

SPONSORED BY THE HISTORY CHANNEL

2007 Awards Banquet

*September 8, 2007
OMNI CNN Center
Atlanta, GA*

The background is a light beige color. On the left side, there is a cluster of three apples with green leaves. A large, white, ornate frame with a scalloped border and a central circular motif is positioned on the right side. The text "2007 AASLH ANNUAL MEETING" is centered within this frame.

2007 AASLH ANNUAL MEETING

RELEVANCE = THE BOTTOM LINE

SPONSORED BY THE HISTORY CHANNEL



THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

2007 Awards Banquet



6:15 p.m.

Dinner Served

6:45 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Terry Davis, President & CEO, AASLH

Introduction of Speaker

Donald P. Zuris, Chair, AASLH Awards Committee
Head Curator, Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History

Awards Address

Jay E. Hakes, Executive Director, Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum

7:30 p.m.

Presentation of AASLH Award of Distinction

Barbara Franco, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Chair, AASLH

Comments

Carol Kammen, Award of Distinction Winner

Presentation of AASLH Awards

Donald P. Zuris, Chair, AASLH Awards Committee
Barbara Franco, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Chair, AASLH
Terry Davis, President & CEO, AASLH



Letter From the President & CEO

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 62nd annual awards banquet co-sponsored by our friends at The History Channel. Since 1945, AASLH has proudly sponsored the AASLH Awards Program to recognize the best in state and local history. This year, we debuted a new name for the program, the Leadership in History Awards. AASLH feels this name more accurately represents the spirit of the AASLH's awards program.

This year, AASLH is proud to confer seventy-two national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, books, and organizations. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history. All winners deserve our thanks for the important role they play in keeping history alive in our communities and our nation.

The Leadership in History Awards represents a year-long, national effort that requires many hours contributed by a large number of faithful volunteers. Bethany Hawkins is the AASLH staff liaison to the awards program. Don Zuris chairs a national committee comprised of representatives from each region. Each state has its own state leadership chair who volunteers to make sure the best projects in his or her state are brought to our attention. It is a massive effort, and I would like to take this time to give a big thanks to Bethany, Don, and the regional and state representatives for their hard work and dedication.

The Leadership in History Awards has benefited from the long-time support of The History Channel and its representative, Dr. Libby Height O'Connell. Libby and the staff at The History Channel understand the importance of state and local history and the need to recognize exemplary efforts in the field. We are proud to count The History Channel and Libby among our many friends in the field.

Thank you for joining us for this special evening.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Davis
President & CEO

Letter From the Chair

Each June, the Awards Committee of the American Association for State and Local History convenes in Nashville, Tennessee to discuss, debate, and ultimately to vote on the nominations submitted. Amid the melodious sounds of mockingbirds and the sweet smell of magnolia trees, the Committee pours over the nominations including all of the required documentation—organizational histories, budgets, letters of critical review, exhibit floor plans, photographs, samples of exhibit labels, and program evaluations from the public and professional educators. Throughout the course of three days, the Committee asks of each nomination two simple questions: “Is it good history?” and “Is the individual’s or organization’s community better off as a result of the nominated project or person?” These are relatively simple questions, but very difficult to answer. It is never an easy task, nor should it be. The process is lengthy and rigorous, but the result is very satisfying. We all come away from the meeting exhausted but inspired by the quality and innovations that are represented in the projects submitted for our review.

Stephen Weil, former deputy director of the Smithsonian’s Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, writes that a good museum is one “that is operated with the hope and expectation that it will make a positive difference in the quality of people’s lives.” It is the purpose of the Awards Program to encourage this standard of excellence and innovation in state and local history. For sixty-two years, the American Association for State and Local History has sponsored the program to publicly recognize achievements that have made a difference in people’s lives.

AASLH bestows several awards. The Award of Merit is presented to recognize excellence for projects, including special projects, educational programs, exhibits, publications, and restoration projects, individual achievement, and organizational general excellence.

The WOW Award, given at the discretion of the Committee, is an award for a project that is highly inspirational, exhibits exceptional scholarship, and/or is exceedingly entrepreneurial (in terms of funding, partnerships, or collaborations), creative problem solving, and unusual project design and inclusiveness. The Albert B. Corey Award, named for a former president of AASLH, is awarded only occasionally, and recognizes primarily volunteer-operated historical organizations that display exceptional qualities of vigor, scholarship, and imagination. Finally, the Award of Distinction is given to individuals recognized nationally as leaders in state and local history in recognition of long and very distinguished service, and is only awarded after an exhaustive critical review process.

The Awards Program is truly a national grassroots effort. Each nomination is reviewed at the state level by a team of museum professionals and historians, and at the regional level by a regional chair. If the nomination is judged favorably, the regional chair brings the nomination to Nashville for consideration by the national review committee. The AASLH staff make the entire process as smooth as possible.

