



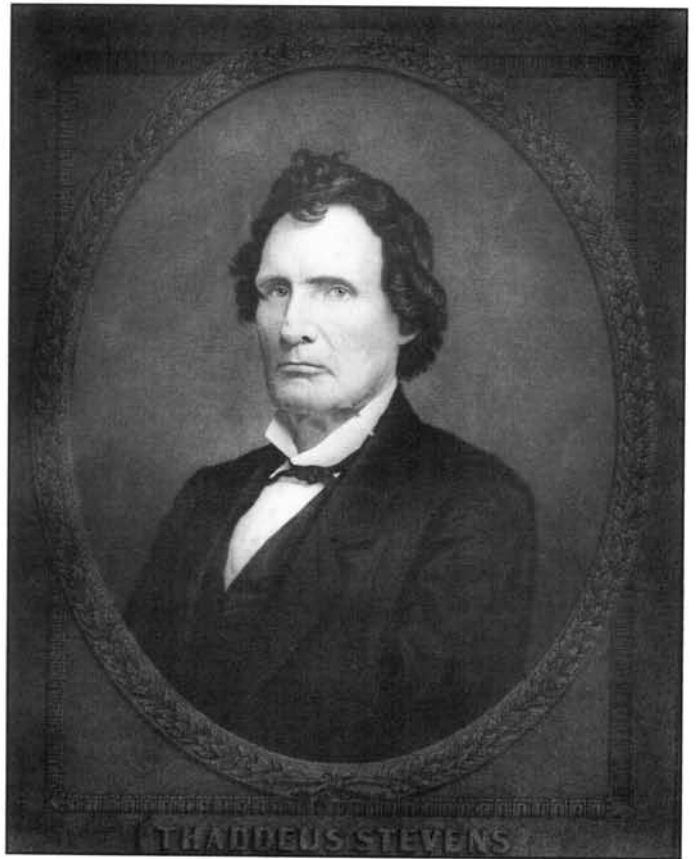
Editor Beverly Wilson Palmer Completes Thaddeus Stevens Project

The University of Pittsburgh Press has published the first of two volumes of the *Selected Papers of Thaddeus Stevens*, edited by Beverly Wilson Palmer and associate editor Holly Byers Ochoa. The second volume is scheduled to follow next year. A microfilm edition, *The Thaddeus Stevens Papers*, with accompanying guide, also edited by Palmer and Ochoa, appeared in 1994. The Stevens project has received funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission since its inception in 1991.

The volumes contain significant correspondence, legal arguments, and major speeches of this U.S. Congressman and Radical Republican leader on a range of historical topics. From his 1837 state legislature speech advocating black suffrage in Pennsylvania to the congressional Reconstruction legislation he authored, Stevens (1792–1868) insisted that African-Americans deserved the same legal protection as whites. He argued in favor of emancipation and equal pay for blacks during the Civil War, as well as equal rights for freedmen during Reconstruction. Ahead of his time in calling for equal rights, Stevens also protested California's discrimination against Chinese immigrants and advocated more humane treatment of Native Americans. During the Civil War he chaired the House Ways and Means Committee, masterminding appropriations to keep the Union armies viable. Controversies surrounding his personal and political life—cronyism, shady business dealings, his black housekeeper—probably kept Stevens from the cabinet appointment or senatorship he continually sought. Yet based on his fourteen years of service in the House of Representatives, Stevens left a legacy in the form of freed slaves, the Fourteenth Amendment, and increased economic opportunities for all people, regardless of race.

Unlike Charles Sumner (whose correspondence Palmer previously edited), Stevens took no pains to see that his papers were preserved, and according to one biographer, destroyed many of them. However, Palmer's extensive efforts to identify all known Stevens letters have paid off. In addition to letters

and other materials in the Library of Congress, she has located individuals who possess Stevens letters, most of them in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, area. Many days of research in the
(See *Stevens*, page 4)



Thaddeus Stevens, 1792–1868. Mezzotint (1867) by John Sartain (1801–1897) after photograph by C.W. Eberman. Reproduced courtesy of The National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC. NPG.79.24

ANNOTATION
ISSN 0160-8460

Annotation is the 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) 501-5610 (voice); (202) 501-5601 (fax); nhprc@arch1.nara.gov (e-mail); <<http://www.nara.gov/nara/nhprc/>> (World Wide Web).

NHPRC Members

John W. Carlin, Archivist of the United States, Chairperson; *Harry A. Blackmun*, representing the U.S. Supreme Court; *Roy D. Blunt*, representing the U.S. House of Representatives; *Nicholas C. Burkell* and *Marvin F. "Bud" Moss*, representing the President of the United States; *William H. Chafe*, representing the Organization of American Historians; *Charles T. Cullen*, representing the Association for Documentary Editing; *Alfred Goldberg*, representing the Department of Defense; *David H. Hooper*, representing the American Association for State and Local History; *James M. Jeffords*, representing the U.S. Senate; *Anne R. Kenney*, representing the Society of American Archivists; *Howard Lowell*, representing the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators; *Constance Schulz*, representing the American Historical Association; *William Z. Slany*, representing the Department of State; and *Winston Tabb*, representing the Librarian of Congress.

