fellowships, the Commission announced new grants opportunities for

–*Professional Development*—programs to improve the training and education of archivists and documentary editors

–*Strategies and Tools*—programs to develop new strategies and tools to improve the preservation, public discovery, or use of historical records

The NHPRC is the sole Federal funding agency whose only focus is the documentary heritage of the United States. Established in 1934, it has awarded grants for preserving, publishing, and providing access to vital historical documents. Twice each year, in May and November, the Commission recommends grants to the Chairman.



GRANTS

GRANTS—May 2007

Publishing Historical Records

These long-term projects document major historical figures, records groups, and important eras and social movements from the history of the nation.

The Ab Quin Diaries \$55,938
California State University,
San Marcos Foundation
San Marcos, CA

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln \$75,000
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Springfield, IL

The Papers of the War Department, 1784–1800 \$104,329
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA

The Papers of Jefferson Davis, Volumes 12 and 13 \$100,236
William Marsh Rice University
Houston, TX

The Selected Papers of John Jay \$132,065
Columbia University
New York, NY

Marcus Garvey and UNIA Papers, Caribbean Series \$63,262
Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Emma Goldman Papers, \$135,321
Regents of the University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

The Samuel Gompers Papers \$96,847
University of Maryland,
College Park
College Park, MD

The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant \$95,717
Ulysses S. Grant Association
Carbondale, IL

Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project \$86,898
Stanford University
Stanford, CA

The Papers of George Catlett Marshall \$44,000
George C. Marshall Foundation
Lexington, VA

Clarence Mitchell, Jr. Papers \$46,070
Research Foundation of SUNY
Albany, NY

Documentary Relations of the Southwest \$43,095
Board of Regents, University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ

The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers \$227,016
George Washington University
Washington, DC

The Papers of Howard Thurman \$94,469
Morehouse College
Atlanta, GA

The Papers of Charles Carroll of Carrollton \$13,207
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, VA

The Papers of Andrew Jackson \$108,560
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN

The Presidential Recordings Project \$112,324
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA

The Selected Papers of Margaret Sanger \$88,134
New York University
New York, NY

The Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony \$52,826
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Piscataway, NJ

Thomas A. Edison Papers Project \$99,210
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Piscataway, NJ

Publication Subventions

Grants to publishers to help defray the printing costs of individual volumes of documentary editions.

State Historical Society \$10,000
of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution, Vol. 23: Ratification of the Constitution by the States: New York, Vol. 5

