



2008 AASLH

Awards Banquet

Friday, September 12, 2008

Hyatt Regency Rochester

2008 AASLH Annual Meeting







2008 AASLH
Awards

Friday, September 12, 2008

6:15 p.m. **Dinner is 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 & History

Awards Address
Dr. Allida M. Black
Project Director and Editor of The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers

7:30 p.m. **Award of Distinction Presentation**
Barbara Franco, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical &
Museum Commission, Chair, AASLH

Comments
John E. Fleming, Award of Distinction Winner

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





Banquet

Hyatt Regency Rochester

From the President & CEO of AASLH

Since 1945, AASLH has proudly sponsored a national awards program to recognize the best of state and local history. The Leadership in History Awards Banquet accurately represents the spirit of AASLH's awards program. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 63rd annual awards banquet co-sponsored by our friends at The History Channel and Arcadia Publishing.

This year, AASLH is proud to confer fifty-eight 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. Two deserving individuals will also receive AASLH's coveted Award of Distinction. Each winner deserves our thanks for the important role they play in keeping history alive in our communities and 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 their 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. This year we are also pleased to welcome Arcadia Publishing as a sponsor for the Leadership in History Awards program. These sponsors understand the importance of state and local history and the need to recognize exemplary efforts in the field. We are proud to count them among our many friends.

Thank you for joining us for this special evening.

Sincerely,
Terry L. Davis
President & CEO



LAKE ONTARIO

From the Chair of the AASLH Awards Program

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, 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-three 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, or 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 in History AWARDS

Award Descriptions

(Leadership in History Awards Logo)

The American Association for State and Local History conducts its annual Leadership in History awards to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collections, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. By publicly recognizing four different types of awards, AASLH inspires others to give care, thought, and effort to their projects.

The 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.

The 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.

The 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 winners of the Award of Merit.

The Award of Merit

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



John E. Fleming

2008 Award of Distinction Winner

John E. Fleming has been involved in historic events since an undergraduate at Berea College in Kentucky where he led the college contingent that participated in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March. John entered the field of public history in 1980 when he joined the staff of the Ohio Historical Society to lead the planning for the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce. After serving as the founding director of that museum from 1988 to 1998, Fleming became the first museum director and Chief Operating Officer for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. He currently serves as the President of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and is Vice President Emeritus of Museums for the Cincinnati Museum Center. President George W. Bush appointed Fleming to the National Museum of African American History and Culture Plan for Action Presidential Commission.



E. Alvin Gerhardt

2008 Award of Distinction Winner

E. Alvin Gerhardt has given more than thirty years of service to the field of history museums. In particular, he championed the accomplishments, the professionalism, and the value of small museums. As the founding chairman of the Museum Assessment Policy Board, Gerhardt ensured that small museums run by all volunteers or only part-time paid staff would have access to this valuable program. He lobbied hard and won the argument that a museum with the equivalent of one full-time staff person, paid or unpaid, should be allowed to take advantage of MAP, a tool that has helped to bring professionalism to museums across the country. There are few people in the history museum field who have done so much to open the field to understanding the value of the small museum.



2008 WOW Award Winners

Annette Atkins

St. Paul, MN, for the publication, *Creating Minnesota: A
History From the Inside Out*

Ohio Historical Society & Columbus City Schools
Columbus, OH, for the *Near East Side Community History
Project*



2008 Albert B. Corey Award Winner

Nahant Historical Society, Nahant, MA, for the publication, *Sacrifice of Self: Nahant and the Civil War*. This all-volunteer organization created a remarkable resource on the Civil War in this tiny town that exists of two strips of rocky land divided by a beach that is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean. “*Sacrifice of Self* is a remarkable achievement,” said Dr. William Fowler, former president of the Massachusetts Historical Society. “To read the bibliography is to stand in awe of the Civil War collections amassed by this small historical society . . . Town records combine with letters, diaries, interviews, and numerous biographical sketches present an archive of incredible depth.”



2008 Award of Merit Winners

Arizona

Mesa Historical Museum, Mesa, for general excellence in exhibits, resource management, and public programming. Like the “comeback kid,” this museum is an enviable success story. In less than three years, the enormously challenged forty-year-old museum transformed itself from an 80% municipally-funded family history museum into a self sustaining, professional institution employing the highest industry practices.