NHPRC Staff

Laurie A. Baty, Program Officer; *Richard A. Cameron*, Assistant Program Director for State Programs; *Timothy D.W. Connelly*, Assistant Program Director for Publications; *Nancy Taylor Copp*, Management and Program Analyst; *Gerald George*, Executive Director; *Mary A. Giunta*, Director and Editor, FRUAC Project; *J. Dane Hartgrove*, Associate Editor, FRUAC Project; *Michael T. Meier*, Research Archivist; *Laurette O'Connor*, Grant Program Assistant; *Joyce M. Ray*, Assistant Director for Technological Evaluation; *Artesia Robinson*, Secretary; *Daniel A. Stokes*, Program Officer; *Delores G. Taylor*, Staff Assistant.

**James Madison and Jefferson Davis
Papers Projects Win Awards**

The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations has awarded its prestigious Arthur S. Link Prize to Volume II of the Secretary of State Series of the Papers of James Madison. Editor J.C.A. Stagg and assistant editor Mary A. Hackett accepted the award on behalf of the Madison papers editorial team at the SHAFR luncheon held in conjunction with the American Historical Association's annual meeting in New York City this January.

The award recognizes the high level of scholarship and erudition present in the volume, and the Madison papers project's overall contribution to history. The Link Prize, which is awarded not more than once every three years, is named for the distinguished editor and biographer of Woodrow Wilson.

The Museum of the Confederacy, located in Richmond, Virginia, has presented its Founders Award to Volume VIII of the Papers of Jefferson Davis. The award, given biennially, recognizes excellence in the editing of primary source materials relating to the period of the Confederacy. Volume VIII, which covers the year 1862, was edited by Lynda L. Crist, Mary Seaton Dix, and Kenneth H. Williams. Reviews of the volume have been laudatory. According to one reviewer, with the publication of Volume VIII, the project has "hit full stride" and maintains "a standard of excellence that surpasses" other publications.

This is not the first time a Jefferson Davis volume has won the Founders Award; Volume I did so in 1971. Other NHPRC-sponsored projects to receive this award include the U.S. Grant papers, the Andrew Johnson papers, the Frederick Law Olmsted papers, and the Freedom & Southern Society papers.



**NHPRC Staff Members
Receive Executive Training**

Richard A. Cameron, NHPRC Assistant Program Director for State Programs, has completed the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 1996-1997 Executive Potential Program. The program provides Federal government employees with management training and developmental experiences to enhance their ability to serve as Federal managers.

NHPRC Program Officer Laurie A. Baty has been selected to participate in the USDA's 1997-1998 Women's Executive Leadership Program. This year-long career development program, offered by the USDA Graduate School, involves workshops, seminars, opportunities to shadow a government official, and working temporarily in programs at two other Federal, state, or local agencies or private-sector institutions.

Good News For Grant Seekers And Recipients: We Keep Streamlining

Starting soon, when you get a grant from the NHPRC, official notification is going to come in a simple, one-page letter containing all essential information. The director of the grant-funded project and its "authorized representative" will get the same letter, sent at the same time. Previously there were two separate letters, which we have now streamlined to reduce confusion and save time both for you and for us. Moreover, we will be able to get grant letters to you more quickly after awards are made because we have found ways to eliminate some steps in the approval process.

That's not all.

Already, we have set up a system through which you can receive your grant money through electronic funds transfer. Also, we have put grant application guidelines on the NHPRC's World Wide Web site so that you can find them quickly there without requesting a copy through the mail, and you can even "download" our application forms. A lot of

other useful material for grant applicants is also available on our Web site: <http://www.nara.gov/nara/nhprc/>.

We have not yet overcome all obstacles to enabling you to submit grant applications electronically, but we are working on it. Additionally, we are working on the contents of our grant application guidelines. Our intent is to eliminate everything superfluous and boil down the rest into a document that will make it easier for you to figure out whether your project is eligible for a grant and, if so, when and how to submit an application that will be competitive.

These are the fruits of a lot of deliberation by our entire staff, working under the leadership of Richard Cameron to streamline our "business processes," and of Laurie Baty on development of our Web site. The intent is to make things easier for you while reducing costs for us. I think we are succeeding.

—Gerald George
Executive Director

Compromise Plan Resolves NHPRC Debate Over Priorities

With unanimity the members of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission have resolved a year-long debate over NHPRC's priorities by adopting a compromise strategic plan that sets the following three, equal strategic goals:

- *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.*

The Commission will commit up to 60 percent of its appropriated funds each year to grants for soundly conceived projects of value in reaching these goals. The Commission will reserve at least 40 percent of its appropriated funds each year for grants for other projects eligible for support within the Commission's statutory mission, including documentary editions other than the eight founding-era projects.

If approval can be obtained from the White House Office of Management and Budget, and new guidelines for applicants can be published in time, the Commission will implement the new plan in fiscal year 1999. That means that the first grant proposals to be considered under the plan would be due at a date to be specified in the summer of 1998 for consideration at the Commission's meeting in November 1998, which will be the first meeting of the 1999 fiscal year.

In announcing the new plan, Archivist of the United States John Carlin, who chairs the Commission, declared that "through these priorities we can get states' assistance to help protect a wide range of records, we can help save the history in electronic records that we are now in danger of losing, and we can help provide the public with access to those particular records that best help us understand the creation of our country and its democratic institutions.

"For anybody who cares about our nation's history, this is good news," Mr. Carlin continued. "These priorities meet needs of all our constituents, assure Americans that records covering many parts of our history will be saved, enable us to deal with new kinds of records as we enter the 21st century, and make the words and thoughts of the founding fathers available to everyone on library bookshelves."

