

# THE FEDERALIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR HISTORY IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Volume 1

Summer 1980

Number 1

## Society Holds First General Meeting

The Society held its first general meeting on April 16, 1980 at the James Forrestal building in Washington, DC. The conference featured addresses by Robert Morgan, U. S. Senator from North Carolina, and William Appelman Williams, president of the Organization of American Historians, as well as presentations by Society members on the organization's past activities and future plans. Approximately 175 persons attended the meeting.

In his keynote remarks, Senator Morgan stressed the need to carefully protect the government's historical records. He discussed his opposition to General Services Administrator Rowland Freeman's plan to disperse material currently housed in the National Archives in Washington to regional records centers. Noting that he had "not yet found anyone ready to take credit for the idea," he added that

"the problem of dispersal of records... was but one more in a long line of decisions made by the Archives or the GSA that defied explanation." Morgan attributed the problems to the fact that the

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## Archivist Appointed

Robert M. Warner, 52, director of the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan, is to be the next Archivist of the United States. Dr. Warner, a historian, archivist, and author will administer the \$80 million annual budget of the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) and supervise its 4,200 employees in Washington, DC, 15 regional centers and six presidential libraries, beginning July 15.

Dr. Warner's career at the University of Michigan, where he is professor of history and library science, began in 1956. He has served as president of the Society of American Archivists and the Historical Society of Michigan and has held leadership positions in numerous other professional organizations. He was named a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists in 1967 and served as chairman of the planning committee for the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Dr. Warner attended the University of Denver and Muskingum College, served with the U. S. Army, and subsequently attended the University of Michigan, where he received his doctorate in 1958. His dissertation on Chase S. Osborn was published in 1960 as Bulletin 10 of the Michigan Historical Collections. In 1964 Wayne State University Press published his History of the Michigan State Dental Association. Since 1964, Dr. Warner has published articles on a number of topics relating to

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### INTERIM OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President	Jack M. Holl
Vice-president	Maeva Marcus
Treasurer	Bill Dudley

Executive Council  
David Allison  
Anna Nelson  
Paul Scheips

Nominating Committee  
George Mazuzan  
Neal Petersen  
Jack Shulimson

Elected by Charter Members, June 1980

Secretary Philip L. Cantelon  
Appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Council

# The Federalist

With this issue of The Federalist, the Society for History in the Federal Government begins publication of its quarterly newsletter. Subsequent issues will appear on October 15, January 15, and April 15.

Designed to serve as a means of communication between Society members distributed over a wide geographic area and an even wider variety of historical interests, The Federalist will rely heavily on a network of news sources. Each of the initial participants in the network has been responsible for communicating news of a familiar history or archival program within the federal government. News of smaller programs and of individual Society members working outside a specific program is harder to catch in the net. We hope that those having elusive news of interest to members of the Society will not hesitate to contact the editor.

The format of this first issue is experimental. We hope that it accommodates a few basic goals. The first of these goals is to fully inform members of the activities of the Executive Council and of the Committee structure of the Society. Publication priority has been given to announcements which encourage participation in Society activities. A second goal is to acquaint members with the accomplishments of as well as developments and opportunities within federal history or archival programs. A third goal is to call the attention of members to legislative and judicial actions which will affect the relationship between history and the federal government. A final goal is to present the concerns of the Society for History in the Federal Government to non-members and to potential members. We welcome all comments and suggestions.

## HOW TO CONTACT OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President: Jack Holl (301) 353-5431  
Vice-president: Maeva Marcus (see below)  
Secretary: Philip Cantelon (301) 353-4386  
Treasurer: Bill Dudley (202) 433-2364  
Committee Chairpersons  
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Professional Development: David Allison  
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Program: Sam Walker (202) 634-3338  
Newsletter Editor: Sharon Gibbs  
(202) 523-3223

Anyone wishing membership information or application forms or requesting a change of address or having any business relating to the Society should address inquiries to: Philip L. Cantelon, Secretary, Society for History in the Federal Government, Box 14139 Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC, 20044.

