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NEHA News

The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association

April 1, 1976

Vol. III., No. 1

MEETING DATES

May 8, 1976, St. Joseph's College, Hartford, Connecticut.

If you are not a member of the association you will not receive formal notification of this meeting unless you write the Secretary, Professor John Voll, History Department, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824.

October 16, 1976, Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH.

PROGRAM FOR THE SPRING MEETING:
Joint meeting with the New England Archivists
Morning Sessions:

I. Public and Public Opinion in Medieval Europe.
   1. Changing Definitions of the Public According to the Chroniclers of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries.
   Charles Connell, West Virginia University
   2. Public Attitudes Toward Muslims in Fourteenth Century Spain.
   John Boswell, Yale University
   3. The English Public, the Church, and Royal Propaganda during the Hundred Years War.
   W.R.Jones, University of New Hampshire
Giles Constable, Harvard University.
Commentator and Chairperson.

II. Radical Nationalism
   1. Hugenberg and Radical Nationalism.
   John Leopold, Western Connecticut State College.
   2. Enrico Corradini and the Theory of Proletarian Nationalism.
   Ronald Cunsolo, Nassau Community College
Emiliana Noether, University of Connecticut
Chairperson.

III. Ante-Bellum Voluntary Associations, Masonry in New York.
   1. Free-Masonry as a Counter-Culture: Connecticut (1789-1830)
   Dorothy Lipson, New Haven
   2. Free Masonry in New York: The Case of Genesee County (1809-1812)
   Kathleen Kutolowski, State University College at Brockport.
David Fisher, Brandeis University
Richard Brown, University of Connecticut
Co-Commentators
Chairperson: Ronald Formisano, Clark University

IV. Archival Security: Safeguarding the Materials of Historical Research in a Wicked World.
Timothy Walch, Society of American Archivists

V. Historians and Archivists in the Search for Historical Materials.(Panel)
   Frank C. Mevers, Josiah Bartlett Papers, New Hampshire Historical Society
   Harold D. Moser, Daniel Webster Papers, Dartmouth College.
   Richard K. Showman, Nathaniel Greene Papers, Rhode Island Historical Society.

AFTERNOON SESSION:

A British View of the American Revolution

by J. H. Plumb, Professor Emeritus of Modern History, Cambridge University.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A variety of new publications is being produced under the auspices of the American Historical Association. The Recently Published Articles is now a separate publication listing article-length literature in all fields of history. It is issued in February, June, and October. AHA members may subscribe to the RPA for $5.00 per year, non-members for $8.00, and institutions for $7.00.

The Guide to Departments of History gives information on history programs, areas of specialization, and faculty at approximately 250 U. S. and Canadian departments of history and research institutions. The Guide may be purchased by AHA members for $3.00, by non-members for $6.00.

Fellowships and Grants of Interest to Historians contains information on approximately one hundred different programs of aid to historians at the graduate and post-doctoral levels. The guide is available for $1.00 for members and $2.00 for non-members.

The Directory of Women Historians with information on the educational background, experience, publications, and research interests of approximately 1,200 women historians may be purchased by members for $4.00 and by non-members for $6.00.

A Survival Manual for Women (and Other) Historians, prepared by the AHA's Committee on Women Historians, gives practical information on various aspects of professional life. Copies are available for $1.00 each for AHA members, $2.00 for non-members.

Dissertation Lists: The triennial publication of the American Historical Association's List of Doctoral Dissertations in History will cease with the publication this month of a special issue containing titles received during the period May 16, 1973 to June 30, 1975. A new semi-annual publication will take its place. The new List in addition to recording recently registered and completed dissertations, will include a brief description of each topic. The special issue may be purchased for $4.00 for AHA members and ISP subscribers; $6.00 for others.

These publications may be ordered from the AHA, 400 A Street, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003. Payment must accompany all orders.

NEHA News is the newsletter of the New England Historical Association. It appears twice a year, in April and September. The deadline for the April issue is February 1; the deadline for the September issue is July 1. Contributions and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to: Gwendolyn Evans Jensen, Editor, NEHA News, University of New Haven, 300 Orange Avenue, West Haven, Connecticut 06516.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

AHA associate memberships available---The Council of the American Historical Association has authorized the creation of an associate member category for those persons whose primary professional affiliation is in areas other than the researching, writing, or teaching of history. The Council hopes that this action will encourage administrators, archivists, librarians, curators, lawyers, and specialists in other disciplines to join the Association. Associate membership is available to such persons for an annual dues of $20.00 regardless of income level. The annual membership fee for historians is based on a graduated scale according to income. Associate members will receive five issues of the American Historical Review, nine issues of the AHA Newsletter, the Program of the Annual Meeting and the Annual Report (upon request). Applications for associate membership can be addressed to the Office of the Executive Director, American Historical Association, 400 A Street, S. E., Washington, DC 20003.

The American Historical Association in conjunction with the Master of Arts Program in Women's History at Sarah Lawrence College is planning a three week summer Institute (June 25 - July 16, 1976) for high school teachers on the integration of women's history into the high school curriculum.

For further information on and an application for the Summer Institute on the Integration of Women's History into the High School Curriculum, write Amy Swerdlow, Associate Director, Women's Studies Program, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York 10708. Applications must be received by April 15, 1976. The fellowship awards will be announced by May 17, 1976.

The Third Berkshire Conference on Women's History will be held at Bryn Mawr College on June 9, 10, 11. To have your name put on the mailing list for the program and registration form write: Gwendolyn Evans Jensen, Secretary-Treasurer, Department of History, University of New Haven, P. O. Box 1306, New Haven, Connecticut 06505.

The Northeast Victorian Studies Association announces its intention to sponsor a bulletin serving as a clearinghouse of information for people interested in Victorian Britain. We hope that it will act as an international, in-house organ keeping Victorianists informed of the goings-on of various groups: noting exhibitions, conferences, publications, and research-in-progress; registering notes, queries, desiderata; and recording the movements of significant scholars (job-changes, visits, exchanges). Its format will be interdisciplinary, covering such fields as literature, history, art, economics, medicine, architecture, science, religion, psychology, law, and photography. As a bulletin, it should appear as frequently and as cheaply as possible. Intended to fill a perceived gap, it will not compete with any existing publication. Our mailing address is: Lynne F. Sacher, Editor, Victorian Studies Bulletin, Baruch College, City University of New York, 17 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10010.

SESSION SUMMARIES: SESSION I - CRISIS AND SOCIETY

Under the general heading of "Crisis and Society," three papers treated "bourgeois responses to severe disequilibrium in bourgeois society at different stages of development." The first two papers examined "revolutional situations in nineteenth century France, in 1848-52 and 1871. In both of these situations large numbers of people cooperated in new and direct ways with each other. The results were perceived by the bourgeoisie as endangering the maintenance of society. The bourgeoisie unleashed large-scale, intense repressive violence."

Professor Thomas R. Forstenzer, Rutgers College, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey: "Bureaucrats Under Stress: French Prefects and Procureurs-Généraux, 1848 to 1852"

Traditional explanations attribute the acceptance by the Orleanist and legitimist Party of Order of the Bonapartist coup of December 1851 and its attendant violence and disorder to "a manufactured or exaggerated public relations ploy by the Bonapartists and their allies within the police bureaucracies." Drawing upon records in the Archives Nationales for seven departments, with particular attention to three of them, the paper portrays a genuine democratic-socialist movement in existence not merely in Lyon but also in small towns and rural villages. Under the leadership of lawyers, pharmacists, doctors, and minor civil servants, "the chronic . . . *montagnard* threat to the great notables . . . caused the radical counter-revolution of 1851 and 1852." The prospect of three million *montagnards*, disfranchised in 1850, seizing the right to vote in 1852 engendered in the Right a real fear of its overthrow. "The police bureaucrats and the notables in general" presented the issue not in political terms, as a threat to their privileged dominion, but in "moral" terms, as menacing tradition, inequality, and religion. "Bonapartism and the *coup*" did not conjure up insubstantial specters; they faced a flesh and blood mass movement challenging the supremacy of the Right.

Professor Martin R. Waldman, The City College of the City University of New York: "Bourgeois Response to the Paris Commune of 1871"

In 1851 the French bourgeoisie had feared the prospect of a democratic-socialist regime; twenty years later they faced the existence of a revolutionary government in Paris. Class alignments had sharpened in the intervening two decades. While the Commune, on the whole, was not "antithetical to petit bourgeois needs," by now "from chiefs the petit bourgeois had been turned into followers," and "the working class were no longer followers but leaders."