The compromise plan was unanimously proposed by the Commission's Executive Committee. Dr. William Slany of the U.S. Department of State chairs the committee, whose other members are Presidential appointees Nicholas Burckel and Marvin Moss, William Chafe representing the Organization of American Historians, and Anne Kenney representing the Society of American Archivists. The Commission modified the compromise plan slightly and then approved it by voice vote without abstention or dissent.

For the full text of the NHPRC plan, see pages 10 and 11.

Individuals interested in Stevens, Sumner, and their careers now have two well-prepared documentary publications. The 12-reel microfilm edition of the Thaddeus Stevens Papers is published by Scholarly Resources, 104 Greenhill Ave., Wilmington, DE 19805-1897. Volume 1 of the *Selected Papers of Thaddeus Stevens* is available from the University of Pittsburgh Press, 3347 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15261; Volume 2 will follow in 1998. The 85-reel microfilm edition of Charles Sumner's correspondence and its accompanying guide is available from Chadwyck-Healey, Ltd., 1101 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. The two-volume *Selected Letters of Charles Sumner* is published by Northeastern University Press, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115.

(Stevens from page 1)

courthouses at Gettysburg and Lancaster have produced printed or holograph versions of Stevens' legal arguments. Palmer has searched local newspapers, such as the *Adams County Sentinel* and the *Lancaster Examiner and Herald*, to identify speeches and remarks Stevens delivered as he championed Antimasonry, equal education, and fiscal responsibility, as well as the antislavery cause.

NHPRC funding was crucial to start work on the Stevens papers. After an initial NHPRC grant of \$20,000, the project received additional funds from the American Philosophical Society and research support from Pomona College. In 1992, a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities enabled Palmer to hire Ochoa (who had worked on the project on an hourly basis since 1991) on a regular three-quarter-time work schedule. Progress accelerated commensurately. With increased NHPRC funding and a second NEH grant in 1994, the editors were able to proceed on schedule with the book edition, for which private funding was received from a variety of institutions and individuals, most notably the Thaddeus Stevens State School of Technology in Lancaster and its alumni.

During the life of the project, ancillary activities complemented the editing work. In conjunction with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Palmer organized a conference to commemorate the bicentennial of Stevens' birth. Held in Lancaster in October 1992 with Eric Foner as the keynote speaker, the conference attracted over 100 people interested in Stevens and in the work of the project. In another outreach effort, Palmer and Ochoa worked with Professor Michael Birkner of Gettysburg College and students in his historical methods class to have students transcribe and annotate a series of letters to and from Stevens. To publicize the project and to help with fund raising, Palmer and Ochoa designed and

distributed six newsletters. These included updates on the project, vignettes on causes Stevens espoused, and examples of editorial problems (including a major one—Stevens' nearly illegible handwriting) encountered in the preparation of both the microfilm and book editions.

It is not unusual for editors from different projects to work closely together, sharing information on documents. In Beverly Palmer's case, she could also draw upon her experience as editor of the Charles Sumner papers. Having finished microfilm and book editions of selected correspondence of the U.S. senator in 1990, Palmer moved logically to the other side of the U.S. Capitol when she began to edit the papers of Stevens, Sumner's counterpart in the House of Representatives. Despite personality differences, the two Radical Republicans shared the same goals during the Civil War and Reconstruction. As a result, Palmer and Ochoa found that they were examining and explaining the same issues and conflicts from a different legislative angle. The previous experience served them well.

The importance of the project and of Palmer's editorial work have been recognized in the academic community. Historian Han L. Trefousse of the City University of New York writes in his recently published biography of Stevens, "My thanks are due in the first place to Beverly Wilson Palmer. . . . Her knowledge of the subject, her indefatigable search for sources, and her superb editorship cannot be emphasized too much."

What next for the two editors? They plan to leave the halls of Congress to edit the letters of another nineteenth-century reformer, Quaker women's rights activist Lucretia Mott.



Beverly Wilson Palmer, editor of the Stevens Papers

Congressman Roy Blunt Appointed to NHPRC

United States Congressman Roy Blunt of Missouri's 7th District is the new delegate of the House of Representatives to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. As Missouri's Secretary of State from 1985 to 1993, Mr. Blunt had responsibility for the state's archives and records management programs, in which capacity he became familiar with the Commission's work.

In accepting the appointment, Congressman Blunt commented on the NHPRC's role in "preserving the records of our political and social heritage." By assisting state and local institutions with the preservation of historical documents, the Commission makes it possible for us to "find the roots of our nation and better understand the decisions of our leaders." NHPRC grants help to make these records available "for future generations to study, analyze, and appreciate."

Congressman Blunt has a B.A. degree in history from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri, and an M.A. degree in history from Southwest Missouri State University. He has taught American and Missouri history and government at the secondary and college levels, and is the author or co-author of several publications dealing with voting procedures and voting rights. For the four years prior to his election to Congress, he was president of his alma mater.



Congressman Blunt

Hispanic Resources Seen at Risk

A Task Force on Hispanic Resources, headed by Nicolas Kanellos, director of the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Project at the University of Houston, has issued a report that argues the need for identifying, preserving, and creating access to the rich store of Spanish-language materials relevant to the Hispanic heritage of the United States. As noted in *The Commission on Preservation and Access Newsletter* (No. 97, March 1997), the Task Force urges that documents tracing the history of Hispanics in North America and their role in shaping its culture be recovered and saved, that they receive adequate bibliographic attention, and that they be made available to scholars and the general public.