Susan Clardy, Bruce Dinges, and the **Arizona Historical Society**, Tucson, for the publication, *Sometimes the Blues: The Letters and Diaries of Frank Hammon, A Lonely Frontiersman in Globe and Phoenix, 1882-1889*. This book is an intimate view of frontier life described through the diaries and letters of miner, rancher, lawman, and swimming pool operator Frank Hammon and contextualized by Hammon’s great-granddaughter, Susan Clardy. A forward by journalist and historian Don Dederer describes the genesis of the book in the late 1990s and its contribution to Arizona and western history. This work not only serves as a model for how to write history, but also a model of how inspiring local history can be.

California

Stephanie George and **Carlota F. Haider**, Fullerton, for The Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum’s exhibit, *Sowing Dreams, Cultivating Lives: Nikkei Farmers in Pre-World War II Orange County*. Japanese Americans played a significant role in the agricultural history of Orange County that is often overlooked. This exhibit highlighted their contributions through artifacts and personal stories. Community response was so overwhelming that the exhibition was extended and over 6,000 visitors were exposed to the rich aspects of this overlooked part of the county’s culture.

The Azusa Heritage Project and **The Friends of the Azusa City Library**, Azusa, for the *Azusa Heritage Project DVD*. This multimedia project provided a snapshot of the early life and times in the Azusa community and a more complete history for residents and future generations. It also sparked interest in local history, fostered intergenerational communication, and renewed appreciation for the town’s diverse and formative roots.

Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum, City of Industry, for *Curator Camp*. This school program gives upper elementary students a truly unique opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes at a historic house museum. It gives participants an introduction to museum work and first-hand training in collections care and registration methods. This program encourages participants to take ownership of their local and family histories and preserve their artifacts and stories for future generations.



2008 Award of Merit Winners

Colorado

Longmont Museum & Cultural Center, Longmont, for the exhibit, *Front Range Rising*. This new core history exhibit covers the history of the northern Colorado Front Range from the first arrival of humans up to the present day. Hundreds of artifacts help to tell the story, and interpretive panels explore the many cultures of the people of northern Colorado. Over the eight-year development of the exhibit, the museum convened six community advisory groups, conducted numerous oral histories, and collected artifacts and photographs from under-represented groups in the community. Evaluation helped guide all aspects of the exhibit, from the content of sections to the size of the fonts used. Visitors who previously spent fifteen minutes in the gallery now spend an hour and vow to return with family and friends.

Connecticut

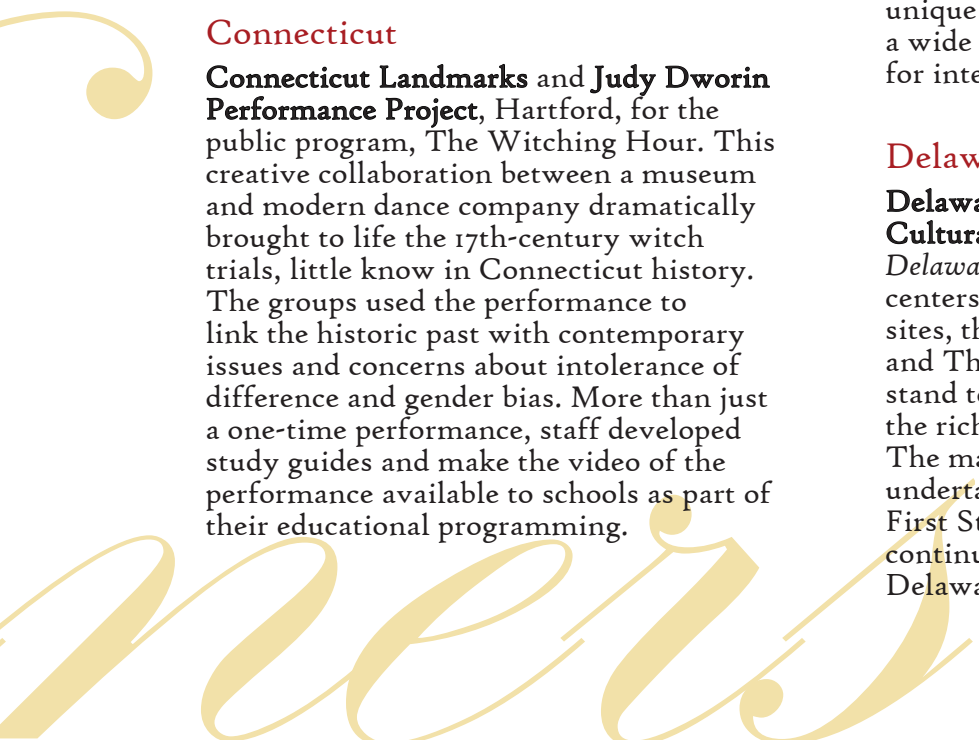
Connecticut Landmarks and **Judy Dworin Performance Project**, Hartford, for the public program, *The Witching Hour*. This creative collaboration between a museum and modern dance company dramatically brought to life the 17th-century witch trials, little known in Connecticut history. The groups used the performance to link the historic past with contemporary issues and concerns about intolerance of difference and gender bias. More than just a one-time performance, staff developed study guides and make the video of the performance available to schools as part of their educational programming.