The Society for History in the Federal Government was formally organized as a non-profit corporation in the District of Columbia on February 15, 1980. The initial board of directors consists of David Allison, Philip L. Cantelon, Jack M. Holl, Maeva Marcus, George Mazuzan, Martin Reuss, and Sam Walker. Anna Nelson serves as the Society's registered agent in the District.

### THE FEDERALIST

Newsletter of the Society for History in the Federal Government. Published quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

Editor Sharon Gibbs

### Editorial Board

David Allison	Ed Marolda
Jim Buchanan	Larry Paszek
Ernest Fisher	Paul Scheips
Nina Noring	Robert Struder

Copy deadline for the October 1980 issue is September 20.

# Society News

## General

The by-laws of the Society for History in the Federal Government were ratified by its charter members at a special meeting held in the auditorium of the National Archives on May 15, 1980.

## Special Nominating Committee

The election of interim officers who will serve until July 1, 1981 went smoothly; results are announced on the first page of this newsletter. Over half of the membership participated -- an encouraging sign -- and the races were close. The Committee, consisting of Charles Hendricks, Richard Hewlett, and David Trask, applauds the interest and participation of the membership.

## Archives Committee

Committee chairman Marty Reuss refers readers to his article which begins on page 1 of this newsletter.

## Directory Committee

Good progress is being made towards the compilation and revision of a new "Guide to Historical Offices and Programs in the Federal Government." Of the 241 questionnaires sent to federal offices, 93 have been returned. Committee members are currently urging the slowpokes. Plans call for publication of the new "Guide" early in 1981.

## Liaison Committee

The Committee is making slow but steady progress in calling the attention of federal agencies to the value of history programs. Society representatives recently met with Department of Education officials to discuss the establishment of a historical office. The Department made no commitments, but its response was encouraging.

## Membership Committee

The Society now has 229 regular members. About one-fourth of these are outside the Washington area. These are encouraging figures. By adding to them, we can create a broadly based organization. Members are urged to encourage colleagues both within and outside the Government to join. Remember that this is not just an organization of federal employees, but of anyone

interested in the historical, archival, or related activities of the United States Government.

## OPM Guidelines Committee

The Committee is working together with a similar committee of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History in attempting to persuade the Office of Personnel Management to standardize and restructure the classification standards for historians. The greatest possibility for change will come when OPM applies its new "Factor Evaluation System" to the Historical Series. The Committee chairman, Tom Fulton, is interested in hearing about any problems that any government history office has had in hiring or promoting historians so that the Committee can begin thinking of ways to improve employment practices as a whole. He is also interested in finding new Committee members.

## Professional Development Committee

Besides helping to plan the Society dinner meeting in September (see announcement), and Society-sponsored activities at the AHA meeting in December, Committee members have given thought to curatorial concerns and to problems relating to reviews of publications.

Susanne Owens of the Supreme Court is heading the subcommittee on curatorial concerns, which she hopes will provide curators, archivists, registrars, exhibit designers, conservators, and others with similar concerns a forum to discuss their common problems. For further information, contact her at (202) 252-3499.

The subcommittee on reviews, headed by Walter Poole, plans to correspond with selected book review editors, introducing the Society, and encouraging both the review of publications and the publication of reviews by its members. Members of the Society who would like to be recommended to book review editors who request names of potential reviewers are encouraged to write the following information on a 5x8 card: name, general field, specializations, academic degrees with institutions, languages, and titles of publications, and send the card to: Reviews c/o Society for History in the Federal Government, Box 14139 Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC, 20044.

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# Appointment

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Michigan history. He has also published extensively on archival topics.

Among the issues the new *Archivist* will be facing in the coming months are (1) attempts to separate NARS from the General Services Administration (GSA), (2) the decentralization of records to other records centers throughout the country, (3) possible changes in the functions and personnel of the National Archives Advisory Council, and (4) management consolidation within NARS. Many of these issues are related to directives of Admiral Rowland G. Freeman, Administrator of GSA, issued over the past year. The Administrator felt that more emphasis needed to be placed on archival management, and that expenditures in areas "not originally contemplated in archival tasks" needed to be reduced. Consequently, he directed GSA's Regional Administrators to assume total operating responsibility for NARS regional facilities and thereby reduced the control over these facilities exercised by NARS central office. The Administrator also recognized a need to alleviate space problems in the National Archives buildings, problems compounded when a temporary storage area (an old department store) was found to be a fire hazard. He concluded that dispersal of many records around the nation would both save money and provide research opportunities in various locations.