The ruling classes suppressed their own internal differences to form a repressive united front. They protrayed the "Parisian popular class" not as seeking political aims but as criminals, looters, violent outlaws, in the hope of diminishing support for the Communards outside of Paris. In the early stage of repression, the Versaillais executed captured Communards. A statistical study of thousands of personal *dossiers* in the Archives Nationales permits an estimate of 75,000 to 100,000 Communards slaughtered during the last week of repression. Those bearing the overwhelming force of the repressive fury were members of the working class. The renegade petite-bourgeoisie who bore the brunt of the repression in 1851 were treated much more lightly in 1871 than members of the working class.

There is no evidence to deny that such a bloodbath was bourgeois strategy in 1871. Bourgeois response was "grand in its conception and simple in its execution. They hoped to kill as many Communards as possible." Statistical analysis shows that after the initial wave of repression, the homogeneity of the victors weakened and their treatment of the prisoners became absolutely milder, while remaining relatively similar. The trials following the Commune displayed class justice at work. A worker "had three times as great a chance of receiving a harsher sentence" than a shopowner. Quite simply, "the working class was the enemy." With its desperate position in 1871, the bourgeoisie had only one option: massive thorough repression.

Professor Walter Struve, The City College of the City University of New York: "The Uses of Elitism in Pre-Nazi Germany"

Protracted crisis characterized Germany since the 1890's. Unlike the two crises in nineteenth-century France, the lower classes were organized "permanently." Workers posed an endemic threat, while the emergence of monopoly capitalism required far-reaching changes in German institutions.

An important reaction to this crisis can be found in a type of elitism to serve as "a continual response to a continuous crisis." In this "open-yet-authoritarian" elitism a few individuals were to rule without being subject to popular control, but they would be selected without regard for their origins, status, class, or race. Talent would be absorbed into the elite, thereby beheading the proletariat. The elite would stand above the divided and fragmented German ruling class. Elitism reflected endeavors to construct "self-adjusting, self-maintaining mechanisms" for the perpetuation of bourgeois society without employing massive repressive violence, as had been done in the nineteenth-century French cases.

Much systematic research is needed to illuminate the relationship between elitists and big business in Germany. For example, business and other archives must be scanned for evidence bearing on "the ideology, strategy, structure, and activities of industrial associations." Empirical analyses should examine "the relationship between the theory and the practice of elitism."

The chairman-commentator drafted summaries of the panelists' papers and submitted them to the authors for correction, along with a letter expressing gratitude for their punctuality in preparation of the papers and their adherence to the time specifications in presentation. He also wrote: "Your papers individually and collectively exceeded the quality of the papers I have heard at AHA meetings over the past thirty years." This appraisal should not be interred in private correspondence; ergo I put it here.

Harry J. Marks, Chairman
University of Connecticut

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MONTPELIER VERMONT

SESSION II - THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND THE PROBLEM OF AMNESTY

Participating panelists in this session were Dr. Adele Hast, Research Associate, Atlas of Early American History, Newberry Library, whose topic was "Treatment of Loyalists in Virginia during the American Revolution," and Dr. Roberta Tansman Jacobs, Department of History, George Mason University, whose topic was "The Problem of Amnesty after the American Revolution: New York as a Test Case." Dr. David Maas, Department of History and Political Science, Wheaton (Illinois) College, was unable to be present to speak on the topic "The Return of the Loyalists to Massachusetts, 1775-1790." The summaries of their papers by Drs. Hast and Jacobs follow.

Treatment of Loyalists in Virginia during the American Revolution

This study discussed the treatment of loyalists on the Eastern Shore peninsula and around Norfolk, two pockets of loyalist activity in Virginia during the American Revolution. Loyalists were viewed in the context of their communities; local factors affecting the treatment of loyalists were described. The perception of what was loyalist behavior and the treatment of loyalists by their neighbors were examined. The study focused on those loyalists who remained in their communities rather than those who left. This analysis indicated that local factors were more important than either political ideology or the seriousness of the offenses committed in determining treatment of loyalists.

Before the Revolution began, local enforcement of the Continental Association was stringent. Support of the embargo was demanded as an action of Englishmen against violations of their rights by Great Britain; the question of independence was not involved. During the war, treatment of loyalists was low-keyed. Despite chronic complaints about the extent of loyalist activity, relatively few loyalists were brought into court for violations of state law. Where they were tried and convicted, subsequent actions by patriots, particularly on the Eastern Shore, stressed reconciliation, not punishment. Requests for clemency were made by patriots, sometimes by the same men who had brought the charges of loyalism. Loyalists who were imprisoned or banished, subsequently returned to their homes and were reintegrated into communal life, often before the war ended. Those who remained in their communities weathered the war without loss of political rights or property. Treatment of loyalists by local authorities indicated that community harmony was of the highest priority. Locally, loyalist activity was seen in the light of the need to sustain an orderly society and of the importance of maintaining interpersonal and kinship relations basic to the functioning of the community.

Adele Hast
Newberry Library, Chicago

The Problem of Amnesty after the American Revolution: New York as a Test Case

The issue of amnesty for the loyalists generated a serious debate between two, rival conservative whig groups after the American Revolution. New York localists, who mistakenly have been considered democrats, were, in fact, men of a parochial vision who yearned for a pure confederation composed of a virtuous and homogeneous citizenry. In 1783 and 1784, they flagrantly disregarded the amnesty proviso of the peace treaty and engaged in a crusade to purge the states of the tory contamination.

Localist violations of the peace treaty, geared to the attainment of a politically virtuous and unified republic quickly mobilized and solidified a set of opposing perceptions. Another New York group, the nationalists, also desired to establish a virtuous republic but they took issue with the localists and became their opponents. The nationalists believed that the extremist tactics and exclusionary legislation of the localists posed a far greater threat to the security and stability of the frail, infant republic than did the returning tories. Acutely aware of European opinion and America's humble status in the international community, New York nationalists immediately condemned localist peace treaty infractions as vengeful, persecuting, and vindictive. Such unvirtuous behavior, they insisted, immediately created factional alignments which undermined the unity and security of the state and led to crisis, anarchy, and international disdain. The only way to save the new nation from ruin, the nationalists believed, would be to establish a republic based on respect for law and justice. Beginning in 1784 New York nationalists began to offer a prescription to cure the ills of the state. They described an ideal and offered attractive incentives and rewards to motivate conformity.

As the defense lawyer in the Rutgers v. Waddington case and as the author of the polemical Phocion letters, Alexander Hamilton publicized the nationalist position, quickly amplified by John Adams, John Jay, and the Confederation Congress. Hamilton stressed that the national character and governmental stability had to be based on moderation and justice, which could be created and sustained only by a scrupulous adherence to the peace treaty, the American republic's first national obligation. He also delineated a theory of federalism which distinguished between state and national enactments. The peace treaty was part of the law of the land to which all subordinate acts had to conform. Finally, Hamilton presented the doctrine of the separation of judicial and legislative powers when he argued that it was the responsibility of the judiciary, not the individual legislatures, to decide if the laws of the inferior contradicted the higher law, treaties, and the Constitution.

The nationalist argument, as presented by Alexander Hamilton, was reiterated in the other states and in the Confederation Congress. On March 21, 1787, the Confederation Congress unanimously passed a resolution that the separate states should repeal their laws contradicting the peace treaty. The New York Assembly, now strongly nationalist, led by Alexander Hamilton debated the repeal in 1787, and passed the repeal in 1788 before the Constitution was ratified.

Roberta Tansman Jacobs
George Mason University

Comments by the session chairman touched upon the variations in treatment of loyalists in Virginia and New York, the singular role in the latter of Alexander Hamilton, and the absence in both papers of reactions of loyalists to treatment received. Wide-ranging queries and comments then followed from the audience, which numbered some 30 academics representing institutions in all six New England states and one Canadian province.

Malcolm Freiberg, Chairman-Commentator
Massachusetts Historical Society

SESSION III - COLD WAR IN GERMANY

Session III of the Fall 1975 Meeting of the New England Historical Association, "The Cold War in Germany," presented two papers: Robert Carden (Chairman, History Department, Curry College), "Before Bizonia: Britain's Economic Dilemma in Germany, 1945-1946," and Steven Rearden (Harvard University and U. S. Department of Defense), "Defending Europe: American Nuclear Strategy and the Rearmament of Germany, 1954-1959." Richard Weintraub (Fletcher School of Diplomacy and Washington Post) was unable to attend.