Karyl K. Evans, North Haven, for the documentary, *The Rise and Fall of Newgate Prison: A Story of Crime and Punishment in Connecticut*. This film uses Newgate Prison to take viewers through the complex history of the criminal justice system in the state from the colonial era right up to the continuing struggles of today. The powerful film was broadcast on public television and is being used to teach students in criminal justice programs about the history of their future profession.

Jean E. Perreault, Bloomfield, for the publication, *Footprints Across Connecticut From Simsbury 1930 Census*. This book gathers into one volume the census data and information from public records and many other valuable sources about the 3,624 residents of Simsbury in 1930. It is an unique and highly useful reference aid for a wide range of researchers and is a model for integrating sources to aid in research.

Delaware

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Dover, for *Saving Our Delaware Capitols*. Built as government centers and now preserved as historic sites, the Court House in New Castle and The Old State House in Dover both stand today as silent sentinels, guarding the rich legacy of Delaware history. The magnificent restoration projects, undertaken simultaneously, ensured the First State's most significant buildings continue as a legacy of history in Delaware.





2008 Award of Merit Winners

Florida

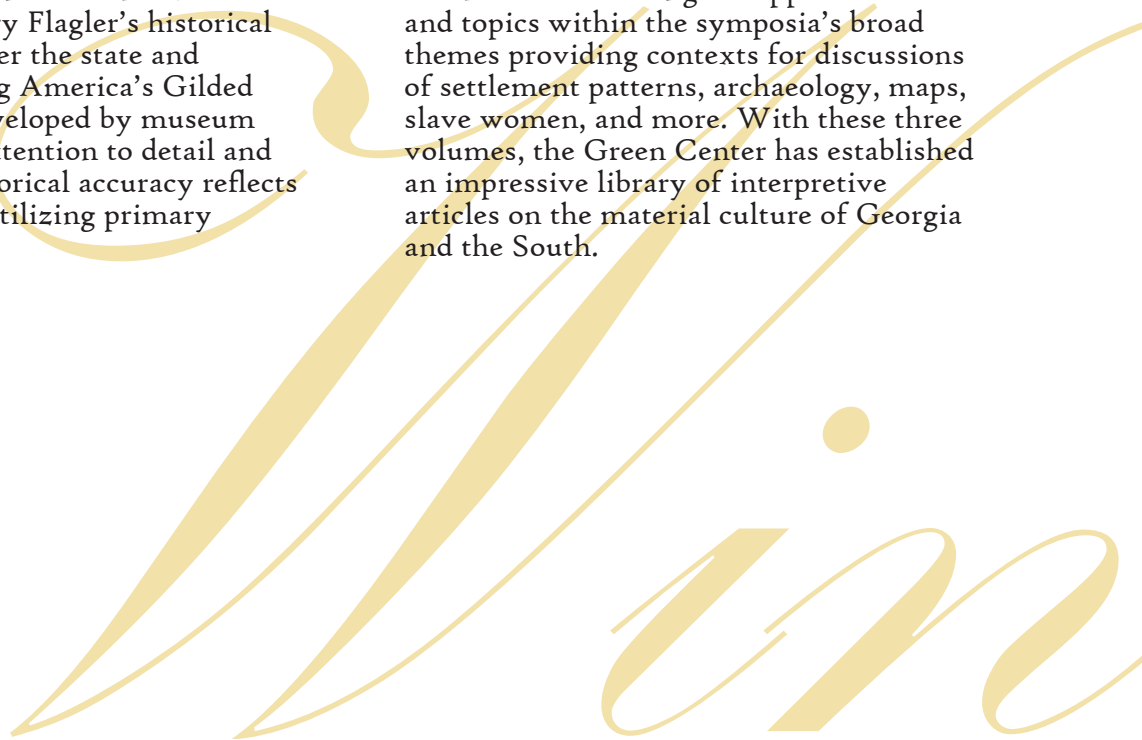
R.B. “Chips” Shore, Bradenton, for contributions to historic preservation and heritage education in Manatee County, FL. In the thirty years since he took office as Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller of Manatee County, Mr. Shore has created a thriving Department of Historical Resources. Under his management, eleven historic buildings and one steam engine were restored, the first county historical archives in the state was established, and one of the country’s largest county History Fairs is held each year. He is not content to limit his work to his own county, but encourages other clerks throughout Florida to become involved in saving the history of their community.

Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, Palm Beach, for the Newspapers in Education tabloid, *Flagler’s Florida*. Directed toward fourth and fifth grade students and their teachers, the publication provides a comprehensive framework for understanding Henry Flagler’s historical significance on both the state and national stage during America’s Gilded Age (1865-1929). Developed by museum staff, the tabloid’s attention to detail and commitment to historical accuracy reflects extensive research utilizing primary resources.

Georgia

Delta Air Transport Heritage Museum, Inc., Atlanta, for *The Spirit of Delta* project. This project holds a very special place in the history of Delta Air Lines. In 1982, Delta employees, retirees, and friends raised \$30 million to buy the company its first Boeing 767 aircraft. In May 2006, the plane was taken out of services and towed to its new permanent home at the museum. The plane has been transformed into a unique exhibition space detailing the story of the *Spirit* and how jets affected Delta.

Henry D. Green Center for the Study of the Decorative Arts, Georgia Museum of Art, and **Ashley Callahan**, Athens, for the *Green Symposium Proceedings 2002, 2004, and 2006*. Through the proceedings of the biennial Henry Green symposia, the Georgia Museum of Art disseminates new scholarship on Georgia’s decorative arts and material culture. These three volumes reflect a range of approaches and topics within the symposia’s broad themes providing contexts for discussions of settlement patterns, archaeology, maps, slave women, and more. With these three volumes, the Green Center has established an impressive library of interpretive articles on the material culture of Georgia and the South.





2008 Award of Merit Winners

Idaho

Timberline High School, Boise, for the *Boise Architecture Project*. This student project involved students from several classes, disciplines, and schools throughout the Boise area. The group created a website where students uploaded class projects that became a community resource and the only publicly accessible online collection focusing on Boise's architecture, neighborhoods, and local history. To date, over 170 students have contributed to the website in some form, contributing both class time and over 400 additional volunteer hours. This project has inspired the next generation of preservationists and rekindled an interest in the history of their community.

Idaho Transportation Department, Boise, for the *Rainbow Bridge Restoration*. This bridge designed by Charles A. Kyle in 1932 is one of the few open-spandrel concrete arch bridges in Idaho. It was placed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1999 for its engineering design. When it became endangered, the transportation department made the decision to restore the bridge rather than replacing it. They also used an unusual system for the extraction of salt-induced corrosion that will prevent the continued degradation of the structure.

Indiana

Indiana Historical Society Press, Indianapolis, for the publication, *Finding Indiana Ancestors: A Guide to Historical Research*. Genealogy is history on the most personal level—a quest to discover and share stories about one's family through time. Questions about where to find and how to compile information are posed by first-time researchers as well as historical scholars seeking to tell community and national stories. This book serves both audiences by providing an overview of research techniques while focusing on Indiana-specific sources. Readers learn where to go for information, how to interpret the data, and how to incorporate each new fact into stories of their ancestors.

Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County, Crawfordsville, for the *Middle School Curator Program*. The museum partnered with local middle school teachers and their classes to create multiple exhibits. For each phase of the project, the students researched topics using primary source materials, wrote the text, and designed and installed the exhibits at the museum. The result for the museum was a new relationship with students, their families, and the community.

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2008 Award of Merit Winners

Kansas

Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, for the website, *Kansas Memory: Primary Sources from the Kansas Historical Society*. This new digital repository uses innovative faceted browse technology to provide unprecedented, immediate access to thousands of items from the Historical Society's rare and unique collections. No other Kansas site is as comprehensive and dynamic and new content will appear on the site continually. The site is already being used as a model by other cultural heritage institutions around the country.

Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, for the *Read Kansas! Curriculum Project*. This project is a curriculum of student materials and teacher lesson plans for grades K-12. Each lesson addresses a Kansas history standard and a state reading and/or writing standard. It is a progressive model for teaching history. The society met teacher's needs by creating lessons that teach reading skills through Kansas history content using primary and secondary source materials. The performance-based lessons engage students in critical thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

Massachusetts

City of Lowell, Lowell National Historic Park, and **University of Massachusetts Lowell**, Lowell, for the exhibit, *On the Road in Lowell*. The manuscript scroll for Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* came to Lowell in June of 2007. It was the centerpiece of an exhibit and programming that capped three years of work by a group of Lowell's cultural institutions. The goals were to bring this iconic artifact to Kerouac's hometown, to celebrate his roots in and lifelong connections to Lowell, and to explore his message of non-conformity and spiritual searching. This was one of those rare projects in which the results truly transcended the efforts, generating an exhibit and programming with intangible effects that went far beyond expectations and spoke deeply to many people. Through word, images, music, and artifacts Kerouac's message of searching, and hope in the possibility of a life with meaning came through in remarkable ways, touching those who made the pilgrimage to Lowell to see the scroll.