My thanks go to the many people who offer their time and expertise to make the Awards Program a success. The Awards Program is an on-going, year-long process. But my heartiest congratulations go out to you, the award winners, whose commitment to excellence in the field of state and local history reaffirms for me the importance and potential of our work as we chronicle the evolution of this grand experiment we call the United States of America.

Congratulations on a job well done,

Donald P. Zuris
Chair, AASLH Awards Committee
Head Curator
Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History
Corpus Christi, Texas

Leadership is History Awards

Leadership in History AWARDS

Now in its sixty-second year, the AASLH Leadership in History Awards establishes and encourages excellence in collections, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. By publicly recognizing excellent achievements, AASLH strives to inspire others. AASLH confers four different types of awards:

Award of Distinction

Bestowed infrequently and only in recognition of long and very distinguished service.

Recipients are noted for their contributions to the field of state and local history
and are recognized nationally as leaders in the profession.

The individual must have demonstrated the highest standards of performance and professional ethics.

WOW Award

Given to a project that is highly inspirational, exhibits exceptional scholarship, and/or is exceedingly entrepreneurial (in terms of funding, partnerships, or collaborations), creative problem solving, or unusual project design and inclusiveness. This award is given at the discretion of the awards committee to five percent or less of the total Award of Merit winners .

Albert B. Corey Award

Named in honor of a founder and former president of AASLH and recognizes primarily volunteer-operated historical organizations that best display the qualities of vigor, scholarship, and imagination in their work.

Award of Merit

Presented for excellence in history programs, projects, and people when compared to similar activities nationwide.

2007 Award of Distinction Winner

2007 Award of Distinction Winner

Carol Kammen

AASLH is pleased to announce Carol Kammen as the recipient of the Award of Distinction, AASLH's highest honor.

Ms. Kammen serves as a senior lecturer at Cornell University where she teaches local history, among other courses. She imparts to her students that local history is not just history of specific communities, but the problems, joys, ethics, sources, and themes of local history. Kammen has served as guest speaker and consultant to dozens of museum, historical societies, and humanities councils around the country. Along with her teaching, she serves as the Tompkins County Historian and was recently awarded public historian of the year by the State of New York.

But Kammen's greatest contribution to the field is her publication record. After writing articles for *New York History*, she authored *On Doing Local History: Reflections on What Local Historians Do, Why, and What It Means* (1986), a look at how local historians practice their craft that is now in its second edition. She followed that with *The Pursuit of Local History: Readings on Theory and Practice* (1996) and later co-edited the *Encyclopedia of Local History* (2000). She has also written three books on Tompkins County history as well as produced several historical dramas on local history for children. Since 1995, she has written the "On Doing Local History" column for *History News* magazine, several of which have been reprinted in *Local History* magazine produced in the United Kingdom.

2007 Winners

2007 WOW Award Winners

Maine Humanities Council
Portland, ME for *Taxing Maine*

Boston Public Library
Boston, MA for the exhibit, *John Adams Unbound*

Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, MN for the exhibit, *If These Walls Could Talk*

LeRae S. Umfleet & North Carolina Office of Archives and History
Raleigh, NC, for the *1898 Wilmington Race Riot Report*

2007 Albert B. Corey Award Winner

The Hillsborough Historical Society, Hillsborough, NH, for the preservation of Hillsborough's Historic Manahan-Phelps-McCulloch Photographic Collection. This all-volunteer organization accepted a collection of over 75,000 glass plate and film negatives along with the daunting task of properly cataloging and digitizing the collection. They began by seeking out professional training and holding workshops for volunteers before beginning the cataloging process. As of March 2007, they had processed the majority of the collection and continued to digitize the photographs to make them readily available to the town of Hillsborough.

2007 Award of Merit Winners

ALABAMA

Robert S. Davis, Hanceville, for the book, *Ghosts and Shadows of Andersonville*: in American history, their stories tell the saga of a nation in change facing ethical challenges. *Ghosts and Shadows* seeks to prove that all American history is local.

ARIZONA

Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum, Bisbee, for the exhibit, *Digging In: Bisbee's Mining Heritage*. This innovative exhibit weaves the complex stories of how a society's demand for copper impacted the history of copper mining in the West, how a western mining community responded to that demand, and how its response has shaped our national history.

CALIFORNIA

The Heyday Institute, Berkeley, for excellence in publishing and educational programming. For over thirty years, Heyday Institute has been expanding the very boundaries of California history by publishing works on subjects that otherwise would have been ignored or marginalized. Whether environmental history, Native American cultures, or early Spanish and Mexican documentation, Heyday has pioneered the introduction of new subjects and has provided new insights and value to marginalized cultures and forgotten materials.

COLORADO

Colorado Springs Museum, Colorado Springs, for the Pike Expedition Bicentennial Project. The museum's year-long commemoration of Zebulon Montgomery Pike's southwestern expedition was an extraordinary success that raised the profile of the institution and accomplished significant educational goals. They completed three major exhibit installations as part of this special project. The staff developed a clear vision for the project and specific interpretive themes, and used these to create new educational programs that reached a broad audience.