G R A N T S

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|---|
| <p>Kent State University Kent, OH <i>The Chase Daughters Project- Selected Correspondence Between Salmon P. Chase and His Two Daughters</i></p> | <p>\$10,000</p> | <p>State Collaborative and Regrant Projects <i>Grants support efforts to improve statewide, regional, or national collaborations and services.</i></p> | <p>management program and process the university's archival records.</p> |
| <p>Arizona State Historical Records Advisory Board Phoenix, AZ</p> | <p>\$10,000</p> | <p>To support an ongoing regrant program with additional funds to serve underdocumented and underserved communities in Arizona.</p> | <p>San Antonio Public Library Foundation, San Antonio, TX To support the City of San Antonio and San Antonio Public Library for a 1-year project to develop the city's archival program.</p> |
| <p>Yale University New Haven, CT <i>The Frederick Douglass Correspondence Series, Volume 1: 1841-53</i></p> | <p>\$8,000</p> | <p>Archives and Records Projects <i>Grants to support preservation of, and access to, historical records.</i></p> | <p>Appalshop, Inc. Whitesburg, KY To support a 2-year project to process, re-house, and make accessible the audiovisual recordings of Mountain Community Television (1972-78) and the "Headwaters Television" series (1981-85). Descriptive information will be made available through EAD finding aids on the web sites of Appalshop and the Kentuckiana Digital Library, and catalog records on Moving Image Collections (MIC), an online moving image cataloging and information resource.</p> |
| <p>University of North Carolina Press, Inc. Chapel Hill, NC <i>The Harriet Jacobs Family Papers, Vols. 1 & 2</i></p> | <p>\$10,000</p> | <p>Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Chicago, IL</p> | <p>\$126,220</p> |
| <p>University of Tennessee Knoxville, TN <i>The Papers of Andrew Jackson, Volume 7, 1829</i></p> | <p>\$10,000</p> | <p>To support a 2-year project to microfilm and index over 400,000 Declarations of Intention from immigrants to become citizens (791 volumes) for the period 1906-29.</p> | <p>Johnson County, Kansas Olathe, KS To support the county's Archives and Records Management Program to develop a strategic plan to allow public online access to the Archives' finding aids, indexes, and eventually its records.</p> |
| <p>State Board Administrative Support Projects <i>Grants to support the operations of State Historical Records Advisory Boards (SHRABs)—made either directly to the SHRAB or a fiscal agent.</i></p> | | <p>Marist College Poughkeepsie, NY</p> | <p>\$139,149</p> |
| <p>Idaho State Historical Society</p> | <p>\$10,000</p> | <p>To support a 2-year project to arrange and describe the Lowell Thomas papers. Thomas (1892-1981) was a well-known journalist, explorer, and radio announcer.</p> | <p>\$20,000</p> |
| <p>Indiana Commission on Public Records</p> | <p>\$10,000</p> | <p>Naropa University Boulder, CO</p> | <p>\$90,000</p> |
| <p>Minnesota Historical Society</p> | <p>\$8,580</p> | <p>To support the Naropa University Archives and Records Program for a 2-year project to develop a records</p> | <p>Missouri Office of Secretary of State</p> |
| <p>Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission</p> | <p>\$16,400</p> | <p>To support the Naropa University Archives and Records Program for a 2-year project to develop a records</p> | <p>Missouri Office of Secretary of State</p> |

GRANTS

| | | | | | |
|--|------------------|---|------------------|--|------------------|
| <p>Idaho State Historical Society Boise, ID</p> <p>To support a 17-month project to arrange, describe, and make more readily accessible prisoner files and inmate photographs from the Idaho State Penitentiary for the period 1880-1947.</p> | <p>\$75,941</p> | <p>Society of American Archivists Chicago, IL</p> <p>To support a 14-month project to write and publish "Guidelines for Managing Congressional Papers." These guidelines, which will be directed toward donors, repository administrators, and archivists, will be designed to help ensure the long-term preservation of the historical records found in congressional collections.</p> | <p>\$35,600</p> | <p>Santa Clara County Santa Clara, CA</p> <p>To support a 2-year project to transfer and process 1,500 cubic feet of the county's historical records to an archival facility, arrange for the transfer of another 500 cubic feet during the project, and establish regular research hours and records transfer procedures for the archives.</p> | <p>\$201,334</p> |
| <p>Jekyll Island State Park Authority Jekyll Island, GA</p> <p>To support a 13-month project to arrange and describe the records of the Jekyll Island State Park Authority (1950-present) and the Jekyll Island Club (1886-1947, 1960s-70s).</p> | <p>\$35,000</p> | <p>Office of the Capitol Commission Lincoln, NE</p> <p>To support a project to survey and inventory the archival holdings of its Nebraska Capitol Collections.</p> | <p>\$27,440</p> | <p>Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley, Big Pine, CA</p> <p>To support a 1-year project to plan and implement a tribal archives and records management project.</p> | <p>\$60,000</p> |
| <p>Art Institute of Chicago Chicago, IL</p> <p>To support a 1-year project to process the papers of architects Harry Weese (1915-98) and his brother, Ben Weese (b. 1929).</p> | <p>\$34,500</p> | <p>Regents of the University of California, Berkeley Berkeley, CA</p> <p>To support the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, to process three collections of papers of historians who studied indigenous populations of the Southwestern United States and Mexico.</p> | <p>\$64,532</p> | <p>City of Boston, Boston, MA</p> <p>To support a 1-year project to implement a city-wide archives and records management program. The project staff will implement a records management program by updating the city's various records schedules and providing a single online schedule, designating departmental records officers, and providing appropriate records training for these records officers. The city's archival program will be expanded through the creation of a general EAD finding aid to all 14,000 linear feet of records held by the city archives.</p> | <p>\$113,400</p> |
| <p>Philadelphia Museum of Art Philadelphia, PA</p> <p>To support a 3-year project to establish an institution-wide records management program and process at least 550 cubic feet of special exhibitions records.</p> | <p>\$142,449</p> | <p>Japanese American National Museum Los Angeles, CA</p> <p>To support a 2-year project to identify the Museum's archival collections and process the most important collections. In this project, the Museum will identify all archival collections, establish processing priorities and plans, and process at least 400 cubic feet to the appropriate level.</p> | <p>\$134,400</p> | | |
| <p>Utah State Archives and Records Services, Salt Lake City, UT</p> <p>To support a 1-year project to arrange, describe, and microfilm the historic records of the district courts for three counties in Utah from 1852 to 1955.</p> | <p>\$76,100</p> | | | | |