In accordance with the Administrator's directives, the Office of the National Archives prepared a plan indicating by series and cubic footage records available for transfer from the Washington area to regional archives centers. The final list proposed approximately 300,000 cubic feet of records - about one quarter of the holdings of the National Archives - for dispersal. Some records were considered eligible simply for practical reasons; i.e., they were not closely related to other series, there was a lack of space, or reference activity in the records was primarily by mail. Approximately 2,500 cubic feet of records of the Office of the Quartermaster General and records of the



Robert M. Warner

Office of the Chief of Ordnance were transferred to the Philadelphia Regional Archives. A public outcry, to which the Society for History in the Federal Government contributed, succeeded in halting further transfers until an internal re-evaluation could be made. This re-evaluation is currently in process.

The Archives Committee of the Society is closely monitoring the Archives situation. The Society itself has gone on record as supporting the separation of NARS from GSA. Also the Society has proposed to Admiral Freeman that it have a representative on the National Archives Advisory Council. The Committee, in response to a request from the Office of Federal Records Centers, has submitted comments on draft revised criteria for the identification of permanently valuable series of records. Currently, a subcommittee headed by Jack Shulimson is analyzing the entire records-keeping process, from agency to archive, and will be making recommendations to improve communications among records managers, historians, and archivists. The entire Committee hopes to work closely with the new *Archivist* to ensure that he is aware of those concerns of the Society which relate to federal records.

Contributed by Martin Reuss

## Professional Activities

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We plan to have this section as a regular feature in The Federalist, but hope that it will be far more broadly representative than this initial offering. To make it so we need to hear from members both in and out of Washington whenever they have anything to report, such as promotions, appointments, transfers, honors, publications, and the like. Although we may be unable to include everything that is sent to us, we shall do our best to include as much as we can. Mail will reach us most directly if addressed to Dr. Ernest Fisher, U. S. Army Center of Military History, Department of the Army, 20 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC, 20314. Dr. Fisher's telephone number is (202) 272-0335.

The Historian's Office, Department of Labor, headed by Jonathan Grossman, played an active role in arranging the ceremony on April 10, 1980 at which President Jimmy Carter spoke, naming the department's new building after Frances Perkins, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor and the first woman cabinet member.

On March 22, 1980 staff members of the National Archives and Records Service formed the National Archives Assembly, approved its constitution and elected its officers. The goal of the Assembly is to provide the National Archives staff an important voice in the activities, programs and welfare of the National Archives and Records Service. The officers of the new organization are Virginia Purdy, president; Gerald Haines, vice-president; Emily Rickey, secretary; Ed Schamel, treasurer. Joining these officers on the organization's Executive Board are Ken Harris, James Miller, Michael Miller, John Pontius and Sara Strom.

Twenty-two federal historians and archivists, together with a number of their academic colleagues, served as judges of the contests for junior and senior high school students from nineteen states held during National History Day at Georgetown University on May 30.

David Allison, chairman of the Professional Development Committee of the Society, and Dr. Lois Scharf, executive director of National History Day, extend their thanks to the participants. Dr. Scharf reports that any judge who was not reimbursed for parking and wishes to be should write to her at National History Day, Case Western Reserve University, 11201 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH, 44106.

The Naval Observatory history committee, chaired by T. R. Rafferty, maintains a collection of historical astronomical instruments belonging to the Observatory, and encourages projects and research related to the history of the Observatory. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Observatory, the committee recently filled four display cases depicting the Observatory's history in the lobby of its main building. Steven J. Dick, an astronomer and historian of science at the Observatory, has recently completed an article on "The Origins and Growth of the Naval Observatory, 1830-1865," to appear in the December issue of Sky and Telescope.

