

FOR THE RECORD

ORAL HISTORY IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION (OHMAR) NEWSLETTER
WWW.OHMAR.ORG

FALL 2004



Writing, Copyright & Video: Fall Workshops Day Coming Soon!

The annual OHMAR Fall Workshops Day will be held on Friday, October 22, 2004 at the Library of Congress (Jefferson Building), Washington, DC. Co-sponsored by the Library's Veterans Oral History Project, this one-day gathering will focus on skill-building: introduction to oral history; doing video-history; understanding copyright law; and writing oral history.

There are three morning sessions offered. Laura Kamoie, Visiting Assistant Professor at American University, will conduct a beginner's half-day workshop. Another morning option is an introduction to "Copyright and Oral History" co-presented by Erica Crago and Peter Vankevich, both active in the U.S. Copyright Office. Attendees also have the choice of the "Writing Oral History" workshop that will begin that morning and runs through the afternoon. The writing workshop will be led by Linda Shopes, Historian at the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, and Debbie Gershenowitz, Senior Editor at New York University Press. The writing workshop will

involve hands-on exercises with material submitted in advance.

In the afternoon, American Red Cross historian Brien Williams will co-lead a workshop with Jan Herman, a Naval Medical Department historian, on the use of video in oral history. Special emphasis will be on the making of documentaries.

The morning and afternoon workshops have been divided into three "sequences" from which registrants can choose. The first possibility--Sequence A--is the morning session on introduction to oral history followed by the afternoon session on videohistory. The second option--Sequence B--is the copyright session during the morning with the choice to then attend the videohistory in the afternoon. And the third option--Sequence C--is to spend the entire day in the workshop concerning writing oral history. For full details, refer to pages 3-5.

All-in-all, expect another dynamic and informative annual workshops day. I look forward to seeing you this October.

--Josephus Nelson
Workshops Day Coordinator

CONTENTS

FALL WORKSHOPS DAY 2004	
OVERVIEW /DETAILS	1 & 3
DIRECTIONS	4
PRESENTER BIOS	4
REGISTRATION FORM	5
OHMAR BUSINESS	2 & 13
EQUIPMENT CORNER	6
POGUE AWARD INTERVIEW	7-9
'ROUND THE REGION	10 & 11
SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS	12 & BACK PAGE

"This is why I value OHMAR so much-- you can't help but learn from the conferences, marvel at the field's next stage and newest vista, and be humbly educated about life itself."


--Roger Horowitz, OHMAR President

(See full President's Message on page 2.)

Advertising Rates

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Business card \$20 1/2 page \$60
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Inside OHMAR

Established in 1976, OHMAR is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of oral history in the Mid-Atlantic region. Serving both professional and amateur oral historians, OHMAR strives to promote, educate and advocate the proper, ethical, technical and intellectual oral history procedure and practice in Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

OHMAR sponsors two public forums and produces two newsletters per year. Each year, a spring conference and a fall workshops day are scheduled somewhere within the eight-state region. Two newsletters are mailed to members in late summer/fall and in late winter/spring.

OHMAR is governed by a volunteer board who meet four times per year. Board members for 2004-2005 are President Roger Horowitz, Vice President David Winkler, Secretary Renee Braden, Treasurer John Lonquest, Asst. Treasurer Doug Wilson, and Past President Donita Moorhus. At-Large Board

OHMAR Membership Form

NAME
ADDRESS

EMAIL
PHONE(S)/FAX


Save the Dates

Oral History Association Conference 2004
September 29-October 3, 2004 * Portland, Oregon

OHMAR Fall Workshops Day 2004
Friday, October 22, 2004 * Washington, D.C.

Newsletter Deadline--January 10, 2005
Newsletter Mailed--February 2005

Spring Conference 2005 Proposal Deadline--Jan 15, '05


OHMAR Spring Conference 2005
March 17-19, 2005 * Washington, D.C. 

members are Josephus Nelson, Fred Stielow and Sharon Zane. Nominating committee is comprised of Donita Moorhus, Elly Shodell and Pamela Henson.

OHMAR membership is for one calendar year. Annual dues are \$25 (individual), \$10 (student), and \$50 (institution). Member benefits include the newsletters, advance notice of , and reduced fees to, OHMAR events. In addition, individual, student and life members may vote, hold office and serve on committees.

For more information about membership or to change an address, contact Asst. Treasurer Doug Wilson via email at <wilsondj@bellatlantic.net>.

The newsletter is produced every February and August. Deadlines for ads and for submissions are the first week in January and in July. Send all information to Newsletter Editor Valerie Pawlewicz <vpawlewicz@earthlink.net>.