Hispanic communities have supported hundreds of Spanish-language newspapers over the years, as well as professional theaters, publishing houses, and bookstores. Members of the Task Force believe that the most critical problem in preserving and making accessible the Hispanic documentary legacy will be to convince foundations and agencies at every level of society of the significance of what is at stake, and then to persuade them of the scale and urgency of funding needs. According to the report, "The loss of the Hispanic cultural heritage of this country has not been identified as a problem, and both private and public institutions have not created, and are hesitant to create, programs and funding categories that will specifically address this glaring need."

The report makes the following recommendations: (1) Regional, national, and international surveys of Hispanic materials should be undertaken as soon as possible to locate and register materials and assess their risk of loss. (2) Agencies and foundations should create specific funding categories at adequate levels to address these issues of preservation and access, with the former given priority. (3) Community-based projects should be created to work with local institutions (especially libraries), scholars, and families to further preservation and access efforts and promote the educational use of Hispanic-heritage materials. (4) Regional and state governments should play an appropriate role in this process, such as funding regional and local archives and community organizations. (5) More bilingual librarians and archivists should be trained. (6) Professional associations and the various Hispanic scholarly organizations should become more conscious of the issues involved in documenting the Hispanic heritage of the United States. (7) A task force or working group, to include representatives from foreign institutions, should be established to address these issues on a national and international basis.

For more information on the task force report, contact the project director, Nicolas Kanellos, at the University of Houston, telephone (713) 743-3129, e-mail artrec@jetson.uh.edu.

NHPRC Recommends Nine Grants Totaling up to \$264,771

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) met on June 19, 1997, and recommended up to \$149,394 for four documentary editing projects, \$25,254 for three documentary publication subvention grants, \$30,000 for one records access project, and up to \$60,123 for one project that carries out national archival agendas. The grant recommendations were made in response to more than \$947,800 in requests.

The Commission welcomed two new members: United States Senator James M. Jeffords of Vermont, who represents the Senate, and United States Congressman Roy Blunt (7th District, Missouri), who represents the House of Representatives.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for November 18, 1997. The next deadline for grant applications is October 1, 1997.

For this application review cycle, the Commission received several more competitive applications than it had grant funds to support. Therefore, a number of awards were made contingent on the availability of additional FY 1997 funds. These monies come from the returns of unexpended grant funds from completed projects or from unmet matching offers. In the following list, an "up to" or "contingent" amount indicates an award that was recommended, but that can be made only if funds become available by the end of the current fiscal year.

Documentary Editing Projects and Subventions

- Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall/Crozer Theological Seminary, Rochester, NY: A conditional grant of up to \$52,500 to pay the salaries and fringe benefits of the two assistant editors of the *Howard Thurman Papers*. As a religious and intellectual leader, Thurman (1900-1981) dedicated his life to bringing together people of different faiths, races, and classes. Throughout his career, Thurman tried to reform Christian doctrine with elements of Mohandas Gandhi's critique of traditional Christianity and his principles of unity and non-violent social change. Thurman's message powerfully influenced civil rights leaders beginning in the 1930s.

- East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, PA: A conditional grant of up to \$26,250 to pay portions of the editor's and associate editor's salaries and related fringe benefits, as well as a share of the costs for travel, supplies, and copying, for the *Papers of the War Department, 1784-1800*. The project is reconstructing a collection that was destroyed by a fire in 1800 in the office of the War Department. Recipient copies of documents sent from the War Department and retained copies of documents sent to the department exist in hundreds of collections across the country. During the years considered—1784-1800—the War Department was responsible not only for military affairs, but also for Indian, veteran, and naval affairs.

- University Press of New England, Andover, NH: A grant of \$8,000 to subvene publication of *The Correspondence of Ethan, Ira, and Levi Allen*, Vol. 1.

- University Press of New England, Andover, NH: A grant of \$8,000 to subvene publication of *The Correspondence of Ethan, Ira, and Levi Allen*, Vol. 2.

- Kent State University Press, Kent, OH: A grant of \$9,254 to subvene publication of *The Papers of Robert A. Taft*, Vol. 1.

Records Access Projects

- Lincoln Memorial University, Abraham Lincoln Museum, Harrogate, TN: A grant of \$30,000 for a one-year project to conduct a survey of the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum's archival collection to identify the size and scope of its manuscript, photograph, scrapbook, and university archives components, and to arrange and describe the manuscript collection, to prepare catalog records of these collections, with further arrangement and description of the photographs, scrapbooks, and university archives in that priority order as time and resources allow.

Projects Recommended Subject to the Availability of Funds, in Priority Order

- (1) Pomona College, Claremont, CA: A contingent grant of up to \$32,400 to pay portions of the editor's and associate editor's salaries and benefits for the *Letters of Lucretia Coffin Mott*. The project will prepare a one-volume edition of selected letters; the volume will include a calendar of all known Mott correspondence. Mott (1793-1880), a Quaker, committed her life to women's rights, school and prison reforms, temperance, peace, religious tolerance, and the abolition of slavery.

- (2) New York State Education Department, Albany, NY: A contingent grant of up to \$60,123 to the Department's State Archives and Records Administration for a project to carry out a comprehensive collection assessment.

- (3) Kent State University, Kent, OH: A contingent grant of up to \$38,244 to pay the salary and fringe benefits of the assistant editor, as well as consultants' fees, travel, and services for the *Robert A. Taft Papers*. Taft (1889-1953) served as U.S. Senator from Ohio from 1939 until his death. A co-sponsor of the Taft-Hartley Act, he was a conservative who believed in equality of opportunity, but opposed legislation that impeded individual liberty. Taft also opposed major military commitments overseas in the postwar era, including U.S. membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, because he doubted that the United States could solve the problems of other countries. The project will produce a selective book edition of Taft's papers in four volumes, for the first of which the NHPRC is providing a subvention.