Since World War II, Western leaders have followed a policy of military containment vis-à-vis Russia with the concomitant acceptance of the division of both Europe and Germany into East and West. Both the United States and the Soviet Union have ironically professed identical goals for Germany; they wanted her to be a rich, peaceful, independent, unified, democratic nation. But the Russians insisted that Germany be re-created along the same lines as Soviet government and society, with centralized authority and socialization of basic industries, whereas the United States emphasized the development of individual liberties and a free capitalistic system--a model America. For the West, Germany was the core of European defense; only a regime opposed to Communism on every level would be a realiable ally against Russia. The Soviets, on the other hand, believed that only with Germany a Communist nation could Russia rest secure against a revival of the Drang nach Osten.

Professor Carden presented a case study in the relationship between economic power and international relations. He pointed out the genesis of Germany's present political division in the early postwar economic troubles of the British in administering their primarily industrial zone in northwest Germany and in the American exploitation of these troubles to their own ends.

Because of a multiplicity of economic problems, Great Britain was forced to attempt to reestablish a strong German governmental and economic structure even though this conflicted with her major occupation-policy goal of encouraging democratic values in Germany. Thus although the British tried to denazify the hundreds of thousands of prisoners of war released to help in the transport and mining industries of the British zone, their administration had to use vestigial Nazi agricultural institutions for the production, collection, and distribution of food and to delay the start of democratic land reforms. In the basic industries of chemical, coal, and steel production, Britain had similar problems.

Ultimately, in 1947, Russian hostility, manifested in their withholding of food products grown in the Eastern zone from being shipped to the West, combined with Britain's own high cost of occupation and the decline of her postwar domestic and international economic position to force her into an agreement with the United States. The latter would shoulder the costs of running the British zone's economy in return for American control of financial and economic matters in a joint United States-British Bizonia and for the substitution of American Secretary of State George Marshall's policy of private ownership of industry in opposition to the Bevan Labor-government's plan to nationalize German industry. The division of Germany into a Russian-dominated East and an American-dominated West was, therefore, created out of this "breakdown in Big Four cooperation [and] the economic realities of Britain's postwar situation."

Whereas Professor Carden described the relationship between economics and diplomacy, Dr. Rearden studied the interplay of bureaucratic organization with foreign and military-defense policy. Under President Eisenhower, the National Security Council (NSC) was revitalized. It had been designed "to formulate and integrate national security policy and coordinate policy decisions." But within the context of a constantly changing international scene, this NSC system was dangerous; so much effort was devoted to the development of a policy that it was seldom challenged or even reviewed.

Two interrelated problems on the international scene were those of German re-armament and NATO. Although a rearmed West Germany was seen as necessary to off-set the apparent Russian menace to Western Europe, such remilitarization and the integration of German forces into NATO went slowly. So in the early 1950's the NATO Supreme Commander General Alfred Gruenther and the British suggested a "new approach" to NATO' conventional armed force. This plan, adopted by NATO in 1954, gave its ground troops and tactical air forces their own atomic capability independent of SAC. The manpower shortage engendered by the slow entry of German forces into NATO, the reduction in 1957 of British troop strength, and the apparent missile gap touched off by SPUTNIK caused American leaders to accelerate the implementation of this new approach. But by emphasizing atomic weapons, the U. S. thereby moved toward a policy that eliminated non-nuclear options.

This situation was aggravated in the Berlin crisis of 1958-1959. Here, a decision to fight the Russians would have necessitated the use of atomic weapons, for there were no conventional forces strong enough to break a blockade of Berlin or even to influence the Russians through a show of strength. Although NATO was later reorganized to create a stronger conventional capability, the Eisenhower government was locked into its Berlin policy because of the incapacity of conventional forces to prevent political crises from occurring, the reluctance of Germany fully to contribute to its own defense, and perhaps most important, the inability of the bureaucratic NSC system to reverse its 1954 decision to integrate nuclear weapons into the defense system of Western Europe.

Robert Michael Friedberg, Chairman
and Commentator
Southeastern Massachusetts University

SESSION IV - THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FALMOUTH AFFAIR

Summary of a Paper Delivered Before the Maine Academic Historians' Session at the Fall, 1975 Meeting of the New England Historical Association

The time has come to view from a broader perspective the burning of Falmouth, Maine on 18 October 1775. Apart from the fact that this was a most spectacular episode in Maine's Revolutionary Period history, the Falmouth affair was significant for two additional reasons: its importance in the context of the American desire for independence and its strategic significance.

Earlier generations of Maine historians demonstrated little inclination to place the destruction of Flamouth in the perspective of the American Revolution as a whole. On the other hand, general works on the Revolutionary War mention the importance of the event but tend to assume that because of the spectacular nature of the destruction and because the Declaration of Independence stated that George III has "burnt our towns," then, of necessity, Falmouth was a key contributory factor in the American desire for independence. In fact, the assumption is warranted, but documentation is necessary.

The proof of the importance of the Falmouth affair as a contributory factor toward independence is, obviously, to be found in the American reactions to the event. Based on the considerable evidence provided in newspaper comment, private correspondence of prominent colonists, and actual defense preparations (strengthening of fortifications along the New England coast, Massachusetts legislation authorizing privateering, and the beginnings of a Continental naval policy), the burning of Falmouth appears to have further accentuated the crisis in Anglo-American relations to the point of driving many to advocate independence as the only alternative in light of severe British pacification measures.

To understand the strategic significance of the Falmouth affair, the incident must be placed in the broad imperial context. The American-centered colonial empires of Europe collapsed during the half-century between 1775 and 1825 in a series of revolutions throughout the Western Hemisphere which rejected European political rule. The imperial powers on the whole were highly unsuccessful in pacifying the insurgents. Only the British enjoyed the relative freedom to exploit a superior navy in the task of reestablishing imperial authority within their colonial empire. Yet in the absence of a formal doctrine of pacification the British naval commanders resorted to ad hoc arrangements. Eventually, an informal methodology of strategic isolation of the colonies and amphibious operations emerged. These were basically manifestations of general habits of maritime warfare applied to the unique situation of colonial insurrection.

During the first few months of the Revolution, however, no such methodology had yet evolved. The dilemma of Britain's colonial policy during the years 1774 to 1776 magnified the strategic doctrinal confusion. The North Ministry, which at this time consisted of men with a variety of outlooks on Anglo-American affairs, was uncertain as to whether the thrust of its colonial policy should be coercive or conciliatory. Vague orders to Vice Admiral Samuel Graves, Commander-in-Chief of the British North American Squadron, mirrored the Ministerial indecision. Graves consequently demonstrated a "semi-neutral" conduct. This resulted in severe criticism which put Graves in the position of having to take some naval action which would redeem himself in the eyes of his superiors.

Admiral Graves adopted the ad hoc measure of what could be regarded as strategic naval bombardment as a direct means of imperial pacification. He ordered a small squadron under the command of Lt. Mowat to lay waste the major coastal communities between Boston and Halifax. The implicit object was to make the New England coastal population "feel the weight of an English fleet." Graves hoped to break the colonists' will to resist by overawing them with a vivid and destructive demonstration of British naval power. Due to a combination of circumstances the British only destroyed one community, Falmouth, Maine. Like virtually all attempts at strategic morale bombardment in history, and most notably the Allied strategic bombing campaign during World War II, Graves' coastal bombardment scheme failed. Contrary to the Admiral's expectations, the inhabitants of the one town destroyed not only did not lose their will to resist but also resolved to support the rebellion with renewed vigor.

As a means of imperial pacification, therefore, strategic naval bombardment as evidenced in the destruction of Falmouth failed in its limited application. Subsequent British naval commanders rejected it in favor of more orthodox means of prosecuting naval warfare in this unique colonial revolutionary situation: namely, blockade, commerce warfare, and amphibious assault.

Donald A. Yerxa
University of Maine, Orono

AFTERNOON SESSION - THE RECORDS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Perhaps it is poetic justice that a President most noted for his brooding aloofness and his intense desire for privacy will probably end up as the most completely and intimately documented President ever. His reliance on the tradition that a President's papers were his own private property to dispose of (as long as it was in the public interest) may have emboldened him to install the automatic tape recording equipment in the first place. Ironically, his insistence on being treated as an honest man with good intentions--as if nothing had really happened--touched the flame to some incendiary reactions.

The reference is to three days in September, 1974, which uprooted 200 years of tradition regarding the ownership and administration of Presidential papers. On September 6, Attorney General William B. Saxbe presented a brief in favor of Richard M. Nixon's claims of private ownership of the 42,000,000 items in the Presidential files; and Nixon proposed to General Services Administrator Arthur F. Sampson a long agreement setting forth terms for administering the papers including movement to California, severely restricted access, and the eventual destruction of White House tapes. On September 7, Mr. Sampson signed the agreement. The next day President Ford pardoned Nixon.