OHMAR website is <www.ohmar.org>. The webmaster is Doug Wilson. Please send all website comments to his attention at <wilsondj@bellatlantic.net>. 

Individual (\$25)
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page 13

FOR THE RECORD

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WWW.OHMAR.ORG

WINTER/SPRING 2005



Spring Conference Countdown!

OHMAR and the Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG) have agreed to hold a joint conference on the history of American science that will highlight both the practice of oral history and the unique ability of oral history to capture science stories that are especially revealing and meaningful. Entitled, "Broadening the Historians' Craft: Science, Applied Science and Oral History," the three-day conference will be held between March 17-19, 2005 in College Park, Maryland. The first two days of the conference will consist of panels and presentations exploring the rich history of all areas of American science and the many uses of oral history within the field. The last day will be devoted to OHMAR-sponsored oral history workshops.

(Conference details continued on page 3)

CONTENTS

SPRING CONFERENCE 2005

OVERVIEW	1 & 3
REGISTRATION FORM	10
SCHEDULES	11, 12 & 13
DIRECTIONS	14
OHMAR BUSINESS	1, 2 & 15
ORAL HISTORY EXPLORED*	3
YOUR STORIES*	4 & 5
'ROUND THE REGION	6 & 7
OHA, AWARDS, AHA	8
"COFFEE, TEA AND ORAL HISTORY"	9

**NEW SECTION*

"The project was self-driven from the start;
we had a chance to truly own the project."
-Student interviewer,
St. Andrew's Episcopal School
(See "Coffee, Tea and Oral History," page 9.)

President's Message

This letter is my last as OHMAR president, though I will remain on the board for another two years as chair of the nominating committee. OHMAR is in the process of a leadership transition, as the officer team of David Winkler, John Lonquest, and Renee Braden take charge, ably supported by board members Sharon Zane and Fred Stielow. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will note the new nominees for OHMAR board positions; I feel very confident of the organization's success with such quality people willing to hold office.

I want to dwell not on the future, but on the past, and in doing so recognize a very important OHMAR leader who is leaving the board after nine years of distinguished service. Donita Moorhus was elected OHMAR secretary in 1996 in the same election where I joined the board as an at-large member. After serving as secretary for several years, Donita accepted nomination for vice president six years ago.

(President's Message continued on page 2)

ORAL HISTORY EXPLORED

A section devoted to expanding the idea of how oral history can, and is, being used in non-traditional ways by oral historians and non-oral historians alike.

The November-December 2004 issue of the UTNE magazine had a wonderful little article announcing a project taking place in Toronto that ties together neighborhood stories, modern technology and alternative history/tourism.

The project is called *[murmur]*, and started in one neighborhood in Toronto, but now is in different locations across the city, as well taking place in Montreal and Vancouver. The premise is simple: collect stories about average city sites and let anyone who is interested in them hear them quickly, easily, and at the site itself.

In the summer of 2002, *[murmur]* was conceived by Shawn Micallef, James Roussel and Gabe Sawhney at the Habitat new media lab at the Canadian Film Centre in Toronto. These three collaborators started collecting people's stories about the buildings and neighborhoods around the city. In the words from their website: "As the city in North America where world cultures meet, Toronto's streets conceal a wealth of stories. Toronto's celebrated authors have placed the city in the international consciousness by writing about what makes this city and the people that live in it remarkable. At the same time, rapid progress and growth march on relentlessly; new buildings and facades continually replace the structures that held Toronto's past. The result is many of the stories that make up Toronto's identity are kept inside of the heads of the people who live here."

In an innovative effort to preserve these unheard stories and get them heard by others, the three friends designed an archival audio project to collect and curate stories set in specific Toronto locations. At each of these locations, a *[murmur]* sign will mark the availability of a story with a telephone number and location code. By using a cell phone, users are able to listen to the story of that place while engaging in the full physical experience of being

there. Some stories suggest that the listener walk around, following a certain path through a place, while others allow a person to wander with both their feet and their gaze.

Now, certain neighborhoods in Toronto, is dotted with signs posted in front of buildings about which they have archived stories. Again, from their websites: "[murmur] wants to keep these stories alive and on the streets. Interesting things don't only happen at Skydome and Nathan Phillips Square -- the city is full of stories, and some of them happen in parking lots and bungalows, diners and front lawns. The smallest, greyest or most non-descript building can be transformed by the stories that live in it. Once heard, these stories can change the way people think about a place and the city at large."