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Historical Society and Museum, Hartford, for the exhibit, *History is All Around Us*. This exhibit uses everyday item to teach Hartford's rich history. Throughout the exhibits, the staff made efforts to use stories and examples of people of all ages from various racial and ethnic groups so that visitors could find themselves in the exhibition.

Connecticut Historical Society and Museum, Hartford, for the book, *Connecticut Valley Furniture: Eliphalet Chapin and His Contemporaries, 1750-1800*. This landmark publication makes significant contributions to regional and local history by offering a new paradigm for interpreting furniture production and dissemination in the Connecticut valley. Based on systematic analysis of over 500 pieces of case furniture, it attains national significance as a model of field-tested, empirical methodology that can be adapted to studies of pre-industrial production elsewhere.

Coventry Historical Society, Coventry, for the program, *Coventry 1900-1913*. This in-depth school program examines life in a small mill town and surrounding community through pre- and post-activities, a bus tour, and an onsite tour of a one-room schoolhouse. The program reestablished the historical society's relationship with the local school system and illustrates the historical society's mission, to document all Coventry's history to many people in the community who perceive it as only interested in the colonial period.

Shelton Historical Society, Shelton, for the exhibit, *Stitches in Time*. This exhibit, featuring the society's quilt collections, involves cataloging the collections, conserving four and exhibiting fifteen of the best quilts, the publication of a catalog, and a lecture. The exhibit and accompanying guidebook inspired visitors to become caretakers of their won personal and family history.

Shelton Historical Society, Shelton, for the reinterpretation of the Brownson House. This circa-1820 example of early Greek Revival vernacular architecture was moved to its present site in 1971. The society recently underwent a planning process to reinterpret the house to show early life in Shelton.

Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum, Wethersfield, for the website, Silas Deane Online. The museum designed its new website as a solution for reaching high school students with the history of the Deane House and Silas Deane. The site includes photos, a timeline comparing Deane with his famous contemporaries John Adams and George Washington, bibliography, and the transcription of one hundred primary source documents. History teachers report success with the website in teaching high school students about this important part of Connecticut history.

DELAWARE

The Lewes Historical Society, Lewes, for the Lewes and Delaware 375th Anniversary Celebration. Exhibits and public programming helped tell the story of Delaware's Dutch and maritime heritage. It resulted in a state-wide celebration of the anniversary of the first European settlement in the state, raised awareness of the critical importance of the Lewes settlement to the existence of Delaware, and raised the potential of heritage tourism in the state.

FLORIDA

Truman's Little White House, Key West, **Florida Atlantic University**, Boca Raton, and **the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library**, Independence, MO, for the Truman Legacy Symposium. Each year, Truman family members, remaining Truman White House staff members, and world-class scholars meet in Key West to discuss the legacy of President Harry Truman on the current generation. Topics include national security, civil rights, peace in the Middle East, American Indian policy, and environmental issues.

2007 Winners

GEORGIA

The Coastal Georgia Historical Society, St. Simons Island, and **Hughes Bowman Design Group** for the Maritime Center at the Historic Coast Guard Station. In April 2006, the Coastal Georgia Historical Society opened the Maritime Center at the Historic Coast Guard Station. This Roosevelt-era Coast Guard Station provides an unique opportunity to learn about and experience life as a coastal resident in the 1940s while learning about the ecology of the islands. A true melding of cultural and natural history, this museum's exhibition gives the visitor a different perspective about the history of this region and about how and why we must protect our coast.

The Columbus Museum, Columbus, for the exhibit, *A Life in Letters: Lt. Col. Robert A. Hardaway in the Civil War and the New South*. This exhibit draws on dozens of letters and journals written by Chattahoochee Valley native Robert A. Hardaway (1829-1899) to examine the life and times of one of West Georgia and East Alabama's most distinguished military and educational leaders. Driven by excerpts of Hardaway's writings, the exhibition details in an engaging fashion one family's experiences in a turbulent era in regional history.

Georgia Humanities Council, Atlanta, **University of Georgia Press**, and the **University System of Georgia** for the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. Since its launch in 2004, the online *New Georgia Encyclopedia* (www.georgiaencyclopedia.org) has seen over 20 million page views from users across Georgia and around the world. This project, designed to help users understand Georgia's past, present, and future, is a fine example of an online encyclopedia because of its innovative use of technology and its presentation of authoritative and comprehensive information about state and local history and culture.

HAWAII

Lyman House Memorial Museum, Hilo, for the preservation and interpretation of the Lyman Mission House. In 1930, the Lyman House became the first structure preserved in the town of Hilo and the museum has kept it at the forefront of preservation with the maintenance of high professional standards. Recently, the museum undertook an historic structures report and used it to guide a complete restoration and reinterpretation of the property. The museum now provides visitors to the oldest, extant frame structure on the island of Hawaii with the most authentic experience and accurate interpretation of the home and lifestyle of the Lyman missionary family in 1840s-1860s.