LONGEST-SERVING COMMISSIONER ALFRED GOLDBERG RETIRES

For more than 50 years, Department of Defense historian Alfred Goldberg has had a front-row seat for America's defining moments—from the European military headquarters in World War II to the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy to the attack on the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. After graduating from Western Maryland College, Dr. Goldberg began his career as a military historian during World War II at the London headquarters of the U.S. Strategic Air Forces. "I had access to the war room at the time, so I could see what was going on and what was likely to happen."

Promoted to the rank of captain, he left active duty for the Air Force Reserve in 1946, taking a job as senior historian in the U.S. Air Force Historical Division, and returned to his study of history at Johns Hopkins, interrupted by the war, and earned his Ph.D. in history in 1950. After the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren picked Goldberg to serve as historian on the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. Dr. Goldberg co-wrote the Commission's report, released 10 months after the assassination.

Goldberg returned to the Air Force Historical Division following the release of the Commission's report, but left in 1965 for a senior staff job at RAND, a research corporation. In 1973 he returned to government as senior historian for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He was appointed to the National Historical Publications Committee that same year, succeeding Rudolph Winnacker, who had served for 23 years as the Department of Defense representative, and he has eclipsed that tenure as the longest-serving member in the history of the Commission by some 11 years.

At the Department of Defense, Dr. Goldberg has written seminal histories, including *A History of the United States Air Force, 1907-1957*; *The Department of Defense, 1947-1987*; *A History of the Office of the Secretary of Defense*; *The Pentagon, the First Fifty Years*; and *Pentagon 9/11*. He has chaired the Department of Defense Advisory Committee on Declassification, assisted scores of historians and researchers on every subject from early aviation to the Cold War, and in 2003, he received the David O. Cooke Federal Leadership Award, named after his longtime friend and colleague.

His role on the Commission has been distinguished and active, and he frequently served as acting chairman during the absence of the Archivist. Known for his quick wit and penetrating questions, he has been a tireless advocate of intellectual rigor, forthright colloquies, and responsibility to the taxpayer. He will be sorely missed, and his like will not be seen again.

Roy Tryon Replaces Tim Slavin as NAGARA Representative

The National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA) has named Roy H. Tryon as its representative on the Commission. Roy H. Tryon is currently deputy director and state archivist for the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH), responsible for the state's archival and records management programs and for department computer services. Prior to joining the department in 1988, Tryon had been Delaware state archivist and records administrator; library director of the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia; and archivist at the Wisconsin Historical Society and at the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan. In addition to these positions, Tryon has been a state historical records advisory board (SHRAB) coordinator for both Delaware and South Carolina, conducting several NHPRC-supported state planning and regrant projects.