To see what these three Canadians are up to next, go to www.murmurtoronto.ca.
--Valerie Pawlewicz, OHMAR newsletter editor

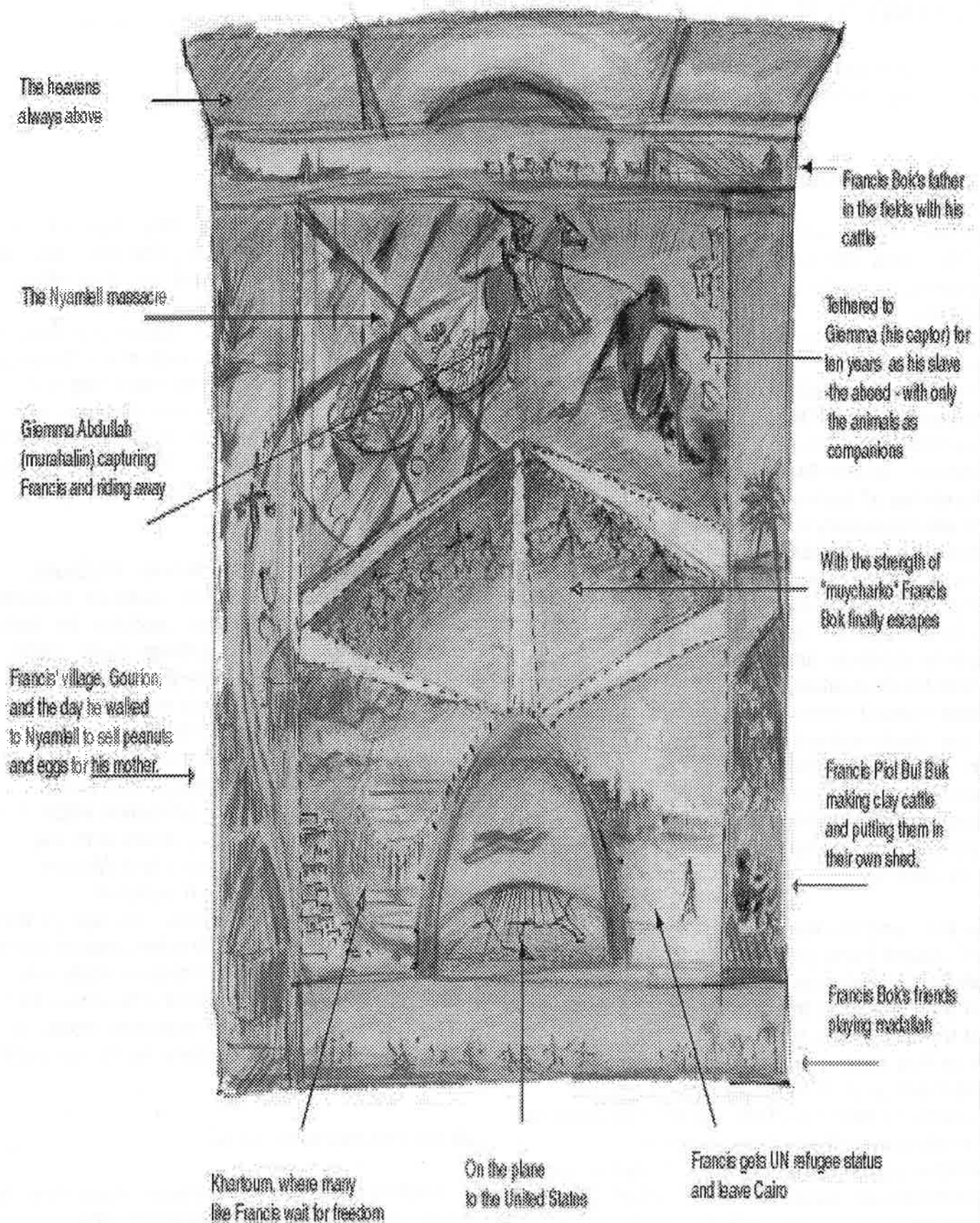
Spring Conference, Cont.

Specifically, on Thursday, March 17, SHFG will offer a full range of sessions on oral history and the federal government. On Friday, March 18, OHMAR has organized sessions around the theme of oral history and the history of science. Saturday, March 19 will be a full day of workshops (see pages 11-14).

Friday will also be the OHMAR business meeting, where we will hold an election, vote on a proposed constitutional amendment, and hear the presentation of the Pogue Award (page 10).

There is one registration form, but two registrations: please register to attend either/both annual meetings on Thursday, March 18 (SHFG) and/or Friday, March 19 (OHMAR); please register separately to attend OHMAR workshops on Saturday, March 20.