ILLINOIS

McLean County Historical Society, Bloomington, for the project, *Journey Through the Great Depression*. From the crash of the stock market through the attack on Pearl Harbor, this exhibit takes visitors on a road trip through the 1930s. This expedition explores the broad range of conditions experienced by local residents in their own eleven-year journey through the Great Depression.

Midway Village and Museum Center, Rockford, for *1900 Rockford: An American Chautauqua*. The museum used an historical Chautauqua model to promote lifelong learning for visitors of all ages with its *1900 Rockford* program. This event explored the differences and similarities of American life in the year 1900 to the present. Using popular entertainers of the period, including Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, along with drama, music, art, debates, and hands-on activities, the village was transformed into a venue for quality living history programs.

INDIANA

Carnegie Center for Art and History, New Albany, for the exhibit, *Ordinary People, Extraordinary Courage: Men and Women of the Underground Railroad*. This exhibit represents the first version shared of the powerful story of the antislavery community in Floyd County, Indiana. This exhibit is a superb example of creative collaboration and inclusiveness, unique project design, and exceptional scholarship.

Center for Historic Preservation, Ball State University, Muncie, for the book, *Muncie History: A Handbook for Fourth Grade Teachers about Muncie History*. This handbook is designed for use in elementary schools to help teachers connect themes from the statewide history textbook to the history of the Muncie community. As a result of the project, teachers have a single resource that enables them to teach local history and develop a sense of place and community pride in their students.

IOWA

The State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines, and the **Meskwaki Nation Historical Preservation Office** for the interactive CD-ROM, *Meskwaki History*. From 2003-2006, these two organizations partnered to create an interactive CD-ROM of primary source materials on the history of the Meskwaki tribe thus expanding their educational services and utilizing innovative technology as a tool for public access and archival preservation. One thousand copies of the CD-ROM were distributed to individual members of the tribe and students at the Meskwaki Settlement School.

KANSAS

Johnson County Museums, Shawnee, for the JoCoHistory.net website. The Johnson County Museum, in collaboration with the Johnson County Library, developed an interactive website featuring the history of Johnson County, Kansas. The site features a fully-searchable database of 15,000 photographic images and historic atlases from the collection of the Johnson County Museum, the Johnson County Archives, and the Olathe Public Library.

Johnson County Museums, Shawnee, for the book, *Johnson County, Kansas: A Pictorial History, 1825-2005*. This publication examines three major themes over time: people, land, and economics by focusing on the fundamental issue of how middle-class Americans have organized their homes, families, and communities. The book successfully places the local community in a context of state and national historic themes, while still presenting a local history text for the community.

KENTUCKY

James C. Klotter and **Freda C. Klotter**, Lexington, for the textbook, *Faces of Kentucky* and its accompanying Teacher Guide. This textbook for Kentucky elementary students takes children on a voyage of discovery as they use the primary sources featured throughout the text to solve history's mysteries. *Faces of Kentucky* is a prototype for a new generation of state studies, one that engage students more and makes learning an entirely different experience.

LOUISIANA

Jennifer John, **Get Fresh Media**, and **The Laura Center for Creole Heritage**, New Orleans, for *Reconstructing Creole*. This documentary tells how and why Louisiana culture is different from the rest of America by weaving the life of Laura Locoul Gore and the restoration of her home to reveal a rich story about plantation-era, Creole Louisiana. Following a devastating fire in 2004, the restoration of Laura Plantation frames the documentary and plays an ongoing role in bringing this unique heritage to light.

MAINE

Maine Humanities Council, Portland, for the public program, *Taxing Maine*. This play and public forum about the unlikely subject of taxes in the state of Maine proved to be a successful programming tool about an important topic in Maine civic history. The program toured thirty-three Maine libraries, schools, museums, and other civic spaces to rave reviews. The play provided historical context in an entertaining way along with a vehicle for conversation about a contentious political issue in the state with the nation's highest tax burden.

MARYLAND

The Jewish Museum of Maryland, Baltimore, for general excellence in exhibits, publications, and public programming. The Jewish Museum of Maryland has broken the boundaries of the ethnic museum with compelling programs, exhibitions, publications, and partnerships designed to engage new and diverse audiences. Pioneering initiatives enabled both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences to find meaning and relevance in the stories the museum tells.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Public Library, Boston, for the exhibit, *John Adams Unbound*. Deposited with the Public Library in 1894, the John Adams Library includes over 2,700 volumes collected by President John Adams. This exhibit uses Adam's library to reveal how the intellectual content and historical context of Adams's reading reflected and informed his world. Throughout his life, Adams scrupulously recorded thousands of handwritten notes in his books. This groundbreaking exhibition charts the development of Adams's political and moral convictions through the interpretation of his library and these remarkably preserved interactions with his reading.

The Bostonian Society, Boston, for the stabilization of the Old State House. This iconic American structure is owned by the City of Boston, and has been maintained by the National Park Service since 1974, but has been operated as an historical site by The Bostonian Society through a lease arrangement since 1881. In October 2005, the building faced the possibility of structure failure, but neither the city or NPS were able to offer financial support to remedy the problem. Recognizing their role as the moral stewards of the building, The Bostonian Society authorized immediate repairs, saving one of the nation's most historic buildings from imminent danger.