### *Publications*

Recent historical publications of federal agencies include, as reported, the following works: U. S. Naval Historical Sources in the United States, compiled and edited by Dean C. Allard, Martha L. Crawley and Mary W. Edmison (Washington: Naval History Division, 1979); Albert E. Cowdrey, A City for the Nation: The Army Engineers and the Building of Washington, DC, 1790-1967 (Washington: Historical Division U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1979); Clio Was a Woman, Studies in the History of American Women, edited by Mabel Deutrich and Virginia Purdy (Washington: Howard University Press, 1980); "The Emergence of the Postwar Strategic Air Force, 1945-1953," by John Greenwood in Air Power and Warfare, edited by A. F. Hurley and R. C. Ehrhard (Washington: GPO, 1979); Leland Johnson, The Headwaters District: A History of the Pittsburgh District, Corps of

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## Professional Activities

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Engineers (Pittsburgh District: Corps of Engineers, 1979); John J. Looney, Bibliography of Space Books and Articles from Non-Aerospace Journals, 1957-1977 (Washington: GPO NASA HHR-51, 1979); Protecting People at Work, edited by Judson E. MacLaury (Washington: GPO, 1980); John C. Reilly, Jr., The Bronze Guns of Leutze Park (Washington: Naval Historical Center, 1980); Lieutenant William B. Franklin's Journal of the Kearny Expedition of 1845, Engineer Historical Series no. 1, edited by Frank N. Schubert (Washington: GPO, 1979); and Versatile Guardian, Research in Naval History, edited by Richard von Doenhoff (Washington: Howard University Press, 1979).

An interesting example of an official work published commercially is James F. Schnabel, Kenneth W. Condit, and Robert J. Watson, The History of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 1979). Each of the volumes thus far published (There is to be a fourth volume.) has a brief introduction by Terrence J. Gough.

A Guide to the Study and Use of Military History, edited by John E. Jessup, Jr. and Robert W. Coakley (1979) as well as A Catalog and Index to Historical Manuscripts in the U. S. Army Center of Military History by Hannah M. Zeidlik (1979) can be obtained from the U. S. Army Center of Military History. The fifth edition of A Guide to Research in NASA History by Alex Roland (July 1980) is available from the History Office, NASA Headquarters. The National Archives has recently (1980) published volumes 4 and 5 of Military Operations of the Civil War: A Guide Index to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.

Morris MacGregor and Ronald Spector have edited a series of lectures on military history topics reproduced on cassettes under the title "America at War and Related Subjects." Among the lecturers are Martin Blumenson, a former federal historian, Graham Cosmas, Stanley Falk, Charles MacDonald, Forest Pogue, Ronald Spector, and Robert Utley, formerly of the

National Park Service and the Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, now retired.

Among the individual unofficial historical contributions of our colleagues in various federal historical activities are the following: Dean C. Allard, "Anglo-American Naval Differences During World War I," Military Affairs, April 1980; Dale E. Floyd, A World Bibliography of Armed Land Conflict from Waterloo to World War I, 2 volumes (Wilmington: Michael Glazier, Inc., 1979) Henry Guzda, "Frances Perkins' Interest in a New Deal for Blacks," Monthly Labor Review, April 1980; Leland Johnson, "The Doyle Mission to Massac, 1794," Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Spring 1980; Martin Reuss, "Maintenance: Past and Present," Army Logistician, April-May 1980; The Panama Canal: Readings on its History, selections and introduction by Paul J. Scheips (Wilmington: Michael Glazier, Inc., 1979); Frank N. Schubert, "Legacy of the Topographical Engineers: Textual and Cartographic Records of Western Exploration," Government Publications Review, Summer 1980; and Paul Walker, "Building American Canals; The Federal Period," Water Spectrum, Winter 1979.

## Transitions

Appointments, transfers, and retirements of the recent period have brought changes in several historical positions in the federal government. Recent retirements at the National Archives include those of James B. Rhoads, Archivist of the United States, Mabel Deutrich, Harold Pinkett, Daniel Reed, and Jane Smith. At the Department of Energy Richard Hewlett has retired and Jack Holl is now the acting chief historian. At the U. S. Army Center of Military History, Brooks E. Kleber has replaced Walter G. Hermes, retired; and Stanley L. Falk has replaced Charles B. MacDonald, also retired. Maurice Matloff, chief historian at the Center has returned from a leave of absence during which he was regents' professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley, the first military historian (and in all likelihood the first federal government historian) to fill that

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