These events created an uproar which has not died out either in the Courts or in the Congress. There were a host of suits to stop Sampson from carrying out the agreement, to gain access, to force Sampson to comply, and to test the constitutionality of the Congressional action. "The Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act," was signed by President Ford on December 19, 1974. It combined Gaylord Nelson's Senate bill to place GSA in charge of Presidential records, with John Brademas' House action to form a "National Study Commission on Federal Records and Papers of Elected Federal Officials" to propose legislation. The public, branches of the Federal Government, the O.A.H., A.H.A., and Society of American Archivists were to be represented on this Commission.

Whether remedial action was taken through the courts or via legislation the recurring issues are as follows:

(1) Are presidential files owned privately by the former president or publicly by the Government?

(2) How does one balance the contesting claims regarding access? On one side are privacy, confidentiality, executive privilege, and national security; on the other are a democracy's right to know, freedom of information, and continuity of government from one administration to another.

(3) Where can a line be drawn between personal and public papers?

(4) Where is the locus of authority to resolve honest differences of opinion involved in the administration of decisions on the three issues above?

(5) Will successful assertion of public ownership of Presidential files cut down on documentation of future presidencies?

A growing body of opinion holds that the ownership issue is not as important as the issue of accessibility. There have been few complaints about the ownership by other presidents because their papers have been reasonably open to research and available to agencies of government. John Eisenhower reported that Dwight Eisenhower made some Israel correspondence available to the Johnson Administration without a hassle when it was discovered the only copies were in the Eisenhower papers. Most reasonable people understand time seals and restrictions based on the real concerns for security, privacy, and other matters. That papers should not be used to "injure, embarrass or harrass any living person" is a recurrent theme in all these arrangements. Nixon, however, has used confidentiality of office of president and privacy of individuals to justify the destruction of tapes recorded without knowledge of Nixon's visitors and callers.

Most reasonable people would also allow a president to take away personal though not public papers. How does one decide between the two? Former presidents acted as if they knew the difference between personal and official papers. Steps were taken to make the latter available to research as soon as possible. Under typical presidential library arrangements a former president set up a committee which mixed friends, family members, and sometimes professionally-trained people and which decided vital matters of access.

This clearly will not be acceptable in the case of the Nixon presidential papers. Thus, a crucial pragmatic question is how to switch from private control of personal papers to public control of official documentation. At the moment, however, there is neither public authority, nor legal machinery to adjudicate disputes over access.

The 48th American Assembly, which met at Arden House in April (at the suggestion of Mack Thompson, Executive Director of the American Historical Association), recommended the creation of a new public authority to take over the National Archives from the General Services Administration. This authority's non-political board--with widely diverse professional and political representation--would present the President with nominees for the position of Archivist of the United States. The board would also

act as a court of appeals from the Archivist's decisions covering administration of the records of elected and appointed officials of the United States Government.

There is an alarming aspect to these developments. The concept of public ownership has already been suggested for papers generated by both Houses of Congress and by the Judiciary. States have a tendency to follow the Federal lead in archival matters. The costs are apt to be enormous. More importantly for the long view, there is sure to be a great imbalance in documentation between the private and public sectors. Future historians' views of American History may be gravely distorted as a consequence.

Richmond D. Williams
Eleutherian Mills
Historical Library

The sessions summarized above were held at the fall 1975 meeting in Portland, Maine. The following summary is of a session held in the spring of 1975 at Pine Manor Junior College, which the NEWS did not receive in time for the fall 1975 issue.

SESSION II - WOMEN IN THE MASSACHUSETTS LABOR MOVEMENT

Lucille O'Connell, Bridgewater State College, "Mary Kenney O'Sullivan"

Stephen H. Norwood, Columbia University, "The New England Telephone Operators and the Strikes of 1919 and 1923"

Stephen Thernstrom, Chairman
Harvard University
Paul Faler, Commentator
University of Massachusetts, Boston

The New England Telephone Operators' Union, 1912-23.

On March 26, 1912 in Boston, Massachusetts, twenty toll operators initiated one of the most important developments in American labor and feminist history: the organizing of the New England Telephone Operators' Union. In the eleven years prior to its defeat in the 1923 New England Telephone Strike, this union built the largest and most influential women's labor organization in New England history and, outside the needle trades, in the history of the United States. Fighting a constant battle against attempts by both management and government to destroy it, the Telephone Operators' Union at the peak of its strength in 1919 paralyzed telephone service in New England in the greatest strike against a public utility ever experienced in this country--a strike with a deep effect on the rest of the labor movement that has been obscured to this day.

The telephone operators were organized by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, with the assistance of the Women's Trade Union League. In 1913 the new union was forced to poll a strike vote. The Telephone Company refused to recognize the union or its right to collective bargaining, and would not grant an eight-hour day. It imported strikebreakers from as far away as Minneapolis and Chicago to break the threatened strike. The operators remained at work as their leaders, a group of girls in their late teens and early twenties, won the demands in negotiations with top national company officials.

In 1919 the very existence of the Telephone Operators' Union was threatened. The telephone system, under government control in 1918-9, had been placed under the supervision of Postmaster-General Albert S. Burleson. Burleson fiercely opposed trade union organization among government workers, suspending the right to organize and bargain collectively where it existed in the telephone service. In a six-day strike under the leadership of Julia O'Connor in April, 1919, the telephone operators of New England completely shut down the telephone system in five New England states. The rights Burleson had withdrawn from the telephone workers were restored. The New England strike had a deep impact on the coast-wide Pacific telephone strike and the Boston Police strike later in the year.

At its convention in the fall of 1919 the Telephone Operators' Union was at the peak of its strength. It boasted some two hundred locals representing one-fifth of the telephone operators across the United States and Canada. But in the next few years the union experienced a quick decline. By the early 1920s the Telephone Operators' Union had been broken in every section of the country save New England. Beset with factionalism, the union attempted to strike in New England in 1923. The introduction of the dial system by the Telephone Company endangered thousands of jobs. The union was in a much weaker position than in 1919. The two-month strike ended in a terrible defeat, and the complete and final destruction of the Telephone Operators' Union. The New England telephone operators remained unorganized for forty-eight years until 1971, when they again joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Stephen H. Norwood
Columbia University

Commentary on the above:

The two papers presented today have much in common. Both deal with women. Both focus on working people and on trade unions. Both also join together two historical fields of inquiry that are of growing interest to historians--working people and women's history. And both make contributions that help correct an imbalance in each of these two fields.

Women's history, especially of the more popular variety, dwells on "great Women" or "notable women," or on movements for women's political rights. In each case the subjects are usually middle class women. Both papers help dissolve that narrow class orientation.

Secondly, labor history has been concerned chiefly with the work experience of men, ignoring for the most part women wage earners who either joined unions dominated by men or remained unorganized and thus beyond the purview of historians. Although neither condition would justify neglect of the Boston telephone operators, their union lasted scarcely a decade. Perhaps for this reason Selig Perlman accorded them only a few lines in volume IV of the Commons History of Labor in the United States, 1896-1932.

The two papers are also a contribution to the local history of Boston. They are part of a continuing effort to broaden the city's history to include people whom the chairman of this session has referred to as "The Other Bostonians," those beyond Beacon Hill, beyond the captain's desk of sailing ships, and beyond the Back Bay and the Atheneum and the Massachusetts Historical Society. Any local history that omits the mass of men and women who made history is poor history. The two offerings presented today help remedy that omission.

The two studies also focus on a period in American history in which working people in the East were on the defensive. Their struggles had become skirmishes in which wage earners sought the minimal rights to organize and bargain collectively. No longer did there ring out in Boston, as in the 19th century, the cries of "abolition of the wage system," or "producers are entitled to the full fruit of their toil." The system had become vastly more powerful, seemingly impregnable to major assault and capable only of reform. Thus, both Mary Kenney and the telephone operators sought the same goals: the right to form unions, bargain collectively, and improve their economic and social conditions, all the while remaining wage earners, still dependent upon their employers for the right to work.

A few questions and critical comments on each paper. Despite her stated intention of illuminating Mary Kenney's philosophy, O'Connell tells us very little. She reveals a warm, generous sympathetic woman eager to aid working women. But on what basis, and to what end? If we view ideology partly as an explanation of why things happen, and partly as the source for alternatives to existing conditions, Mary Kenney remains bereft of ideology. The author mentions Kenney's goal of "industrial democracy," but provides no further explanation of its meaning other than the notion that "all who worked had a right to a share of the world's wealth." Does that mean simply a little more for the worker, as Sam Gompers and Adolph Strasser prescribed; all for the producers, as the socialists demanded; or only a share determined by the laws of supply and demand in the competitive market place, as employers insisted?