Concord Museum, Concord, for the publication, *An Observant Eye: The Thoreau Collection at the Concord Museum*. This fully illustrated, 160-page interpretive book brings public awareness and accessibility to the museum's distinguished collection of objects related to Henry David Thoreau. In the book's groundbreaking essay, curator David Wood explores the role that objects played in Thoreau's intellectual life. The book encourages visitors and scholars to view the museum as a resource for object-based learning about Thoreau, stimulating new research in a variety of disciplines.

Historic New England, Boston, for the publication, *The Camera's Coast: Historic Images of Ship and Shore in New England*. This is the first book in a Historic New England series featuring its collections in new ways that will appeal to both the specialist and casual reader. It is a collection of historic photographs, paired with a rich assortment of ephemera illustrating life along the New England coast from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries.

Lucia Knoles and the **American Antiquarian Society**, Worcester, for the website, *Northern Visions of Race, Region, and Reform*. This website highlights the often forgotten issue of race in nineteenth century America in the Northern states using personal correspondence. In the nineteenth century, it was common to read recent letters aloud. Today, websites are the vehicle for sharing knowledge and this site makes exhaustive use of its potential. It breathes life into a time nearly forgotten, and provides new vision into our local and collective past.

Woods Hole Historical Museum, Woods Hole, for the *Hear Woods Hole*, audio tour of a Cape Cod village. *Hear Woods Hole* is an innovative audio walking tour that brings patrons outside the museum into the streets of the village. The audio pieces are a mix of narration and oral history, telling the town's history through the voices and stories of its people.

MICHIGAN

Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Kalamazoo, for the publication, *Museography*. Published three times annually, *Museography* is an awareness-building magazine with the goal to attract adult audiences throughout Southwest Michigan. Articles spotlight the 125-year-old museum's collections and artifacts, telling the stories of the people behind those "things of history," and the roles those objects played in daily life. Feedback from readers has resulted in a regional exhibition, and the magazine is credited in helping the museum reach a thirty-two percent boost in visitation in the last year.

2007 Winners

MICHIGAN

Michigan Technological University and **Erik Nordberg**, Marquette, for the project, *An Interior Ellis Island*. Historians and the general public often underestimate the importance of Michigan's Upper Peninsula mining industries in the state's development. Smaller organizations and institutions in this geographically-remote area of the state hold much of the best historical resource material on this aspect of state history. This project has created accessible web resources that familiarize users with the history of this region and allow them to explore the complex community of ethnic and cultural backgrounds attracted to this urban outpost along the shores of Lake Superior.

MINNESOTA

Anoka County Historical Society, Anoka, for the exhibit, *Vietnam: The Veteran's Experience*. This exhibit began with the goal of gathering local history that had never been recorded and using it to create an exhibit. While this initial goal was met, the exhibit quickly became something else, something unexpected, and very incredible. It became a special place for Vietnam veterans to share their stories with family, other vets, even people they had never met. Many admitted it was the first time they had ever talked about some of their experiences in Vietnam. This exhibit has transcended a simple history lesson to become, as one veteran put it, "The pardon we never thought we'd get in our lifetimes."

Donald Empson, Stillwater, for the publication, *The Street Where You Live: A Guide to the Place Names of St. Paul*. The concept of this book is simple: a listing with the history of every place in the city of St. Paul. It is a comprehensive collection of every street name, park name, cemetery name, names of creeks and lakes, bridges and stairways, caves, and distinctive neighborhoods. This book serves as a portal into the mysteries of St. Paul.

Margaret Ladd Sinn, Waseca, for an outstanding career dedicated to preserving the history of Waseca County. Margaret Sinn retired in December 2006 as the longest serving executive director of the Waseca County Historical Society. She initiated the greatest changes in making WCHS a modern participant in the maintenance and dissemination of county history. She grew the membership, increased the collections and its accessibility, and inspired her board, staff, and membership to strive to do better and continue loving history.

Marian Bemis Johnson, White Bear Lake, and **Dorothy McIntyre**, Edina, for the publication, *Daughters of the Game*. Research for this book started in 1978 when Marian Bemis Johnson began looking for answers as to why she, along with thousands of other high school girls in Minnesota, was denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports from 1942-1970. Research uncovered an extensive interscholastic program that existed before the 1940s and led to interviews of many of the women who played basketball during that early era. The result is a scholarly book highlighting the social history of girl's basketball in the state from 1900-1942.

Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, for the exhibit, *Open House: If These Walls Could Talk*. This groundbreaking exhibition opened in January 2006 using a single, existing St. Paul house as a window into the daily lives and hidden dramas of people of the past. *Open House* tells the stories of the working-class families who actually lived in the house, from the first German immigrants through Italians, African Americans, and American Indians, to the Southeast Asians who succeeded them. Through multimedia and hands-on techniques, visitors actively explore recreations of the house from different eras and gain intimate glimpses of the people who made it home.