Hancock Shaker Village, Inc., Pittsfield, for the *Hancock Village Farm and Forest Trail*. The one-mile long, universally accessible trail offers Village visitors a journey from past to present through the exploration of previously un-interpreted property. Featuring sixteen interpretive labels describing the Village's natural and cultural history and the significance of the once extensive Shaker landholdings, the trail is both an educational and recreational asset for Village visitors from near and far.



2008 Award of Merit Winners

Historic New England, Boston, for the *Historic New England* magazine. Historic New England uses this periodical to make the organization's resources accessible through engaging articles and handsome photography. The format consists of feature stories on the historic properties and on the artifact and archival collections, as well as regular shorter pieces on historic landscape preservation, conservation, social history, acquisitions, special programs, and activity pages for children. Every article focuses on some aspect of the house museums, landscapes, and artifacts owned and maintained by the organization.

Michigan

Dr. Philip P. Mason, Dearborn, for more than fifty years of championing the history of Michigan. Dr. Mason has served at the heart of state and local history in Michigan as an archivist, teacher, writer, mentor, and leader. As an archivist, he led the transformation of Wayne State University's Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs into the Walter P. Reuther Library, which is the trusted steward of the records of ten national labor unions. As a teacher at Wayne State for forty-nine years, Dr. Mason imparted a passion for archival work to students who today lead archives across the United States. He has also written numerous books and founded *Michigan in Perspective: Annual Conference on Local History*.

Minnesota

Sherburne History Center, Becker, for the exhibit, *Life on the Edge*. This exhibit was developed as part of the opening of the new Sherburne History Center as part of indoor and outdoor exhibits intended to link the county's environmental and cultural history. The exhibit helped the Center increase public awareness throughout the county and have transformed the society and its relationship with the public. It demonstrated that the county and its residents have a history is worth preserving.

Annette Atkins, Collegeville, for the publication, *Creating Minnesota: A History From the Inside Out*. In this book, Ms. Atkins has written a state history that is not merely a new publication, but is also new in conceptualization, methods, and approach. This book reinvents what state history can do: it can engage, enliven, and interest people, especially those who don't come naturally to a love of history.

Mona Rae Nelson, Willmar, for thirty-three years of exemplary leadership in Minnesota's local history community. Ms. Nelson spent her career discovering, preserving and sharing the history of Kandiyohi County. She served at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society from 1975-2008 leading it from an organization with an annual budget of \$500 to a vibrant institution with a \$100,000 annual budget. She impacted many lives through the society programs, tours, and exhibits she created and left a lasting impression on visitors, colleagues, and neighbors.

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2008 Award of Merit Winners

Dr. James B. Bell, St. Paul, for the publication, *Arcade Street to Main Street: The History of the Seeger Refrigerator Company, 1902-1984*. This book documents in an engaging and readable way the history of a St. Paul, Minnesota, manufacturing organization from the perspective of those who worked there. Dr. Bell's scholarship made it possible to reconstruct the history of the Seeger company as many of the original documents were lost or destroyed. Dr. Bell has ensured that future generations will know in a tangible way what one company did for St. Paul and what its employees contributed to their community over the years.

Bruce White, St. Paul, for the publication, *We Are at Home: Pictures of the Ojibwe People*. This book is the result of decades of careful research into an understudied topic. Mr. White located hundreds of photographs taken of or by Ojibwe people, most with vague or inaccurate captions attached. Mr. White expanded his research from just the photographs to gather the stories behind the picture by tracking down every available detail of the people photographed and the circumstances surrounding the image. The result is a beautiful history of the Ojibwe people that can serve as a model of scholarship on documenting Native American communities.

Nebraska

Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, for *The Nebraska Institute: Transforming the Teaching and Learning of State & Local History*. This graduate-level teacher-training initiative transformed how Nebraska history is taught resulting in significant improvements in teacher knowledge and student achievement in the past decade. The result of collaboration with the principal partners Nebraska Wesleyan University and Lincoln Public Schools, the Institute has resulted in a number of significant off-shoots: development of teacher resources on the Web, the inauguration of a Masters Degree in Historical Studies, training workshops serving teachers nationwide through the NED Landmarks of American History program, and three consecutive U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History grants.