Tryon has been active professionally, serving as a board member and president of NAGARA, chair and board member of the Council of State Archivists (CoSA), and, most recently, task force co-chair for CoSA's NHPRC-supported local government archives project. The publications for which he served as editor include two supported by the NHPRC: *Program Reporting Guidelines for Government Records Programs* (Council of State Governments, 1987) and *NICLOG [Local Government Archives and Records Management] Technical Leaflet* series (American Association for State and Local History, 1989). He has also contributed articles on SCDAH electronic records training and SC SHRAB board regrant projects to *Annotation*, and a chapter on archivists and records managers to *Public History: Essays from the Field* (Krieger, 1999).

Tryon holds a B.A. in history from Sacred Heart University, an M.A. in American history from Fordham University, and an M.A. in library science from the University of Michigan. He has been an adjunct faculty member with the School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina and is a member of the Institute of Certified Records Managers and the Academy of Certified Archivists.

He replaces Tim Slavin, director of Delaware Public Archives since 2000 and former president of NAGARA, of which he has been a member since 1989, and a member and past president of the CoSA. Appointed in 2002, he served the Commission with distinction.

John Larson Replaces Tom Cole in House of Representatives Position

U.S. Representative John B. Larson (D-CT) has been named to replace U.S. Representative Thomas Cole (R-OK) on the Commission. Congressman Larson began serving in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1999, and is presently in his fifth term serving the people of Connecticut's First Congressional District. In February 2006, Larson was selected by his colleagues to serve as Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus. He sits on the Ways and Means Committee, the Subcommittee on Trade, and the Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures. He formerly served on the Armed Services Committee, Science Committee, and as Ranking Minority Member of the House Administration Committee.



Dr. Alfred Goldberg makes a toast.

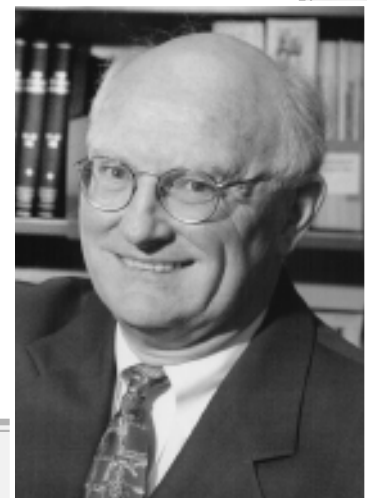
DIRECTOR EVANS TO RETIRE FROM THE NHPRC

Executive Director Max J. Evans announced that he will be retiring from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission on January 31, 2008. Mr. Evans, who was appointed in January 2003, will be assuming a new position with the Historical Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah.

During his tenure at the NHPRC, Mr. Evans initiated a number of new programs and procedures, including a complete revamping of the application process through *Grants.gov* and the agency's internal grants management system, the creation of grant programs for basic and detailed processing, collections digitization, implementation of electronic records programs, archival strategies and tools, and the new Archives Leadership Institute run by the University of Wisconsin. He oversaw the completion of several long-term historical documentary editions projects, including papers of the first Supreme Court, and advocated for increased use of the Internet as a publishing medium for historical records collections. In 2005, after the devastating hurricanes in the Gulf States, he worked with the Council of State Archivists to provide emergency preparedness for state archives, and he introduced changes to solidify the national archival network among the states.

Prior to joining the NHPRC, Mr. Evans was the Director of the Utah State Historical Society and editor of the *Utah Historical Quarterly*. He was a founding member of the Conference of Intermountain Archivists and is a fellow of the Society of American Archivists, having served on and chaired several SAA committees. Long interested in archives and automation, Mr. Evans helped develop the MARC-AMC format and the Research Libraries Group's archives and manuscripts programs. He was a member of the RLG Board of Directors, 1991-92. His career has included work as an archivist at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the Director of the Wisconsin State History Library.