Morrison County Historical Society, Little Falls, for the publication, *Nathan Richardson: A Big Hearted Palefaced Man*. Nathan Richardson wrote the first history of Morrison County in 1876 and updated it in 1880. These histories have been difficult for researchers to access because they only appeared in serial form in the newspaper. During an intensive three-year process, MCHS retyped his histories and inaugural addresses, researched and wrote his biography, photographed artifacts, created the layout, compiled an index, and edited the manuscript. The book renewed public interest in a man who played a crucial role in the history of Morrison County.

Red Rock Center for the Arts, Fairmont, for the preservation, rehabilitation, and reuse of the First Church of Christ Scientist. This building, built in 1898, had fallen in disrepair since its use as a house of worship ended in 1987. Designed by Harry Wild Jones in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, the building was a well-known landmark in Fairmont. The Martin County Preservation Association began restoration efforts in April 2002. It is now preserved and serving the local community as a center for arts and community gatherings.

Steven R. Kinsella and the **Minnesota Historical Society Press**, St. Paul, for the publication, *900 Miles From Nowhere*. This book is the heartfelt chronicle of the daily lives and personal struggles of Great Plains homesteaders, told in their own voices through many never-before-published letters, diaries, and photographs. This book presents its information in such a way to allow multiple entry points. It also allows the people from the past to speak to those of us in the present in a relatively unmitigated dialog.

Stevens County Historical Society, Morris, for the addition to the Morris Carnegie Library. With little done to this 1903 structure over the century, the building was showing its age. After four years of fundraising and construction, the restoration of and addition the building used as the county museum was complete. The project is being honored for its commitment to the highest standards of historic preservation and its contribution to the history of Stevens County.

MISSOURI

Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, for the Missouri Death Certificate Database. This project is the most ambitious online project ever completed by the archives and its most popular. The database contains over two million death certificates searchable by name, county, month, and year (at no charge to the researcher). Digital images of certificates from 1910-1931 and 1950-1956 are linked to the database and available online. Under construction for a year-and-a-half, the database was met with an unprecedented demand upon its release in April 2006. Within five weeks, researchers conducted over one million searches, a peak of several searches per second.

MONTANA

Historical Museum at Fort Missoula and Cherry Creek Radio, Missoula, for the radio program, *Missoula History Minutes: 250 Years of Missoula Stories*. In the winter of 2005-2006, Cherry Creek Radio and the Historical Museum partnered to produce a series of sixty, minute-long stories about Missoula history. The radio group wanted to add a new dimension to their on-air programming by exploring Missoula history and the museum wanted to gain visibility, increase people's awareness about Missoula history, and make history fun. As a result of this project, the museum has enjoyed increased visibility and attendance. Cherry Creek Radio was so impressed with the popular response that they are considering producing another sixty *Missoula History Minutes*.

Montana Department of Transportation, Helena, for the publication, *Conveniences Sorely Needed: Montana's Historic Highway Bridges, 1860-1956*. This book, sponsored by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and written by MDT historian Jon Axline, records Montana's transportation history in a new way and fosters an awareness of the importance of historic preservation. The book has resulted in a statewide lecture tour, photographic exhibit, and the establishment of an historic bridge rehabilitation program at the MDT.

Montana Historical Society, Helena, for the DVD, *Montana Mosaic: 20th Century People and Events*. The state of Montana lacks a state history textbook and until now was without a comprehensive resource for teaching twentieth century Montana history. This project was created expressly as an instructional tool by a team of educators, historians, and video producer in order that educators have access to previously-unobtainable content material for teaching Montana history. This resource is the first of its kind in the state, and provides teachers and students with comprehensive, accurate, and engaging information about Montana's place in the twentieth century.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Richard Holmes, Derry, for his dedication to the history of Derry. Retired teacher Mr. Holmes has devoted his life to the history of this small New Hampshire community. As Heritage Commission Chairman, Town Historian, and Curator of the Derry Heritage museum, he has carried out several noteworthy projects and educational programs including founding the town's museum. He also develops rotating exhibits for display in the Derry Municipal Center and writes a weekly series of articles for the newspaper about the town's rich history.

Warner House Association, Portsmouth, for the publication, *Warner House: A Rich and Colorful History*. This beautifully illustrated 184-page book is a superior accomplishment for any historical organization, but especially for a small, mostly volunteer one. It chronicles the history and restoration of this National Historic Landmark from the time it was built in 1716 through 214 years of ownership by one extended family and its seventy-five year history as a museum. The book presents new scholarship on the house, its furnishings, and its finishes in an informative and readable format that conveys the richness and color found within the historic home.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Historical Commission, Trenton, for excellence in programming and outreach. Several qualities distinguish the commission's work, not the least of which is its exemplary high standards of scholarship fostered within the public sphere. Through conferences, symposia, publications, a grants program, and programs for teachers, the commission has set the very highest standard for all who benefit from its work.