New Hampshire

Moffatt-Ladd House and Gardens owned and operated by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of New Hampshire, Portsmouth, for the exhibit, *Women of the Moffatt-Ladd House*. This exhibit is a superb example of how a small museum, through collaboration, can stretch its limited resources to mount an excellent exhibition and create related publications that present new research and scholarship to the public in an attractive and engaging way.



2008 Award of Merit Winners

The Berlin and Coos County Historical Society and **Timberlane Regional High School**, Plaistow, for the *Echoes of the Past: The 2007 Lumberjack Competition* DVD. The staff of the historical society and students from the high school collaborated to create this documentary about the community's annual lumberjack competition. More than just a video record of this contemporary event, the documentary also aimed at connecting the present to the rich logging history of the area, showing how competitions such as these draw from the original loggers and logging camp found in the Great Northern Forest during the 19th century.

J. Dennis Robinson and **Strawbery Banke Museum**, Portsmouth, for the publication, *Strawbery Banke: A Seaport Museum 400 Years in the Making*. Strawbery Banke Museum was born amid the turmoil of urban renewal in Portsmouth in 1958. Once a "blighted" immigrant neighborhood, among the oldest in the nation, it became an important heritage destination. But after ten directors, often with conflicting visions, the museum suffered from a confusing history and lingering resentment among some longtime community members. Robinson, an independent researcher, used this attractive, well-researched, fast-paced volume to tell the candid story of the history of the place and the museum resulting in synthesizing the museum's mission, enhancing community support, enticing new visitors and benefactors, and healing old wounds.

The Harriet Wilson Project, Milford, for the *Harriet Wilson Project*. This group of dedicated community volunteers came together to educate the New Hampshire public about Harriet Wilson and her novel, *Our Nig: Or Sketches From the Life of a Free Black* (1859). Although Wilson's book was the first novel published by an African American in the United States, her legacy was little known in New Hampshire. The group has organized thirteen lectures and panel discussions, organized a black heritage tour of Milford, commissioned a statue, and published a book through the University Press of New England.

New Jersey

The New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, for the exhibit, *What's Going On? Newark and the Legacy of the Sixties*. This exhibit illuminates a New Jersey story—the Newark "riots," or rebellion, of July 1967—using it to critically explore broader topics in American history. Through oral histories, photographs, interactive media, and artifacts, the exhibition helps visitors discover diverse stories of how and why Newark, and the nation, changed in the 1960s, and the struggle for renewal and rebirth since that time.

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2008 Award of Merit Winners

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Salvatore, Cape May, for a lifetime of enriching the historical community of New Jersey. Dr. and Mrs. Salvatore have tirelessly volunteered their lives to aid in the creation, restoration, rehabilitation, preservation, and administration of two museums that have educated thousands of tourists as well as the residents of the local community on the rich history of Cape May County. They continue to hold leadership positions within both state and local organizations and continue their stewardship with respect to saving local historic structures from destruction.

New York

Axis Prisoners of War Coalition of Niagara County Historical Societies for the public program, *World War II Axis Prisoners of War at Fort Niagara, 1944-45*. This coalition was organized in May 2006 to keep alive an important, but little known, story in the history of Niagara County—the story of Axis POWs held at Fort Niagara during World War II. The coalition organized a free one-day conference on the camp and its impact on Niagara County. The group is continuing research and collecting oral histories along with a database of Axis POWs which will be available to the general public.

New York State Archives, Albany, for the website, *Throughout the Ages*. When state assessment requirements changed, the archives experienced an increase in requests for material from elementary school teachers. In order to make the archives collections more accessible to a Pre-K through sixth grade audience, the archives produced a website geared toward that audience. It even allows teachers to customize worksheets to a student's grade level and ability. The result is a site that encourages teachers to introduce their students to critical thinking and context as well as creating a greater understanding of the history of New York.

North Carolina

Travis Morris and Wilson Snowden, Currituck, for the *Currituck Boat Program*. Recognizing that their town's history as a center for wooden boat building was quickly disappearing, Morris and Snowden started collecting boats from the area. They also partnered with the East Carolina University Maritime Program to record, draw, and photograph the boats. The program expanded to record other examples of Currituck boats owned by hunting clubs, private owners, and even some being used as flower beds. Over sixty boats have been documented and the procedure has become a model on how to record small boats.