NHPRC Staff Plan Activities at SAA Meeting in Chicago

Commission staff will hold "office hours" for consultation with individuals interested in grants at the upcoming SAA meeting in Chicago, August 27-31. In addition, the Electronic Records Section will sponsor a discussion of NHPRC-supported electronic records projects on Saturday, August 30, from 8 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

NHPRC's *The Emerging Nation* Wins 1997 Thomas Jefferson Prize from the Society for History in the Federal Government

On April 4, 1997, the Society for History in the Federal Government awarded its Thomas Jefferson Prize for 1997 to National Historical Publications and Records Commission staff members Mary A. Giunta and J. Dane Hartgrove for their work on the Commission's in-house documentary publication, *The Emerging Nation: A Documentary History of the Foreign Relations of the United States under the Articles of Confederation, 1780-1789* (Washington: National Historical Publications and Records Commission, 1996). The conferral of the award, which took place at the Society's annual meeting, included the reading of the following words from the accompanying certificate: "Judged on the basis of research, style, and thoroughness of presentation to be an outstanding contribution to research in the history of the Federal Government for 1997."

In accepting the award, Editor-in-Chief Mary A. Giunta praised the work of Associate Editor J. Dane Hartgrove, especially in the collection of historical materials from various repositories and NHPRC-sponsored projects and in the editorial phase of the undertaking. She also paid special

tribute to the more than 20 National Archives and Records Administration volunteers who worked on the project, providing over 9,300 hours of unpaid labor. The participation of the volunteers proved crucial to the completion of the project.

The three volumes of *The Emerging Nation* serve as a scholarly introduction to the history of early United States diplomacy. They bring together documents from U.S. and foreign archives and manuscript repositories, many for the first time in English. The publication contains more than 1800 documents drawn from 16 repositories and six historical editions. Roughly 46 percent of the documents are from the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration, primarily from Record Group 360: Papers of the Continental and Confederation Congresses and the Constitutional Convention. Approximately 23 percent are from the French Foreign Affairs Archives and the British Public Record Office. Major personal manuscript sources include the papers of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, David Hartley, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, Henry Laurens, Robert

Morris, Richard Oswald, and William Petty, Earl of Shelburne.

The three scholarly volumes of *The Emerging Nation* are available through the Government Printing Office (GPO). Volume I (\$44), Volume II (\$46), and Volume III (\$43) may be ordered by telephone on weekdays (202-512-1800) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. eastern time or by fax (202-512-2250) 24 hours a day. Telephone and fax orders may be paid by MasterCard or VISA. Mail orders must include either credit card information or a check payable to the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954.



Editors J. Dane Hartgrove and Mary Giunta accept the Thomas Jefferson Prize from Frank Burke at the annual meeting of the Society for History in the Federal Government.

Recent Records Products and Documentary Editions

Records Products

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

- Materials relating to online databases at the Boston College Libraries, including the Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Library, which received NHPRC Grant No. 95-028 for a library access project. For information, contact Kathleen M. Carney, Associate University Librarian, Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Library, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167-3810; e-mail carneyk@bc.edu; telephone (617) 552-4470; FAX (617) 552-0599.

- Steven Davidson and Gregory Lukow, editors, *The Administration of Television Newsfilm and Videotape Collections: A Curatorial Manual*. Los Angeles: American Film Institute and Miami: Louis Wolfson II Media History Center, 1997. ISBN 0-9649097-0-7. For information or inquiries about this publication, contact the Louis Wolfson II Media History Center, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130; telephone (305) 375-1505; FAX (305) 375-4436; or the National Center for Film and Video Preservation, American Film Institute, 2021 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027; telephone (213) 856-7637; FAX (213) 856-7616.

- *Electronic Records Research and Development: Final Report of the 1996 Conference held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, June 28-29, 1996*. Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1997. Sponsored by the University of Michigan School of Information and the Bentley Historical Library, and funded by NHPRC Grant No. 96-12. This report is available online at <<http://www.si.umich.edu/e-recs/>>.

- The Filson Club Historical Society has provided copies of finding aids for 232 individual collections. For information on these finding aids, contact James J. Holmberg, Curator of Manuscripts, The Filson Club Historical Society, 1310 South Third Street, Louisville, KY 40208; telephone (502) 635-5083; FAX (502) 635-5086. Among the collections are the papers of James William Abert, Cassius Marcellus Clay, Elizabeth Kathleen Hansbrough, John Wesley Hunt, Josiah Stoddard Johnston, Benjamin La Bree, Jefferson Francis Marion Lee, William Thomas McElroy, John Hunt Morgan, Alfred Pirtle, William Hamilton Pope, Elliott Warren Rice, Frank B. Russell, Nathaniel Southgate Shaler, John Cleves Short, Henry Smith Slaughter, William Earl Stivers, James Taylor, Alexander Tippet, John Wilson Townsend, Hiram Wingate, and Bennett Henderson Yandell.