NEVADA

Guy Louis Rocha, Carson City, for outstanding contributions to Nevada history. Mr. Rocha, who is the Interim Administrator of for the Nevada State Library and Archives, has had an incredibly long line of accomplishments in the field. His work includes many newspaper columns, magazine articles, editorial reviews, book reviews, and media projects. He also serves as a consultant for various film projects and has worked consistently with KNPB, the local public broadcasting company.

Nevada State Museum and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, Carson City, for the exhibit, *Havens in a Heartless World: Virginia City's Saloons and the Archaeology of the Wild West*. This exhibit features the best of 300,000 artifacts from the excavations of four saloons within the Virginia City Landmark District. The exhibit showcased important archaeological artifacts (such as the world's oldest bottle with a Tabasco Pepper Sauce imprint), but more importantly, it offered visitors the opportunity to use saloons to understand the spectrum of business in the west in the mid-nineteenth century.

2007 Winners

NORTH CAROLINA

William S. Powell, Chapel Hill, for contributions to the study of North Carolina history spanning six decades and exemplified by the *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*. Powell has been a research historian, a college professor, the curator of one of the state's most comprehensive repositories of North Carolina artifacts, an often-published author of scholarly works, and the first editor of *History News*. He has also given unselfishly of his time and expertise to advise local historical groups and to serve on commissions and boards throughout the state. After his retirement, he edited the *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, which stands as a testament to one man's devotion to the teaching, and learning of history.

NORTH CAROLINA

LeRae S. Umfleet and the **North Carolina Office of Archives and History**, Raleigh, for the *1898 Wilmington Race Riot Report*. This report brought to the forefront a series of distinct causes and effects of the violence on November 10, 1898 in Wilmington, North Carolina. The well-balanced, insightful report has become a tool to begin discussion of race, past and present, across the state. As a result of the report, statewide newspapers and other organizations have admitted their roles in the events of 1898. The state Democratic Party has issued an apology and the statewide NAACP has pressed for further recognition of the wrongs done to the African Americans in Wilmington in 1898.

OREGON

Friends of Historic Champoege, St. Paul, for the *Champoege Promise* school program. This interactive school program utilizes innovative approaches to connect students to valuable cultural resources at the Champoege State Heritage Area. The progressive ideas, approaches, and innovations threaded throughout this program make it a model for other organizations that are looking to create meaningful and memorable field experiences at their sites.

PENNSYLVANIA

Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, Philadelphia, for the exhibit, *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*. This 8,000 square foot traveling exhibition interprets the life of Benjamin Franklin in the context of his many economic, political, and scientific innovations. The exhibit gathered together the largest collection of historic items related to Franklin ever amassed and provided a creative educational experience designed to engage each visitor through striking exhibition design, historical artifacts, and interactive technology. To date, almost 400,000 people have viewed the exhibition.

Brandywine Battlefield, Chadds Ford, for the annual program, *Remember the Ladies*. This conference began as an event for women who re-enact the era of the American Revolution. Held as an annual conference since June 2004, it has since expanded to include a wide range of living history enthusiasts as well as staff and volunteers at numerous historic sites. This two-day conference features lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops. Presenting scholars are chosen for their outstanding research of primary documents and the study of original eighteenth century artifacts.

Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, for the exhibit, *Soul Soldiers: African Americans and the Vietnam Era*. This is the most comprehensive museum exhibition to explore the issues of the Vietnam War from an African American perspective. In both size and scope, this wide-reaching exhibit tells the story of the impact of the Vietnam War on the Civil Rights Movement and African American life and culture. Using more than 100 artifacts, as well as original photographs, graphics, ephemera, text, publications, art, and audio and video installations, *Soul Soldiers* addresses the parallel issues of fighting a war in Vietnam and struggling for civil rights in America.

RHODE ISLAND

Carlton C. Brownell, Little Compton, for a lifetime of volunteer service to the history and preservation of Little Compton. Mr. Brownell has served as the volunteer executive director of the Little Compton Historical Society for almost fifty years. In that time, he has led the restoration of numerous local buildings, filled the role of town historian, written dozens of newspaper articles on the town's history, and supervised the running of The Wilbor House, the town's only museum. In March 2007, Mr. Brownell celebrated his ninetieth birthday with the official listing of his two major restoration efforts on the National Register of Historic Places.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Beaufort Middle Schools, Beaufort, for the *Community as a Classroom* program. In Beaufort, students are discovering their town's history by mulling over microfilmed newspapers, conducting oral interviews, photographing buildings, and documenting their findings in top quality publications. This program for eighth graders began as a single lesson for gifted students and mushroomed into an on-going study of local history for middle school students of all ability levels. For more than ten years, over 1,000 students participated in the program and gained an appreciation of their place and their place in history.

South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, Columbia, for the collecting initiative, *Write From the Front*. The program began at the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2003 to preserve the stories of South Carolinians serving overseas. The program seeks letters, emails, and images from service members and their families that discuss everyday life, experiences, and thoughts of those involved. The museum created this program because it realized the importance of collecting the thoughts of servicemen and women as they lived them. Today, soldiers communicate most often by email. Fearing these emails would be forgotten or lost, the museum took a proactive approach to collect and archive them for future generations.