2008 Award of Merit Winners

Ohio

Lakewood Historical Society and **Grant Elementary School**, Lakewood, for the *Lakewood History Project*. The historical society partnered with second and third grade classes at the local elementary school to create a program to engage students with local history. Students study resources, conduct oral histories, and visit historic sites to prepare a documentary of an aspect of local history. elect movies are made available to the general public through the societies website.

Ohio Historical Society and **Columbus City Schools**, Columbus, for the *Near East Side Community History Project*. This local history initiative trained sixty third graders and twenty-six eighth graders to conduct research focusing on the Mt. Vernon Avenue Neighborhood. Students conducted new research; identified significant people, places, and/or events; applied, received, and installed five Ohio Historical Markers in the community; and developed a walking tour of the neighborhood based on the markers. As a result, Ohio Historical Society strengthened its existing partnership with the school system and forged new relationships with neighborhood associations and the city library system.

Oregon

Aurora Colony Historical Society, Aurora, for the *Oregon Music Project*. This project puts mid-nineteenth century music composed and played in the Aurora Colony (1856-1881) into the hands of today's musicians. Original scores are preserved in their original format as well as transferred into digital format for examination and reproduction. Musicians performed reconstructed scores at two public performances. Selected scores were copied on discs with all of the instrumental parts transposed for today's instruments and copies of these discs were distributed to school throughout Oregon. By bringing back the music that was thought to be lost and forgotten, the project identifies and preserves an important historical and cultural aspect of the Aurora Colony and its heritage while introducing today's youth to music that is important to the history of their community.

Pennsylvania

North Fork Chapter 29, Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology and **Jefferson County Historical Society**, Brookville, for the exhibit, *Native American Lifeways in Western Pennsylvania*. This low-cost exhibit traces Native American life in the region from the days of the woolly mammoth to the contact period. This exhibit is an excellent example of how a small museum, with a predominantly local and regional audience, can mount a quality exhibit on a limited budget. With the goal of challenging stereotypes and misconceptions about the native peoples who once inhabited this area of Pennsylvania, and of demonstrating the diversity of these indigenous cultures, the exhibit successfully engages visitors in the subject matter through both artifacts and design.





2008 Award of Merit Winners

Partners for Sacred Places, Philadelphia, for the program, *New Dollars/New Partners for Your Sacred Place*. This innovative training program approaches history and preservation from a unique and entrepreneurial perspective. It encourages congregations and other stewards of historic sacred places to repair and maintain their properties by using a proven approach to fundraising, historical research, and community partnering.

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, for the *Mount Pleasant Interpretive Project*. In 2006, after a major restoration, the museum opened Mount Pleasant, an 18th-century historic house to the public. By deciding to interpret the house unfurnished, the museum presented a rare and exciting opportunity to utilize the house as a work of art itself, and as a laboratory for the study of colonial architecture and the many stories it can tell. The project included on-site interpretation, a scholarly symposium, interdisciplinary programs, a new school tour program, and formal evaluation.

South Carolina

Upcountry History Museum, Greenville, for the *Threads of Victory: Upcountry South Carolina During WWII* documentary. This documentary is the first phase of an oral history project designed to document the contributions of Upcountry South Carolina to the war and to show the war's impact on their region. The film interjects local events and people in the larger events of World War II, from the attack at Pearl Harbor to the fighting in the European and Pacific theaters, to the death of Franklin Roosevelt and beyond.

South Dakota

Bruce Blake, Sioux Falls, for significant contributions to South Dakota history. For more than two decades, Blake has been the designated director of the Minnehaha County Historical Society's historical marker program. Over that period, he has arranged to place over 170 bronze markers and has located and publicized dozens more. In addition to engaging historians to produce accurate markers, he created a "registered historians" program, coordinated community research efforts to preserve historical resources, and continually championed continued research on the history of Minnehaha County and South Dakota.



2008 Award of Merit Winners

South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum, Brookings, for the publication, *Peril and Promise: Essays on a South Dakota Community*. This book examines the topic of community in South Dakota, their strong tie to agriculture, and how many are disappearing. The book is an attempt by the museum to begin dialogue as they seek a new vision and to transform themselves to better serve the communities around them.

South Dakota Historical Society Press, Pierre, for the book, *Cowboy Life: The Letters of George Philip*. This book, edited by Cathie Draine and illustrated by Mick B. Harrison details the life of an open-range cowboy in South Dakota. In addition to the rich letters, the footnotes provided by the editors contribute a wealth of information that will allow future scholars and historians to more accurately portray South Dakota's open ranges and cattle business.

Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission, Deadwood, for the *Scenes in the Black Hills Glass Plate Transparencies Project*. This project conserved thirteen original hand-tinted glass transparencies which were on exhibit at the 1904 St. Louis World Exposition. These oversized glass plates were thoroughly cleaned and custom-made conservation holders were created for the stabilization and storage for them. After digital reconstruction was complete, the files were sized and color balanced for final output. Finally, the surrogate images were mounted to tempered glass producing the surrogates for display.

Tennessee

Emily Dockery, Ron Harris, and BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Chattanooga, for the African American Contributions DVD Series, *Education for Life*. This DVD on the history of African American education in Tennessee was developed by the health insurance company in order to educate the public on health care disparities by highlighting the state's rich Civil Rights movement. This documentary documents and preserves Tennessee's educational history through oral histories, photographs, and interviews with some of the top African American historians in the state.

Utah

Utah State Capitol Preservation Board, Salt Lake City, for the restoration and base isolation of the Utah State Capitol. The restoration project completely restored the state capitol to create a modern working capitol while maintaining its historical integrity. It is rare for an historic structure to be so fundamentally rehabilitated and even more so for restoration to be done in a way that gracefully combines historic preservation, aesthetics, and function.





2008 Award of Merit Winner

Vermont

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the **Mount Independence Coalition** for the Independence, Orwell, for the Baldwin Trail Interpretive Trail. This trail at the over 300-acre Mount Independence State Historic Site is a successful and innovative project providing visitors with an outdoor interpretive experience at one of the country's most significant Revolutionary War sites. It showcases the leadership and commitment of the partners in building this sensitively designed 1/6-mile long trail with interpretive signage to meet outdoor standards for handicapped access. This outdoor exhibit, which compliments and extends the offerings in the site museum, opens up to a wide audience the powerful story at this site of history, archaeology, and nature.

Virginia

Dawn Kehrer and **Colvin Run Mill Historic Site**, Great Falls, for the *Colvin Run Mill Historic Site Furnishings Plan*. Dawn Kehrer, collections coordinator at the mill, began querying other mills about their furnishing plans in 2001. She found that most have interpretive information, but found no furnishing plans for mill sites. She created a meticulously researched floor-by-floor furnishings plan that will serve as a model for the field for mill interpretation.

Washington

Fort Walla Walla Museum, Walla Walla, for the exhibit, *The Lloyd Family Indian Artifact Collection: Positive Interaction between Cultures in Southeast Washington*. This exhibit detailing the story of the pioneer Lloyd family's more than eighty years of friendship with people of the Homeland Tribes, even during and immediately following warfare, is an inspirational lesson for all times. The exhibit illustrates that people of differing cultures can live together in harmony when they want to. The exhibit and subsequent book show that mutual, repeated gifting engendered deep bonds of friendship and respect, enriching the lives of all participants.

Museum of History and Industry, Seattle, for the *Nearby History* program. This program, based on the 1982 book by Myron Marty and David Kyvig, has become a nationally-acclaimed program that has offered individuals of varying backgrounds and interests the skills necessary to create "history-from-scratch." *Nearby History* has helped over 1,500 ordinary people conduct historical research, interpret evidence, develop a thesis, and present their ideas in the form of public lectures, published articles and books, websites, and more.



2008 Award of Merit Winner

Wisconsin

The History Museum at the Castle, Appleton, for the exhibit, *The Times They Are A-Changin'. Exploring the 1960s.* this exhibit puts the local community's experiences into the broader context of American history addressing difficult issues in ways that encouraged visitors to think and to communicate with others. As a result, it successfully conveyed larger historical themes and movements through the personal stories of northeast Wisconsin's Fox Valley residents in a way that engages a large audience.

Margaret Beattie Bogue, Madison, for the publication, *Around the Shores of Lake Superior: a Guide to Historic Sites.* This book is a history of the Lake Superior region written for the general public, designed particularly for those tens of thousands who annually visit parts of the lakeshore and those who drive around the lake. It seeks to broaden their experience by offering a social, cultural, and natural history of the region and its many communities.





Thank You!

A special thank you to the following regional and state leadership team chairs who help make the AASLH Leadership in History Awards possible.

National Awards Chair: Don Zuris, Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History, Corpus Christi, TX

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New Hampshire	Gail Nessell Colglazier, American Independence Museum, Exeter
Vermont	Jan Albers, Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, Middlebury

Region 2: Scott L. Wands, Connecticut Humanities Council, Middletown, CT

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Rhode Island	Terry Dickinson, Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport

Region 3: Amy Kilpatrick Fox, Somerset Historical Center, Somerset, PA

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West Virginia	Vacant

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