- West Virginia Historical Records Advisory Board, compiler, *An Appeal For Future Generations: West Virginia Historical Records Assessment Report*, and *An Appeal for Future Generations: West Virginia Historical Records Strategic Plan*. Charleston, 1997. For information, contact Fredrick H. Armstrong, State Coordinator, State Archivist and Director, Archives and History, The Cultural Center, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV 25305-0300; telephone (304) 558-0230, extension 164; FAX (304) 558-2779. These materials are

available online at <<http://www.wvlc.wvnet.edu/history/wvwrap.html>>.

Documentary Publications

The following products from documentary editing projects supported by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission have been received since January 1997.

The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution. Vol. 4: *Ratification of the Constitution by the States: Massachusetts (1)* (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1997)

The Papers of Jefferson Davis, Vol. 9 [January-September, 1863] (Louisiana State University Press, 1997)

The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, Vol. 32 [March 1-June 30, 1780] (Yale University Press, 1996)

Families and Freedom: A Documentary History of African-American Kinship in the Civil War Era [Abridgment of *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation*] (The New Press, 1997)

John Franklin Jameson and the Development of Humanistic Scholarship in America. Vol. 2: *The Years of Growth, 1859-1905* (University of Georgia Press, 1996)

The Papers of George Washington, Confederation Series, Vol. 5 [February-December 1787] (University Press of Virginia, 1997)

The Papers of George Washington, Confederation Series, Vol. 6 [January-September 1788] (University Press of Virginia, 1997)

The Emerging Nation Products

As part of *The Emerging Nation* project (a documentary edition focusing on early foreign relations of the United States), staff members, with the able assistance of National Archives and Records Administration volunteers, have prepared a reader for collegiate classroom use and an education kit for middle and secondary school use. The reader, *The Emerging Nation: Documents of United States Diplomacy, 1775-1789*, draws together documents from the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration, the British Public Record Office, the French Foreign Affairs Archives, and other repositories, as well as printed documentary sources. The education kit engages students in diplomatic discussions and conflict resolution (see accompanying article). These two products are at the publishers.

With the completion of the project, staff members will retire *The Emerging Nation* files and move on to other work. However, part of this work will be related to project materials. At the request of the Government Printing Office, the three scholarly volumes will be released on CD-ROM; the proposed price will be less than \$30. In addition to the CD-ROM publication, the project's document files are being prepared for a microfilm edition with accompanying guide. More on these products in upcoming issues of *Annotation*.

AFI & Wolfson Center Publish NHPRC-Funded Guidebook for Preserving TV News Collections

On June 16, 1997, the Louis Wolfson II Media History Center and the American Film Institute's National Center for Film and Video Preservation (NCFVP) announced the publication of a new preservation guidebook entitled *The Administration of Television Newsfilm and Videotape Collections: A Curatorial Manual*. This 250-page book provides detailed information and over 200 illustrative photographs covering all aspects of TV news archival practice. The first publication of its kind, the manual addresses the needs of one of the largest constituencies in the moving image preservation community, with a special emphasis on issues facing the many television archives operating at local and regional levels. At the same time, the book contains general information on the preservation, storage, cataloging, and use of film and videotape materials that will be of interest to archivists responsible for other kinds of collections as well.

Edited by Steven Davidson of the Wolfson Center and Gregory Lukow of the NCFVP, the manual was produced through a collaborative effort made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in Washington, DC. The NHPRC has a strong history of support for local news collections, having funded the first national conference of television news archives in 1987 and provided individual grants to a range of such institutions during the past 15 years.

With 14 chapters written by 15 contributors, plus a detailed bibliography, the manual draws on the experiences of moving image archivists and other experts who have been pioneers in the field. Chapters include: "TV As History: The Importance of Television Preservation" by Barry Sherman and Louise Benjamin; "A History of Television Newsgathering Formats" by Alan Lewis; "Appraisal of Collections" by Ernest Dick; "Station-Archive Relations" and "Videotape Issues and Concerns" by Steven Davidson; "A Case Study: Newsfilm Preservation Project at the State Historical Society of North Dakota" by Gerald Newborg; "The Preservation of News and Documentary Film" by William Murphy; "Arrangement and Description" by Helene

Whitson and Gerry Yeager; "Cataloging" by Jane Dunbar Johnson; "Research and Reference Services" by Dan Den Bleyker; "Licensing Footage: A Researcher's Perspective" by Kenn Rabin; "Shopping In Film Archives: A Producer's View" by James DeVinney; "Television Archives and the Academic" by Brian Rose; and "Outreach" by Karan Sheldon.

Television news collections provide an invaluable record of our day-to-day activities and serve as primary source materials documenting the events shaping our history and culture. But despite this value, television news is among the most endangered



Film technician examines film using manual rewinds, viewing images on a moviescope viewer. Photo courtesy of the Louis Wolfson II Media History Center, Miami, Florida.

of moving image materials. Preserving a news collection can involve millions of feet of film or thousands of hours of tape, plus a challenging array of legal and financial concerns. Decades worth of coverage have already been thrown away, and basic information on key archival questions regarding the appraisal, preservation and documentation of the materials has been lacking. *The Administration of Television Newsfilm and Videotape Collections* serves as

a tool for archivists and librarians—many of whom may have no previous experience with moving images — to help answer these questions that arise in acquiring and managing news collections. It also facilitates relations between archives and stations by giving a better understanding of the work and resources necessary to safeguard our TV news heritage.

Copies of the manual can be ordered from either the AFI National Center or the Wolfson Center at the addresses below. In North America, the cost is \$41, which includes shipping and handling. For orders outside North America, the total cost is \$47 in U.S. funds. Send checks or money orders to: National Center for Film and Video Preservation, American Film Institute, 2021 North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027 (Fax: 213-856-7616) or to: Louis Wolfson II Media History Center, Miami-Dade Public Library, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130 (Fax: 305-375-4436).