--John Lönquist & Renee Braden,
Conference Coordinators



The heavens always above

The Nyamell massacre

Gierma Abdullah (murahalin) capturing Francis and riding away

Francis' village, Gouron, and the day he walked to Nyamell to sell peanuts and eggs for his mother.

Khartoum, where many like Francis wait for freedom

On the plane to the United States

Francis gets UN refugee status and leave Cairo

Francis Bok's father in the fields with his cattle

Tethered to Gierma (his captor) for ten years as his slave - the abood - with only the animals as companions

With the strength of 'muycharko' Francis Bok finally escapes

Francis Piot Bul Buk making clay cattle and putting them in their own shed.

Francis Bok's friends playing madallah

It promises to be free, easy-to-use. The guide will give simple steps in how to conduct an interview, as well as provide sample questions that can be adapted to each interviewer's needs. The guide concludes with examples of ways to preserve and present interviews, suggested readings, glossary, and sample release forms.

The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington is seeking an archivist/oral historian. Primary responsibilities will be processing a major corporate collection and implementing an oral history program for the Society. Specific responsibilities include: Arranging, describing, and cataloging a major corporate manuscript and photograph collection; preparing finding aids using established archival principles and standards; conducting research as necessary for historical and biographical data; preparing promotional materials for public and/or educational purposes; and performing basic preservation care of collection; creating and implementing an oral history program for the Society by the establishment and creation of an archival oral history project including oral history guidelines. This is not an entry-level position~experience is required. Candidates with knowledge of Washington and/or American Jewish history are preferable. Position is fulltime with a good benefit package.


The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington is a non-profit organization which collects and preserves local Jewish history in the greater Washington area. For the full set of the job's responsibilities and requirements, and to get more information about the Society, visit their website at www.jhsgw.org. To apply, please send letter and resume to Laura Apfelbaum, Executive Director, Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington, 600 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; Fax: 202-789-0485; Email to <laura@jhsgw.org>.

VIRGINIA

The Center for History and New Media at George Mason University invites scholars to a workshop on the theory and practice of digital history. **The workshop--entitled "Doing Digital History: An Introduction for Historians of Science, Technology and Industry"-- will be held June 6-10, 2005.** Topics will include genres of online history, designing a website, creating a site infrastructure, digitizing documents, identifying and building audiences for online history, and issues of copyright and preservation. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of both the technical and methodological issues raised by the practice of digital history, as well as the ways that digital technologies can facilitate the research, teaching, writing and presentation of history.

Co-sponsored by the American Historical Association and the National History Center, the workshop will be held at George Mason University's Arlington campus, located in Washington, DC. With support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, there will be *no registration fee*, and a limited number of scholarships are available to defray the costs of travel and lodging for graduate students and young scholars. Applications are due by **March 1, 2005:** <http://echo.gmu.edu/resources/workshops.php>. Contact is Project Mngr Joan Fragaszy, Center for History and New Media: jfragasz@gmu.edu.

OTHER REGIONS

The Northeast Popular Culture/ American Culture Association (NEPCA) invites papers on any pop culture or American culture topics (including oral history) for its 28th annual conference at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT on October 28-29, 2005. Deadline is July 1, 2005. Contact Program Chair Jeffrey Cain, Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Ave, Fairfield, CT 06825. 

Coffee, Tea and Oral History

What do coffee (both caffeinated and de-caffeinated), brownies, and oral history have in common?

On most nights, nothing. But on Tuesday, March 1, 2005 (beginning at 7:00pm) they become the key ingredients for an annual celebration of the work of student oral historians at St. Andrew's Episcopal School.

The 8th Annual Oral History Coffeehouse brings together 75 student oral historians, their interviewees, and the community for a night that recognizes the work of high school history students and the lives they preserved through the American Century Oral History Project.


As you consider this event reflect on your experience as a high school history student. For most, you recall the textbook-centered, lecture-oriented, fact-driven class that, depending on when you took the course, might never have gotten passed World War II. Now imagine how different your experience would have been had you had the chance to collect and preserve the stories of those individuals who will most often never make it into the traditional histories of America. Marginalized groups and less prominent individuals also have a story to tell and without the work of the student oral historian, who is properly trained in the methods of oral history, far too many stories would be lost.

Since November, students have been conducting an oral history project which breaks the mold of classroom learning, as students go into the "field" and, as oral historian Studs Terkel once said, uncover the "living repositories of our past." This is an open-ended oral history project in which students interview a non-family member about any period or event in United States History. As one student commented, "I think that this was one of the first times that I was ever challenged with the freedom of selecting a topic, actively pursuing that interest, then individually refining the results into a manageable product that could be handed in. The project was self-driven from the start; we had a chance to truly own the project."