Mary Kenney was in Chicago during the mid-1880's. She was a young, outspoken woman of rebellious inclinations who helped found a women's trade union of bookbinders. Chicago at that time was a cauldron of labor radicalism, of socialism and anarchism, of class stife, of pervasive Knights of Labor activity, all of which culminated in the Haymarket incident of May 4, 1886. (One might add that the chain of events leading to the bomb explosion in Haymarket Square began on Mayday, celebrated as labor day everywhere in the world except in the country of its birth where it has been renamed Loyalty Day.) Was Mary Kenney perhaps touched by the turbulent events of that period? The Knights, after all, were pioneers in the organization of women workers. In 1895, Mary Kenney returned briefly to Chicago, scene of the great Pullman strike some months before. Again one searches in vain for some mention by either Kenney or O'Connell of that important event in the experience of American workers.

One wishes also to know more of Mary Kenney's peculiar relationship to the rich matrons of Boston. For someone who was "always more comfortable with working class women," Mary Kenney seems to have spent a good deal more time with middle class professional women than with working women. Elsewhere in the paper the author informs us

that "she found life in Boston congenial and comfortable with friends from among the Boston reformers and the academic community in Cambridge and Wellesley," strange testimony from one who presumably ought to have been in South Boston and Dorchester rather than at Harvard and Wellesley. A residue of class consciousness no doubt prompted conflicting feelings. The basic component of indigenous working class consciousness has been the labor theory of value, and this fundamental principal found expression in Mary Kenney. Like many working people, she divided society into producers and non-producers, extending the division to women as well. There were two classes of women: those who earned a living by working and those who got their wages from the work of others." Or, as Bill Haywood of the IWW put it: "Show me a man with a dollar he didn't earn and I'll show you a man who earned a dollar he didn't get." Perhaps she saw a connection between the underpaid women toiling in dingy garment shops and shoe factories and the leisured ladies with whom she chatted while sipping tea and munching crumpets.

The uneasiness that sprang from class differences also emerged during Mary Kenney's tenure on the Women's Educational and Industrial Union's Committee on Domestic Reform in 1898. Ostensibly charged with the task of alleviating unemployment by finding positions in homes for jobless women, Mary Kenney discovered, first, that industrial workers did not want to work as servants and, secondly, perhaps, that upper class women were less eager to help the unemployed than to find servants to wait on them.

The Lawrence strike of 1912 was a turning point in Mary Kenney's career. Although the author offers no evidence to confirm the suspicion, Gompers and Golden apparently black-listed her for insubordination for her support of a strike condemned by the AFL and led by the IWW. Surely Kenney's fate confirms the existing criticism of the AFL--a stodgy, smug indifference to the needs of unskilled foreign-born workers. But Kenney's brief alliance with the IWW is unclear. She commends the Wobblies for organizing the unskilled and maintaining "discipline and order." But is that the extent of her support? Was the IWW merely the union of last resort, valued for organizing cast-offs and maintaining "discipline," or did the IWW ignite in her the flames of that fiery spirit her contemporaries saw in the young Mary Kenney?

Steve Norwood has greatly enhanced our knowledge of women trade unionists with the untold story of the Boston telephone operators' brief but impressive achievement. They created, in the author's words, "the largest and most influential women's labor organization in New England history and, outside the needle trades, in the history of the United States."

The most puzzling feature of Norwood's account is the contrast between the strikes of 1919 and 1923. The turnout of 1919 was truly extraordinary, particularly when compared with the fate of other strikes in the same year or with the operators' own encounter four years later. Unity was nearly complete, organization superb, support from other workers effective. The strike four years later was a disaster of profound consequences. Factionalism and bitter accusations irreparably harmed the Operators' Union. The result was a humiliating defeat and the extinction of unionism in the New England Telephone Company for the next fifty years.

Why? What went wrong? The author's explanation is vague, resting weakly on two factors: company policy and union dissension. Companies have often used a carrot and stick method in discouraging unions. The author mentions the stick but omits the carrot. He conveys only the image of a ruthless and devious firm engaging in union busting, destroying the Operators Union. But there is more to antiunionism than the truncheon, strikebreakers, the blacklist,and naked intimidation. The early 20th century witnessed the birth of corporate welfarism and public relations, of paid holidays, cafeterias, pension systems, recreation facilities, and a constant barrage of slick propaganda that helped inculcate loyalty to the company. There are hints in the paper that the company used these techniques. The male telephone workers voluntarily withdrew from the IBEW and eventually became a company union. The operators followed the same course, but the nature of that process is unclear. For a fuller view I would call Norwood's attention to the recent article by John Schacht on the Bell system's national labor policy, a study which appeared in the last issue of Labor History.

Julia O'Connor was a figure at the eye of the storm in the operators union. An early member of the union, a leader in the strike of 1919, she became head (appointed or elected we don't know) of the Telephone Operators Department of the IBEW, and the controversial protagonist in the disastrous strike of 1923. Just prior to the strike, O'Connor revoked the charter of local 1A because, the author states, there was poor leadership, declining membership and administrative and financial irregularities. Large numbers of members--some say a majority--rejected O'Connor's intervention, did not participate in the strike vote, remained at work during the strike, and campaigned actively against the walkout. O'Connor's behavior was a bold, almost suicidal, gamble to preserve the union against mounting odds. In any event, she held a view of the situation that most operators did not share.

It is much easier to criticize than to create, to raise questions rather than provide answers. The quality of the short installments given here today makes me confident that Norwood and O'Connell will satisfy the few questions I have raised.

Paul Faler
University of Massachusetts (Boston)

ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPT ACCESSIONS

The Abraham Lincoln Collection - Bridgewater State College

The Abraham Lincoln Collection at The Clement C. Maxwell Library was started with the acquisition of the Arthur Lloyd Hayden Collection of books, periodicals, scrapbooks, and photographs on January 28, 1975. This collection of the late Mr. Hayden was secured for Bridgewater under the auspices of Dr. Jordan D. Fiore, Vice-President of the Lincoln Group of Boston and Chairman of the Division of Social Sciences at Bridgewater State College. Mr. Hayden was a longtime collector of Lincolniana and in 1938 became a member of the Lincoln Group of Boston.

A bibliography, prepared by Mrs. S. Mabell Bates, provides a finding list of the books and some periodical material in Special Collections together with the books and microfiche in the main library collection. This is an active collection, added to currently by faculty, students, alumni, and friends. New material will appear in future bibliographies.

The 77 scrapbooks in the Hayden Collection are being indexed in detail by Mrs. Sylvia Larson. The working card files of the Index are accessible in the Special Collections Department.

The variety of materials ranges from programs and ticket stubs to booklets by the noted Lincoln scholar, F. Lauriston Bullard,from a recipe for Lincoln's favorite cake, to discussions of Mary Lincoln by many (and often disagreeing) scholars, to an article by Jacques Barzun on Lincoln's literary genius. Famous portraits, statues, and photographs can be "seen" via the picture postcards, sketches, and photographic reproductions. Famous authors and historians can be "heard" through their own articles or the reviews of their works.

Some of the items from these scrapbooks will be exhibited in the Maxwell Library, Special Collections Department in February. While the exhibit will coincide with the February 7th meeting at Bridgewater State College of the Lincoln Group of Boston, it will be organized with the hope of introducing "A. Lincoln" to new admirers as well as interesting his longtime friends. This exhibit, with some changes, will continue into the month of June.

Yale Center for Parliamentary History - Yale University

The Yale Center for Parliamentary History (YCPH) now has a complete catalog of its holdings. The Center was established by Professors Elizabeth R. Foster (Bryn Mawr) and J. M. Hexter (Yale) in 1965 for the twofold purpose of (1) acquiring manuscript materials pertaining to English constitutional history for use by students in this country and (2) continuing the work in seventeenth century parliamentary history begun by Wallace Notestein.

In regard to the first point, the Center has by now acquired through means of photographic reproduction what amounts to the largest single collection of sixteenth and seventeenth century English parliamentary manuscript material in the world. The collection, containing papers and diaries of importance to students of American constitutional history, as well as English, consists of microfilm and photostatic copies from the British Library, Public Record Office, Bodleian, Cambridge University Library, and various small libraries and record offices throughout the British Isles. Also available for use, in conjunction with the Manuscripts and Archives department of Sterling Library, Yale, are films of selected State Papers from the late Elizabethan and early Stuart periods and virtually all of the calendars of the Elizabethan and Stuart patent rolls. Many patents for fishing rights and land grants in the New World are in this series.