NHPRC's New Strategic Plan: The Full Text

I. NHPRC

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) is the grant-making affiliate of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). NARA protects federal records of historical value. NHPRC helps non-federal institutions preserve and make broadly accessible other records of historical value through grants to archival institutions, manuscript repositories, and publications in multiple formats.

The NHPRC was created along with the National Archives in 1934, and has had grant-making authorization since 1964. NHPRC grants help locate, preserve, and provide public access to documents, photographs, maps, and other historical materials. The grants go to state and local archives, colleges and universities, libraries and historical societies, and other non-profit organizations. Currently the NHPRC has statutory authorization to receive up to \$10 million in annual appropriations for grants through fiscal year 2001.

The Archivist of the United States chairs the Commission and makes grants on its recommendation. The other fourteen members of the Commission represent the President (two appointees), the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the Federal judiciary, the Departments of State and Defense, the Librarian of Congress, and six national, professional associations of archivists and historians. A list of current Commission members and a copy of the NHPRC's current statute (25 USC 44) are appended to this plan.

II. Mission

In November of 1996, the Commission unanimously agreed upon this statement: *The NHPRC exists to carry out its statutory mission to ensure understanding of our nation's past by promoting, nationwide, the identification, preservation, and dissemination of essential historical documentation.*

III. Stakeholders

Our society cannot do without historical documents. Legislators use them to understand the context of laws; lawyers, to find background information in developing cases; judges, to identify precedents and evaluate previous court opinions; officials, to review past policies; journalists, to gather information for articles; business analysts to identify and track trends; environmentalists, to discover where contaminants may have originated; film and television producers, to locate material for documentaries; museum curators and historic preservationists, to interpret buildings and artifacts; genealogists, to trace their families; teachers, to convey the values of our democratic society to their students; and scholars, to make studies of many kinds. Without documents, historians cannot carry forward the continuing evaluation and re-evaluation we need of the experience of our nation, our states, our communities, and the many groups that comprise our society. And documents undergird the accuracy of the history our children are taught in textbooks and schools.

IV. Challenges

Documenting American history is difficult. Wars, fires, and floods have carried many records away. Others are succumbing to the less dramatic ravages of acidic paper, insect infestation, and neglect in damp basements, hot attics, and unprotected warehouses.

Many units of government have no archives or records management program, and in the private sector as well many records are routinely discarded by persons unaware of their value. Even in archival repositories, many records remain unprocessed for public access; and major collections of documents critical to an understanding of our nation's history are only partially published on microfilm or in print, let alone electronically.

Moreover, records of potential value are proliferating both in quantity and form. Government records in particular, at all levels, have mushroomed, and archivists who are overwhelmed with paper are having to cope also with computer-generated records, which are easily deleted or altered, exist on tapes and disks that do not last long, and depend for readability on hardware and software that quickly become obsolete. Records managers struggle to assure the retention of electronic records in particular long enough even to be able to appraise what is and is not of long-term value.

However, funds appropriated to the NHPRC for grants with which to help appraise, protect, and provide access to America's historical documents have not grown in real dollars for nearly two decades. Clearly the Commission must concentrate on a few major goals and plan carefully to get the greatest public benefit out of the public dollars available to it.

V. Goals

Beginning in fiscal year 1999, the Commission will concentrate its efforts and its resources on three equal strategic goals within its broader mission:

- 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

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NHPRC Application Deadlines

October 1, 1997 (for February 1998 meeting)

Proposals addressing the following objectives:

- To help local organizations preserve records and make them accessible by providing grants to state historical records coordinators and boards for state regrants.
- To bring to completion within the next 20 years 36 present, Commission-funded projects that help document a range of historical subjects including the history of American women, the history of minority groups, and historical developments during and after the founding era.
- In collaboration with the Association for Documentary Editing, to help editors resolves issues and improve techniques, tools, media, training, and standards for documentary editing.
- To increase access to and use of records, based on recommendations in the reports of the Historical Documents Study and the Society of American Archivists' Task Force on Goals and Priorities.

February 1, 1998 (for June 1998 meeting)

Proposals addressing the following objectives:

- To continue the current cooperative agreement whereby the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators informs the Commission on needs and progress nationally.
- To collaborate with the states to promote archival and records management by and among state and local governments.

- To assist new documentary projects, in various forms of publication, that help teachers improve history education and that help researchers pursue significant lines of inquiry in historical scholarship.

- To increase document use by teachers, students, scholars, and the public.

- To help carry out agendas for archival progress put forward by the Society of American Archivists and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, particularly to meet needs for preservation, planning, training, and institutional self-evaluation.

November 1998 meeting

Because of the recent revision of the Commission's strategic plan, the application deadline for the November 1998 meeting has not yet been determined. Revised guidelines for grant applicants will be available in 1998.

Application guidelines and forms may be requested from NHPRC, National Archives & Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Room 106, 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/>>.

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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.

The Commission will commit up to 60 percent of its appropriated funds each year to grants for soundly conceived projects of value in reaching these goals. The Commission will reserve at least 40 percent of its appropriated funds each year for grants for other projects eligible for support within the Commission's statutory mission, including projects to protect and otherwise make accessible historically significant records, to publish documentary editions other than the eight founding-era projects judged to be of critical importance, and to improve the methods, tools, and training of professionals engaged in documentary work.