Max J. Evans



NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS
AND RECORDS COMMISSION (NHPRC)
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
700 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW, ROOM 106
WASHINGTON, DC 20408-0001

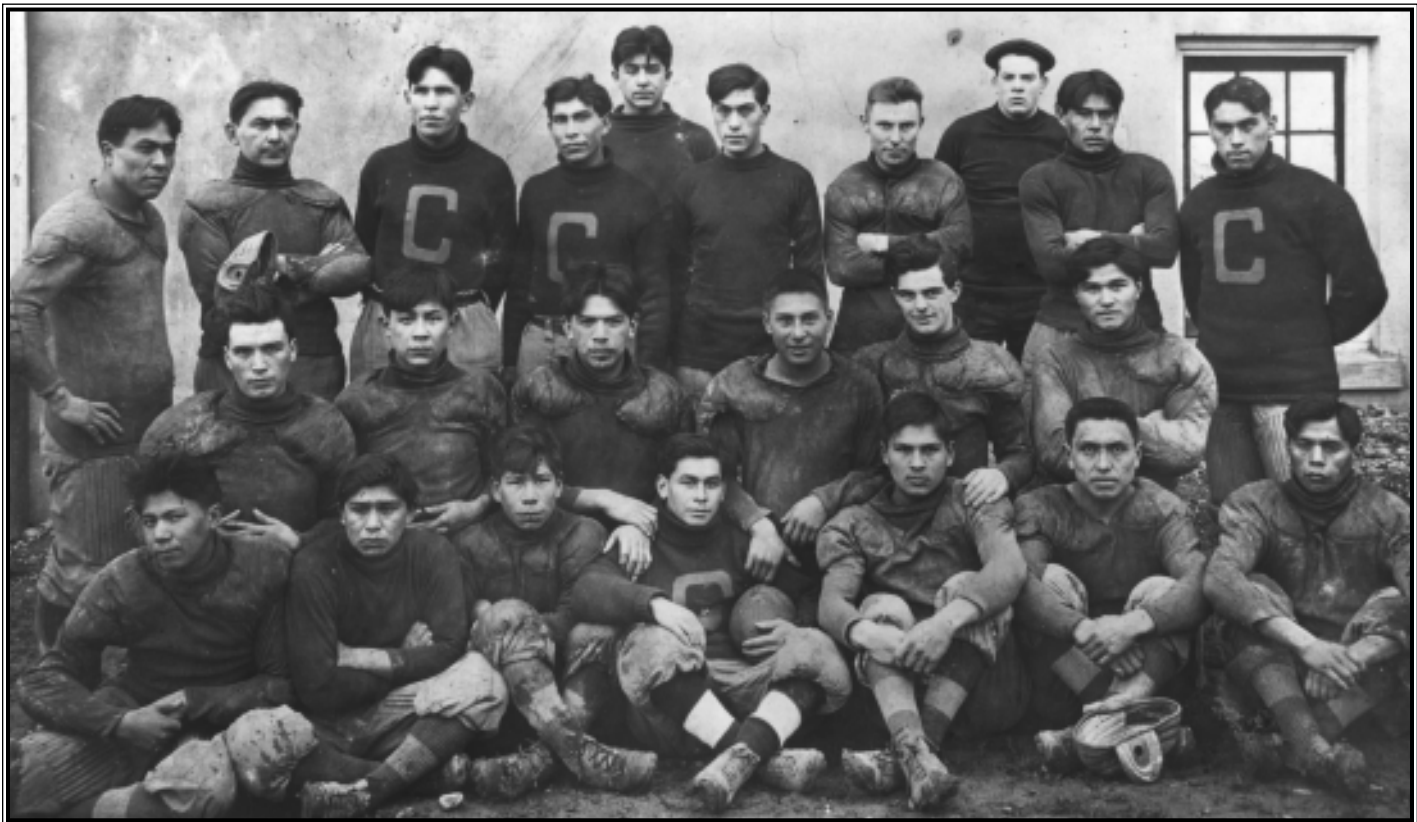
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From the NHPRC archives, a photograph of the Cushman (Indian) Trade School Football Team, 1913. Made possible through a historical photograph preservation grant to the Suquamish Tribe in Suquamish, Washington.