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota State Historical Society Press, Jay D. Vogt, Stephen C. Rogers, and Scott Myers, Pierre, for the publication, *Picturing the Past: South Dakota's Historic Places*. Authors Jay D. Vogt and Stephen C. Rogers examine historic preservation issues alongside Scott Myers's seventy-eight wonderfully evocative photographs of the familiar and the obscure, the small and the large, the detail and the vista. *Picturing the Past* provides a modern look at South Dakota's physical links to the state's past.

T E N N E S S E E

The Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, Tennessee, Franklin, and **The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area**, Murfreesboro, for the publication, *Freedom and Work in the Reconstruction Era: The Freedman's Bureau Labor Contracts of Williamson County, TN*. This volume of primary source documents superbly illustrates the transition from slavery to freedom in Middle Tennessee from 1865 to 1866. It contains a full transcription of the first set of labor contracts approved by the federal Freedman's Bureau on behalf of newly freed African Americans from throughout the county. An introduction and an essay on the Freedman's Bureau place the documents in historical context. Annotations provide additional historical background while photographs of individuals and places bring the documents to life.

T E X A S

Anthony Quiroz, Corpus Christi, for the publication, *Claiming Citizenship: Mexican Americans in Victoria, TX*. Several scholars have analyzed the significance of the history of Victoria, Texas in the nineteenth century, but this is the first to study its significance to the twentieth century. Hence, the author gives back to the people of the area a piece of their own history and uses that story to make contributions to a larger audience of professional scholars.

V E R M O N T

Middlesex Historical Society, Middlesex, for the publication, *Middlesex in the Making: History and Memories in a Small Vermont Town*. How do you knit together a tiny, rural community bisected by a mountain? With no town center or unifying industry, Middlesex, Vermont has had a somewhat troubled 244-year history. In writing the town's first complete history, the authors educated and entertained citizens on both sides of town about their shared triumphs and catastrophes, fostering a greater sense of pride and responsibility in addressing future challenges together. This is a significant example of how history can strengthen and deepen ties within a fractious community.

V I R G I N I A

The Center for History and New Media, Fairfax, and **The University of New Orleans**, New Orleans, LA, for the Hurricane Digital Memory Bank. The destruction of two major hurricanes and massive displacement of Gulf Coast residents alerted the Center for History and New Media that they were witnessing a significant moment in American history. They noticed how people turned to the web for information, assistance, and communication with friends and family. To save those pieces of digital evidence that are so easily discarded and to invite everyone affected to contribute their story, CHNM and the University of New Orleans launched the Hurricane Digital memory Bank in November 2005. Fifteen months later, the site had collected over 23,000 stories, photos, and other digital files—all of which are available online.

Rappahannock County Library, Washington, for the program, *By George, It's Washington's Birthday!* This winter program sponsored by the county library system inspires young researchers and has impacted their historically-minded community. This innovative program combines the desire to preserve local and state history within state-mandated curriculum. The result is a program that teaches students proper research techniques and educates the public as to George Washington's role in their community history.

W A S H I N G T O N

Charles Payton, Seattle, for outstanding technical assistance to the heritage field. Mr. Payton retired in December 2006 after more than thirty years of service to the heritage community in King County. He was a tireless advocate for heritage, recognizing that historical societies needed revenue and resources to properly preserve, document, and interpret local history. His proudest achievements include securing a portion of King County's lodging taxes for heritage groups and partnering with suburban cities to garner municipal support of local history museums. He also authored over seventy-five technical, historical, and educational papers, and dozens of studies on a wide variety of heritage themes and provided technical assistance to every heritage society in the county on a broad range of topics from board development to long range planning.

W I S C O N S I N

Thomas R. McKay, Hampton, IL, for an outstanding career of dedicated service to local history museums in Wisconsin and Iowa. As Local History Coordinator for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Mr. McKay helped new groups form, implemented a statewide program of training and service, and provided organization support and leadership for the growing network of societies in the Wisconsin Council for Local History. In ensuing years, he gained a well-deserved national reputation and leadership role for his overall field service work and exhibit interpretation and produced an impressive body of instructional material used nationally, including the AASLH Board Orientation Organizer. Mr. McKay's profound commitment to grassroots history, coupled with an unswerving dedication to excellence in its interpretation, has left a lasting impact on people in Wisconsin and beyond.

Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, for the website, *Turning Points in Wisconsin History*. This website combines hundreds of digitized primary sources with explanations, reference maps, lesson plans, and essays. The site highlights about fifty pivotal events in the state's history, selected by users and gave the society great visibility and credibility on the Web and in the media, helping them to expand their base of support.

Awards Program Volunteers

A special thanks to the National Awards Chair, Don Zuris, Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History in Corpus Christi, TX and to the following state regional teams who help make the AASLH Leadership in History Awards possible:

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