The Commission will consider grant proposals related to its three strategic goals at its first meeting (usually in November) in each fiscal year, and will consider all other proposals at its second meeting (usually in February) in each fiscal year.

Therefore the Commission's intent to implement this strategic plan in fiscal year 1999 means that the first grant proposals to be considered under the plan will be due at a date to be specified in the summer of 1998 for consideration at the Commission's meeting in November 1998.

VI. Performance Measurements

The Government Performance and Results Act requires that federal agencies' strategic plans contain performance measurements following guidelines specified in the act. The NHPRC staff is working with the GPRA-compliance committee of the National Archives and Records Administration to devise and receive approval for GPRA-compliant performance goals for this plan. Because the performance measurements must be completed by August 15, the staff will circulate the performance goals in draft for comment before that date and secure approval for the final versions from the NHPRC Executive Committee before submitting the final plan containing performance measurements to the White House Office of Management and Budget.

**National Historical Publications and Records
Commission (NHPRC)**

National Archives & Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Room 106
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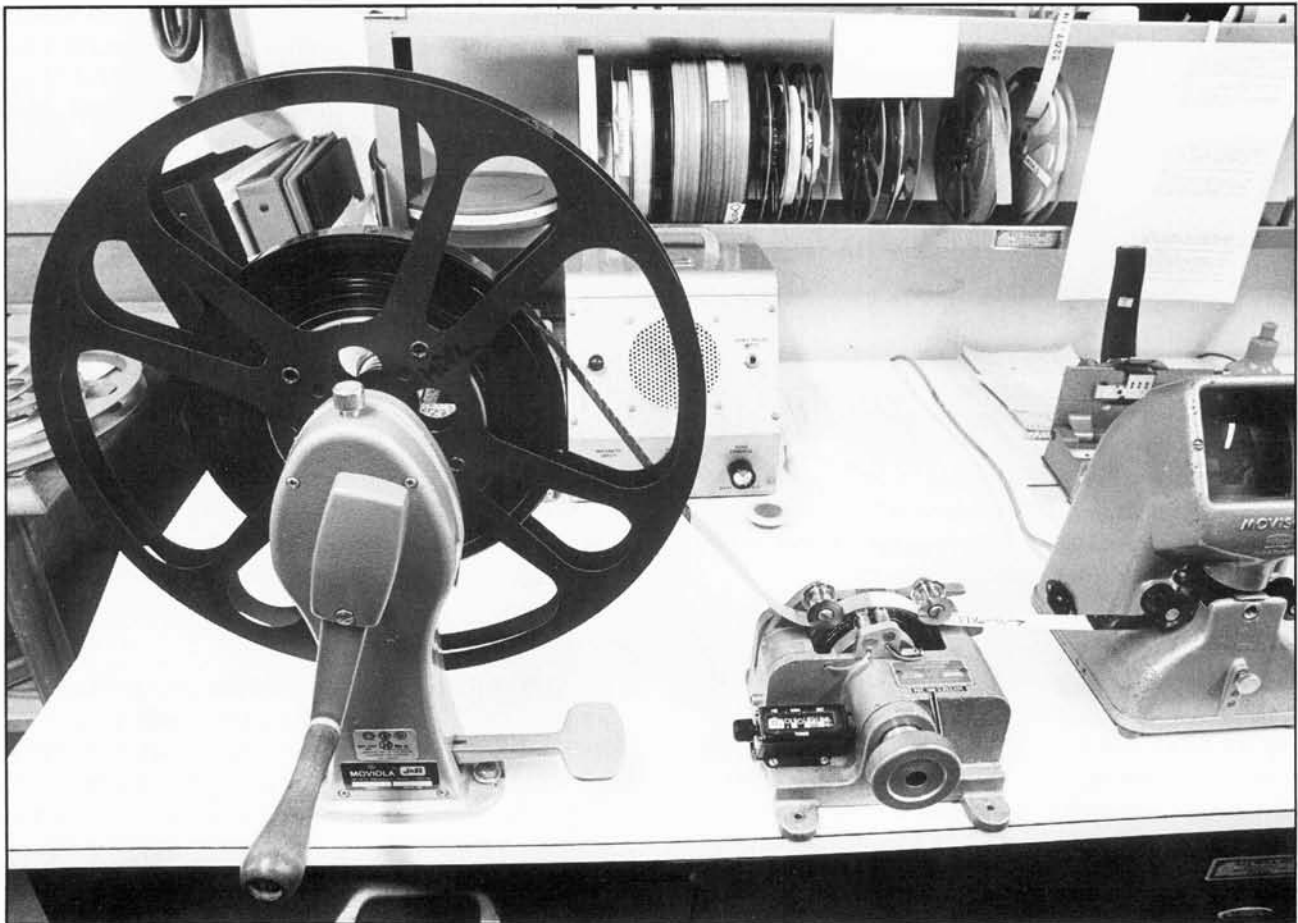
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Recommended setup for viewing newsfilm: light table, hand rewinds, sound box, synchronizer, splicer, moviescope viewer, and sprocket repair unit. In 1991, the NHPRC awarded a grant to the National Center for Film and Video Preservation to create a reference manual for caregivers of television newsfilm. Recently published, The Administration of Television Newsfilm and Videotape Collections: A Curatorial Manual, is a book for which archivists, among other keepers of these materials, have eagerly waited. The manual is discussed on page 9. Photo courtesy of the Louis Wolfson II Media History Center, Miami, Florida.