In preparation for the interview, students wrote a 7-10 page historical contextualization paper. Oral history method training workshops helped students develop preliminary interview questions and to practice interviewing and understanding the essential role of the recording in the oral history process. Each student transcribed their interview in full—the most dreaded part of the project—and then analyzed the transcription for its historical value.

Unlike most school oral history projects that end up entombed in boxes never to see the light of day, the work of these oral historians that is shared at the annual coffee house is also permanently archived in the school's library and available at the projects website —www.americancenturyproject.org—for use by future historians. The website also includes highlights from previous coffeehouses.

During the evening students will read excerpted portions of their projects. Museum exhibitions and student work will be displayed, including a five-minute translation of one student's interview into a one-act play.

Gain a new perspective on the American Century from student interviews of World War II, Korean, Vietnam, and Cold War veterans, civil rights and labor leaders, student protestors, survivors of the Great Depression and Holocaust, women who challenged the "feminine mystique" and immigrants who pursued the American Dream at this unique inter-generational gathering that highlights the important role students can play when empowered with the opportunity to be oral historians. 

--Glenn Whitman

Glenn Whitman is an OHMAR member and author of the recently published book, Dialogue with the Past: Engaging Students and Meeting Standards Through Oral History (AltaMira Press, 2004). For more information about the coffeehouse or his project in general, contact Glenn at gwhitman@saes.org or 301-983-5200 (x322).

PRELIMINARY SHFG PROGRAM -- THURSDAY MARCH 17, 2005

8:00am – 8:30am Conference Registration

8:40am -- 9:00am Conference Opening

9:15am -- 10:15amSessions

Panel 1 Constitutions and Statutes

Katharine M. Jones, "Oral History of the US International Trade Commission"

Marilyn Norcini, "Mediating Factionalism: A History of the First Pueblo Constitution under the Indian Reorganization Act"

Panel 2 Sports Oral History

Jackie Reisert Esposito, "Sports Medicine—Documenting Its Birth and Adolescence through Oral History"

John Vernon, "Jim Crow Meets Lt. Jackie Robinson"

10:30am – 11:30 Sessions

Panel 3 The CIA Record Search Tool (CREST) (Panel Discussion)

James David, NARA

Archivists and Records Managers from NARA and CIA

Panel 4 Oral History at the Library of Congress (Panel Discussion)

Marilyn K. Parr, PH.D; Public Service/Collections Access Officer, Library of Congress

Jureta Hecksher, PH.D; Digital Reference Specialist

Josephus Nelson, Curator, Manuscript Division

Sarah Rouse, Veterans' History Project

11:45am -- 1: 15pm SHFG Awards Luncheon

1:30pm -- 3:00pm Sessions

Panel 5 The Health Sciences in the Federal Government

Alexandra M. Lord, PH.D; "'Dying from a Long Fiscal Illness:' The Closure of the Public health Service Hospitals and Its Impact on Public Health"

Sheena M. Morrison, MPH, MA, PH.D; "The Public Health Service and the National Negro Health Movement (1926-1950)"

John P. Swann, PH.D; "Science, Research, and Their Evolution as a Recognized Function in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)"

Panel 6 War Memorials and Memorial Graves

James C. Van Hook, Jeffrey Herf, Robert Krikorian, Sara Amy Leach

3:15pm – 4:45pm Sessions

Panel 7 History of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Bernie Chovitz, "A Memoir of Irene Fischer"

John Cloud, "History for the Future in NOAA"

Albert E. Theberge, "The History of the NOAA History Program"

Panel 8 News from the Front: Combat Documentation in Iraq and

Afghanistan

**OHMAR – SHFG
WORKSHOPS**

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM -- Saturday March 19

8:30am – 9:00am Workshop Registration

9:00am – 12:00pm

WORKSHOP ONE

Oral History 101 – introduction to methods, practices, and standards.

Laura Kamoie, American University

WORKSHOP TWO

Doing Business with the Federal Government – Tips and guidance to navigate federal rules and procedures.

12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00pm -- 4:00pm

WORKSHOP THREE

Archiving Oral Histories and Sound Collections The workshop will focus on the challenges of archiving analog sound in the digital age, as well as some of the basics of preserving audio formats.

Donna Wessel, Motion Picture, Sound and Video Preservation, National Archives and Records Administration

WORKSHOP FOUR

Audio Frontiers: From Analog to Digital Learn of the trade from the master.

Charles Hardy Westchester University, Westchester Pennsylvania

OHMAR BUSINESS, cont.

Inside OHMAR

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