The Center also has some materials useful to scholars working on Elizabethan and Stuart intellectual and social history. Among them are Professor Notestein's files (rich in social history references), which although not yet sufficiently organized for expeditious use, are open and might provide some aid to the diligent researcher.

In regard to the second purpose of the YCPH, as described above, we are pleased to announce that the first three volumes of Commons Debates 1628 are now completely edited and scheduled in the Yale Press fall publications list. These three volumes will take the reader through the passage of the Petition of Right in both Houses of Parliament. It is expected that the final volume of text and the Index volume will closely follow.

The YCPH is open five days a week from 9 o'clock until 4 and is located in 335A Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. It would be helpful for scholars desiring to work at the Center to write in advance.

Maija J. Cole, YCPH

Colby College Archives - Colby College

The Colby College Archives has recently made available for research five collections of papers. The earliest materials date from the 1790's and are contained in the Isaac Case family papers and the John Tripp papers. Both men were Baptist missionaries to the white settlers of Maine and left record of their spiritual musings and ministerial activities in numerous personal letters and diaries covering the years 1789 to 1845.

Another religiously-oriented collection contains the correspondence, poetry and scholarly writings and drawings of nineteenth century biblical scholar Timothy Otis Paine. In 1861, Paine wrote the definitive work, Solomon's Temple (recreating the Hebrew Temple, the Ark of Noah, Solomon's house and the tabernacle of the wilderness. Paine was professor of Hebrew at the Swedenborgian Theological School of Boston and minister to a Swedenborgian church. His collection also contains several rare Swedenborgian publications including an 1854 liturgy and an 1837 Sunday School lesson book.

Two other collections of papers present information concerning United States national and international affairs. Richard Shannon, civil war soldier, minister to Central America and United StatesRepresentative from New York, kept a diary throughout his career. The forty-volume diary begins in 1862 with his service in the Civil War and ends in 1920 with informed comments on Woodrow Wilson's efforts to obtain a peace settlement after World War I. The Asher C. Hinds papers contain approximately twenty personal letters (1890-1910) to Hinds from Thomas B. Reed ("Czar Reed"), speaker of the United States House of Representatives. Hinds was Clerk to the Speaker and Parlimentary Clerk of the House, 1889-1911.

News Release from Clark University and the New England Archivists

This spring, the College of Professional and Continuing Education of Clark University and the New England Archivists will again co-sponsor a course, "Archives and Manuscripts: Their Care and Feeding." The course, modified this year to reemphasize techniques in the arrangement, description, preservation, and use of handwritten documents, is designed to assist those with a responsibility for or an interest in archival materials. The problems and needs of local libraries and historical societies will be considered, with particular attention devoted to familiarizing those concerned with local

records with procedures and policies designed to protect this unique historical material. The course will be taught by William L. Joyce, Curator of Manuscripts at the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Ma. Joyce organized a similar course last year which attracted an enrollment of twenty-five persons. The course will carry two credits on a pass/no record basis for those who elect to enroll for credit; arrangements may also be made to take the course for graduate credit. The course will meet in Worcester on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., from April 24 through June 12, except for May 29. Interested persons may contact the College of Professional and Continuing Education at Clark University, Worcester, Ma. 01610.

Announcements for acquisitions additions, additions to collections, or new finding aids should be forwarded to James K. Owens, Chief, Archives Branch, Federal Archives and Records Center, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham, MA 02154.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS IN NEW ENGLAND STUDIES

Title: "Washington County, Maine:
America's Rural Tradition"

The purpose of this research is to analyze and to record tradition and change in Washington County, Maine. The general defining questions are these: (1) What are the humanistic traditions of Washington County? (2) What economic, political, social, and spiritual changes are affecting the patterns of those traditions? The project is conducted under a program of the Maine Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, which seeks to apply the insights of academic humanism to public policy issues of the community at large.

Methods of research have included extensive interviews and study of historical records, legends, photographs, relics and debris, all aimed at implementing production of a documentary film about Washington County. The hour-long, 16-mm., color film, entitled "A Question of Survival," will be used for civic organizations, ad hoc public meetings, schools, and television broadcasts. Displays of still photographs from past and present Washington County will accompany the film.

Project director is Professor Margaret Kenda, with filmmaker Professor William Kenda, both of the English Department, University of Maine at Orono. Researchers from the University of Maine at Machias are Professor George Thurston and Dean Frederick Reynolds in the Department of History and Professor Stanley Moody, Chairman of the Humanities Department.

This project is related to interests in several fields: English, history, performing arts (film), political science, sociology, anthropology. The film will be ready for showing by winter, 1976. Information is available from Margaret Kenda, Assistant Professor of English, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04473.

Title: "A Short History of Maine Literature."
General Field: Literature. Maine.
Name: Richard Sprague
Affiliation or address: Department of English,
University of Maine at Orono
Type: Book

An analytical narrative account of the development of literary works having a Maine setting. Selected works in various genres, from the eighteenth century to the present, are considered. Special attention is given to their exemplification of pastoral motifs and attitudes. A brief survey of the pattern of publication of Maine-setting literary works in general will also be included.

Title: "Patterns of Life in Brooksville, Maine: 1850-1870."
General Field: Nineteenth century American social history
Name: Robert J. Mitchell
Affiliation or address: Department of History,
University of Maine at Orono
Type: Master's essay

A small rural community situated on the eastern shore of Penobscot Bay, Brooksville, Maine, had about 1300 inhabitants in the 1850s and 1860s. During these decades it experienced not only a serious decline in its major industries, shipping and shipbuilding, but also a vastly increased rate of out-migration by the persons associated with those industries. This study examines the characteristics both of those who left and of those who sayed, so that one may comprehend the factors of personal, familial, political, social, and economic importance which shaped the community during this period and thus better comprehend the nature of small rural communities in the nineteenth century.

Under examination is the hypothesis that family prestige and power outweighed all other factors in determining who remained, who thus gained control, and who were forced to leave Brooksville. The resultant picture of the community's structures, hierarchies, and social networks reveals a pattern in which the few dominant families acquired the lands of the migrants, subdivided their own tracts, and eventually made permanent their control over the community. This relationship of family power to other community suzerainties has been determined by a quantitative and qualitative analysis of all available information, which has been extracted from census reports, land and probate records, church documents, and other surviving data.

All research in progress relating to New England studies will be welcomed. They may be in areas other than history, but because of space limitations, they should have a clear relevance to the life, culture, and history of the New England states. All items for items for the fall issue of the NEWS must be in the hands of William H. Pease by June 1; for the spring issue, by January 1. Only research in progress is contemplated; no published articles, books, or the like will be included. Send entries to: William H. Pease, Department of History, University of Maine at Orono, Orono, Maine 04473.

BOOK REVIEWS: Joseph S. Van Why. Nook Farm. ed. Earl A. French. Hartford: The Stowe-Day Foundation, 1975. 72pp/$2.50

In 1853 Francis Gilette and John Hooker bought one hundred and forty acres in what is now Hartford, Connecticut. For years the property had been known as Nook Farm. In the next twenty years, as friends and relatives of the two men bought pieces of the farm and built houses, the area around Forest Street and Farmington Avenue became famous as a literary and reform center.

In 1950, Kenneth Andrews wrote Nook Farm: Mark Twain's Hartford Circle (rpt. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 1969). Andrews' book treated the Hartford literary colony from the point of view of its members' influence on Mr. Clemens. In 1962, Joseph S. Van Why wrote a thirty-six page pamphlet entitled Nook Farm which dealt with Nook farm members Harriet Beecher Stowe, Isabella Beecher Hooker, Mark Twain, and Charles Dudley Warner in their own right. The 1975 Nook Farm is an expanded, revised edition of that work.

Mr. Van Why's brief sketches of the lives of the original four, plus such figures as William Gilette, Catharine Beecher, Katharine Day, Katherine Hepburn, and Joseph Hawley, present these people from a national and, more particularly, a Hartford point of view. The pamphlet is pleasantly written and copiously illustrated. The number of pictures has been increased from four to thirty, materially enhancing the pamphlet's appeal to both the general reader and the specialist. Much of the expansion of the work was made possible by the material available to Mr. Van Why at the Nook Farm Research Library.

Located on the corner between Mark Twain's house on Farmington Avenue and Mrs. Store's house on Forest Street, the Library is in the Katherine Seymour Day House. Its collections now number over twelve thousand volumes, eighty thousand pieces of manuscript material all fully catalogued, and over four thousand pamphlets, architectural drawings, and plans. The library concentrates on the architecture, decorative arts,and literature of the nineteenth century with particular emphasis on the residents of Nook Farm.

In addition to supporting the library, the Stowe-Day Foundation has published catalogues of exhibits held in the Nook Farm Visitor's Center (Self Portrait by Jared B. Flagg, 1972; A Selection of Nineteenth Century Chairs, 1973) and reprinted significant works associated with Nook Farm residents (Catharine Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe's The American Woman's Home, 1975). Last October it sponsored a two day symposium entitled "Portraits of a Nineteenth Century Family: A Symposium of the Beecher Family."

E. Bruce Kirkham
Ball State University

Recent Texts in the History of the United States (to 1877): A Review Article

The task of selecting an appropriate text for survey courses in United States history is one which instructors meet annually with varying degrees of frustration. Will the students read it? Does it make the past exciting? Does it adequately complement one's individual style and approach? These problems are compounded by the multiplicity of texts available. Established publishers offer several texts with differing approaches, and new publishing houses emerge annually attempting to capture some of the textbook market. I hope that this review of various texts available for survey courses in United States history to 1877 will alleviate some of this frustration.

Available texts readily fall into two general categories. First are those which chronicle the events of a period. Narrative is given the greatest attention and minimal effort is expended to provide a synthesis. Second, are those texts which attempt to sketch the course of the American past through some interpretive scheme.

The most widely used texts certainly fall into the first category. Still the best of the surveys is the well-written, balanced, and comprehensive Growth of the American Republic (Oxford, 6th ed., 1969) by Morison, Commager, and Leuchtenberg. A classroom staple for four decades, it has however fallen into disfavor in recent years. Its length and its cost (hardcover only) allow little room for the use of supplementary materials. Also its style and dearth of visual materials is unattractive and unappealing in an era of open admissions.

Leading the challenge to Morison et al. has been The National Experience (Harcourt, 3rd ed., 1973) by Blum, Morgan, Rose, Schlessinger, Stampp, and Woodward. While it may provide too little material on the colonial period to suit some or may deal insufficiently with social history, it is excellently written and comprehensive and deserves the wide acceptance it has received.

Among the other widely used texts are John Garraty's American Nation (Harper, 3rd ed., 1975) which combines excellent narrative with biographical vignettes lending a human dimension missing from many surveys. Thomas Bailey's American Pagent (Heath, 5th ed., 1975) still possesses the wit and style which has made it famous. A History of the American People (McGraw-Hill, 2nd ed., 1975) by Graebner, Fite, and White is also solid traditional history and in its most recent edition has made efforts to provide interpretive material giving body to the skeleton chronical. Finally, American History: A Survey (Knopf, 4th ed., 1975) by Current, Williams, and Freidel is balanced and comprehensive. Slightly less factual than the others with brief historiographic essays that will help students see the complexity of the past, it also provides a sound introduction to American history.

In recent years, several historians have produced texts designed to present in more abbreviated form the course of the American past. The advantage of such texts is that they do not intimidate the student with their prodigious length and allow flexibility in the use of other materials. The almost universal short-coming, however, is that in their search for brevity, the authors have sacrificed comprehensiveness, depth, or both.

Among the better brief histories is The Democratic Experience (Scott, Foresman, 3rd ed., 1973) produced by no less than nine pastmasters. Also of note is The Americans (Harcourt, 2nd ed., 1976) by Bedford and Colbourn. The latter contains an excellent introductory essay on the American character, a topic to which authors of traditional textbooks should devote more attention. Both of these brief histories suffer, however, by being virtual outlines, presenting so much in detail that they have lost the flavor and nuances of the past.

As course enrollments have declined in the past few years, many historians have become disgruntled with the traditional textbook and have searched for material that is interesting and relevant for the contemporary student. Many have objected that in the

traditional text Peggy Eaton often gets more space than the rise of mass politics and that the Battle of Saratoga gets more billing than the colonial legislatures. They object to social and cultural history being tacked on to the end of what is essentially a political narrative.

For those who have grown disgruntled, a new type of book has emerged. Interpretive flow and consistency take precedence over comprehensiveness and narrative. Events are often relegated to time lines and chronological tables. Many of these texts offering alternative approaches are noteworthy volumes; others, however, demonstrate the pitfalls of attempting to be too relevant.

Clark and Remini's We the People (Glencoe, 1975), for example, is a volume that is visually attractive but expends so much effort relating the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to the twentieth that it lacks coherence. Portrait of a Nation (Heath, 1973) by Borden and Graham devotes three of its eight chapters to "Life in America," attempting to be more "people" and less "fact" oriented. These chapters, however, are little more than chronicles. Looking Backward (McGraw-Hill, 1974) by Gardner and O'Neill is a frustrating book. While interpretively strong, it demands constant attention by the instructor to supply the background necessary for the student fully to appreciate its contents. In addition, the chapters do not blend together well. O'Neill displays a penchant for traditional interpretation; Gardner writes with a New Left tinge. The result is a hodgepodge.

One of the more intriguing of the new approaches is Weinstein and Wilson's Freedom and Crisis (Random House, 1974). Chapters are linked in pairs. The first investigates in detail an episode such as Salem Witchcraft or John Brown's Raid; the second covers the period as a whole. The concept is refreshing. It is only hoped that in a future edition more effort will be made to integrate the two chapters (as well as each section) more smoothly.

A most remarkable volume is Rozwenc's Making of American Society (Allyn and Bacon, 1973). The author cleverly weaves the social, political, economic, and cultural together in such a way as to present a unified view of early American history. It is very definitely, however, an historian's text. Longer than most, with difficult and often esoteric discussions of such topics as Puritan political philosophy and the Great Awakening, only the best student will be able to handle it.

In his book, The Shaping of the American Past (Prentice-Hall, 1975), Robert Kelley weaves a good balance between fact and interpretation. Highly readable, the text may be considered enlightening by both student and teacher because of the author's inclusion of current historiographic questions in various periods, especially those of the new political and social history. Kelly's book also has the virtue of placing American history in a trans-Atlantic context which may appeal to those approaching it from a European background.

Ray Ginger's A People on the Move (Allyn and Bacon, 1975) displays both the best and the worst of the new genre. Having removed all but the most essential detail, it is a superb interpretative essay emphasizing Americans' mobility, especially their economic advances. It is also an extremely well integrated text. Each chapter, for example, begins by referring the student to relevant materials in previous chapters. A People on the Move, however, falls apart on the rocks of relevancy. The author's attempts to make the past meaningful lead him into conversational prose and awkward analogies. Emerson's "Self-Reliance," for example, is seen as a nineteenth century equivalent to How to Win Friends and Influence People. Relevancy also leads him to pay the expected homage to minority groups, but he ignores the Whig party, the greatest minority of them all.

Just as every man is his own historian, so every instructor must in the long run write his own text to satisfy his own needs and objectives. It is hoped, however, that from this plethora of materials each may find a suitable text though it be an imperfect product in an imperfect world.

Robert J. Imholt
Albertus Magnus College

The History of Modern Science: Old, New and Varied

Although my own area of research is the history of endocrinology, I do not intend to offer, in this review, rejuvenating prescriptions for either history or history of science. There has been, however, a recent sense that the field--once incomprehensible to the general historian--has taken a new direction, especially since the publication in 1962 of Thomas S. Kuhn's Structure of Scientific Revolutions (Chicago), a book that stimulated new varieties of historical thought and gave courage to historians of science, social scientists, and linguists to break out from and even to denounce "positivistic" history of science.

There was a stimulating discussion of this "new historiography" at the fifteenth anniversary meeting of the History of Science Society (at Norwalk, Connecticut in October, 1974) in which Gerald Geison, a post-Kuhnian scholar of the history of Biology, offered sober reflection on the degree of progress--or even change--in the new scholarship. The contributions of the three generations of American historians of science have been different; the bibliographical and institutional tasks facing the field initially were simply enormous, and the stimulus to create journals, libraries, texts, and monographs came from scientists and believers in the value of positivistic science. Yet it is clear that this stimulus and point of view are far from dead, and recent awards in the field show that the analysis of scientists as solvers of natural puzzles continues to produce the distinctive literature of this field. The Pfizer Award for the best book in the History of Science went to Joseph Fruton's Molecules and Life (in 1972), and to Frederick L. Holmes's Claude Bernard and Animal Chemistry (in 1974). Both books accept at face value the goals and achievements of scientists as they were judged by their peers.

Many historians, however, have been restless with that point of view, and uninterested in the problem-solving experience of scientists. Other types of analysis--literary, social and institutional--have characterised all three generations of historians of science, but recently, according to Robert K. Merton (in Theoretical Sociology, 1965), the historians have surpassed sociologists in the social and political breadth and imagination of their monographs. Merton, I think, underrates the importance to historians of works like Joseph Ben David's

The Scientist's Role in Society (Prentice Hall, 1971), the temptation to historians of all types to look for easy answers from social scientists, and Merton's own contribution. I think the flourishing of the social sciences, as well as exemplars such as Kuhn's Structure of Scientific Revolutions, have had their effect. There has been a quickening of the pace of institutional histories of science. Recent histories of institutions such as the Franklin Institute (Bruce Sinclair, Johns Hopkins, 1974), or of movements such as Birth Control and the Americans (James Reed, Harvard, 1976), or any of a number of forthcoming monographs on hospitals, institutes and societies are notable for their accuracy, depth, and awareness of the social structure of the scientific community and of the diffusion of new ideas.

The restlessness of current historians of science, however, has gone deeper than this and led some of them to reject functional institutional studies as well as positivism. On the one hand, politically-conscious historians have documented the intrusion of ideology into science, and of service to the status quo into the scientific role: Hilary and Steven Rose, Science and Society (Penguin, 1970) is one of many examples of a new attitude which has led--in England especially--to a historiography primarily committed to the documentation of the political involvement and consequences of modern science. Sexism in nineteenth century medicine, and racism in twentieth century eugenics have been obvious and handy examples, and I would expect this variety of scientific history to become more prevalent and less dogmatic in spite of its present sectarianism, and in spite of the defensiveness of its scientific critics.

My prediction of the appeal and success of a broader social history of science is based on some recent studies. Thomas F. Glick edited papers on The Comparative Reception of Darwinism (Texas, 1974) which goes beyond the political involvement and consequences of this modern science to an exposition of the varieties of the Darwinian experience in different countries and disciplines. These authors have deliberately avoided the single approach to Darwinsim found in some recent studies by biologists (cf. Michael Ghisilin's The Economy of Nature and the Evolution of Sex, California, 1974), Kuhn-watchers (cf. John Greene, "The Kuhnian Paradigm and the Darwinian Revolution" in Duane, H. D. Roller, ed. Perspectives on the History of Science and Technology, Oklahoma, 1971) and psychologists (cf. Howard E. Gruber and opportunist Paul H. Barret, Darwin on Man: a Psychological Study in Creativity (1974)).

They emphasize the cognitive and social opportunism that has marked the history of Darwinism. This view is shared by Yehuda Elkana who has reconstructed the foundation of the concept of The Conservation of Energy (Harvard, 1974) from the intellectual, social and institutional history of the mid-nineteenth century. Although quoting the anonymous saying that "science owes more to the steam engine than the steam engine to science," this book is a broad and balanced view rather than an attempt to hand out historical rewards.

In short, current histories of science do have new and special characteristics: a concern with the nineteenth century, with social issues, and interest in structural and comparative history. Their most striking characteristic is, however, simply their variety, liveliness, and readability.

Diana Long Hall
Boston University

MINUTES: BUSINESS MEETING - University of Maine, Portland, Maine
October 4, 1975.

President Jane Pease called the meeting to order after lunch with words of welcome to members and guests. The minutes of the May 3, 1975 business meeting were approved as circulated in the NEHA News, and it was announced that the formal treasurer's report would appear in the next issue. A temporary vacancy in the History Department at the University of Rhode Island was noted.

The president extended her thanks and the thanks of the Association to Robert Lougee and others who had worked on the program, R. Draper Hunt and the rest of the University of Maine, Portland, local arrangements committee, to Gwendolyn Jensen for her work on the NEHA News, and to the secretary and treasurer of NEHA.

Ron Formisano, for the nominating committee, described the nominating procedure and introduced the candidates named in the nominating committee's report. After no further nominations were made from the floor, the nominations were declared closed and ballots were distributed. The following officers were elected, to take office at the spring meeting:

President: Robert W. Lougee
Vice President: Giles Constable
Executive Committee: Charmarie J. Blaisdell
F. David Roberts
Nominating Committee: Kenneth F. Lewalski
Emiliana P. Noether

The ballots were collected as the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
John Voll, Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - University of Maine, Portland, Maine, October 4, 1975.

The meeting was called to order by President Jane Pease after the social hour of the fall meeting. The first major subject was the schedule for coming meetings and programs. The fall meeting date of October 23, 1976* at the Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire, was affirmed. The president was instructed to continue with arrangements for holding the spring 1977 meeting at Harvard University. There was general discussion of the program arrangements for the spring 1976 meeting, and James Owens was asked to act as liaison with the archivists to arrange for an appropriate number of joint panels.

There was general discussion of the nominating and election procedure with the Executive Committee deciding that the Association's constitution should be distributed to the members in some form, possibly in the newsletter, with comments solicited.

* Change to October 16, 1976

Finances were discussed,and it was agreed that the treasurer's report could be distributed through NEHA News. It was also agreed that the Association should charge some registration fee for people attending the conferences but not the luncheon.

The president said that she had been contacted by the University of Pittsburgh regarding exchanging mailing lists. The executive Committee agreed not to do this.

Relations with the American Historical Association were discussed, and the secretary was instructed to inform the AHA of election results and meeting dates for inclusion in the AHA Newsletter.

Gwendolyn Jensen suggested that the NEHA News be sent without charge to selected libraries, as a way of getting greater visibility for NEHA. The proposal was approved. She also noted that the book review section of the newsletter might be expanded.

The meeting was adjourned at about 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Voll, Secretary

The officers of the New England Association for 1976-77 are:

Robert Lougee, President
Giles Constable, Vice President

The members of the Executive Committee are:

Frank Freidel, Jr.
Claudia Koonz
Charmarie Blaisdell
F. David Roberts
Gwendolyn E. Jensen, *ex officio*

The members of the nominating committee are:

Mary A. Harada
Darrett B. Rutman
Ronald P. Formisano
Catherine M. Prelinger
Kenneth Lewalski
Emiliana Noether

The executive committee has asked that the Constitution of the New England Historical Association be included in this issue, with the request that readers comment upon it. Of particular interest is the question of elections. It has been past practise to elect officers at the meetings, and the executive committee wonders whether or not it would be a good idea to conduct elections by mail, so that all members may participate.

Would you please address your comments on the NEHA Constitution to the Secretary, John Voll, Department of History, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire 03824.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

I. NAME. The organization shall be known as The New England Historical Association.

II. PURPOSES. The purposes are both social and intellectual: to offer an opportunity for the members of the profession in the area to become better acquainted with one another, to exchange the results of their research, and to discuss their mutual problems and possible solutions.

III. MEMBERSHIP. Membership is open to all persons in the New England area who are interested in the study, teaching, or writing of history.

IV. MEETINGS. An annual meeting shall be held in the Fall at a time and place to be set by the Executive Committee. The election of officers shall be held at this meeting and the installation will be at the Spring meeting. Other meetings may be scheduled throughout the year. The place of meeting may be rotated from campus to campus. (As amended 4 May 1974.)

V. OFFICERS. There shall be elected annually, by majority vote of the membership, a President and a Vice President. A Secretary and a Treasurer shall be elected, by majority vote of the membership to serve for three-year staggered terms. (At the first election, the Treasurer shall be elected for a two-year term and the Secretary for a three-year term.) The President shall preside at the meetings. The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President and shall have the additional duty, in consultation with the other members of the Executive Committee, of arranging programs for each meeting.. (As amended 8 March 1969 and 4 May 1974.)

VI. NOMINATION AND ELECTION. A Nominating Committee of six shall be elected by the Association for a three-year term. For the first election, two will be elected for three years, two for two years, and two for one year. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to solicit nominees and to report a slate to the President in sufficient time to be included in the call for the annual meeting. (As amended 8 March 1969 and 14 April 1973.)

VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the four elected officers, the immediate Past President for two subsequent years, the Vice President designate, and four members elected by majority vote of the membership for two-year terms. The Executive Committee may appoint special committees as it sees fit. (As amended 8 March 1969 and 4 May 1974.)

VIII. AMENDMENT. This constitution may be amended at any scheduled meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members voting, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted through the Executive Committee and circulated to all members at least one month prior to the scheduled meeting.

BY-LAW

I. Dues shall be assessed annually by vote at the annual meeting. (As amended 4 May 1974.)

ANNUAL DUES..........$4.00 STUDENT DUES..........$2.00

NAME______________________________

AFFILIATION______________________________

MAILING ADDRESS______________________________

______________________________ZIP__________

Please make checks payable to The New England Historical Association and mail to: John Voll, Secretary, New England Historical Association, History Department, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824.