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Introduction to this Issue

For many years, beginning at least with Alexis de Tocqueville's observations on democracy and on Americans, Americans were remarkable for their lack of concern for their past, either individually or collectively. We lived, as a nation, in the present, or, more accurately, for the future. Newer was necessarily better; there was never a question in the minds of most Americans. This characterized our society and set us apart from much of the rest of the world for most of our history. The landscape of our society shows the results of this approach to our heritage.

Remarkably, within the last thirty years there has been a sea change in the United States and popular interest in history has emerged on a large scale and blossomed. This is not an academic interest but a broadly based, popular concern with two main components: a desire to connect with the places where events, both great and small, happened; and an interest—in some cases nearly an obsession—with genealogy, the most personal form of history. One of the most important factors in this change was the television mini-series *Roots*. Other important influences include the bicentennial of the Revolution and another television series, Ken Burns' *The Civil War*. Interest in historic structures, historic sites, and historic areas is growing. The tourism industry is dealing with an increased interest

in all of these things and with a generalized desire to connect with the specific character and history of a place. Among other things this drives the proliferation of bed and breakfasts in "historic" houses. It also stretches resources needed to preserve and interpret these newly discovered national and local assets.

This discovery of the special qualities of historic places comes at a time when the generation that came of age during the Depression, fought the Second World War, and rebuilt the world and America in its aftermath has the leisure and the resources to travel in numbers unprecedented in our history. The return to Normandy and to the scenes of the decisive events in the Second World War—in the lives of their generation—is only part of this effort to connect with values and a sense of pur-

pose that seem to have been lost. Their children, who grew up in the reconstituted post-war America, also seek a sense of purpose and direction that history can provide. Perhaps we are concerned now with our past as a nation and as individuals because, for the first time in our history, we are unsure about our future?

This concern for our past, and the structures, sites, and landscapes that connect us to it, presents many opportunities and many challenges if we are to preserve them and make them accessible. The papers in this volume are not theoretical discourses on what should be done, but more like reports from the front on what is being done, complete with the sometimes unfinished nature of such reports. We don't know how the battles to preserve our heritage turned out, because it is not yet over. The many fronts the battles rages on and the early reports are encouraging, but the end is not in sight.

Whether Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck are allies in the struggle or portents of failure beyond redemption remains to be seen. (Goofy does seem ideal for casting as a Union general during the early days of "the late unpleasantness" though, doesn't he?) The interest of their masters in our history and its sacred grounds shows just how powerful the past, and the ability to connect to an authentic piece of that past, has become as an attraction for Americans and suggests that a new stage in the battle to save our

cultural resources has begun. The bad guys may no longer ride bulldozers and hold blueprints for steel and glass boxes to replace or fill in historic places. They may seek to "enhance the experience" or "complement the resources," but as we learn more about the fragility of historic and cultural resources and look back at the devastation wrought on scenic and natural areas under the same rubric, we have reason to be concerned. How much enhancement can a historic site absorb before it becomes something quite different?

I want to thank the contributors to this issue who took time from their work to share reports on what they have been doing and how they see the battle from their corner of the field. Each has taken his or her own approach, and I think the diversity of these essays is a fair approximation of the diversity of the work that goes on. I gave them few guidelines beyond the theme of the issue and a request to share their ideas and their experience. As pleased as I am with the results, I do regret that no one working outside the United States responded to our call, made in person in several cases, for contributions. The focus on the U.S. was not by design and is unfortunate because there is not only a great deal of activity in these areas in other countries, but a lengthier track record to observe. I also want to thank Bob Linn and Dave Harmon for this opportunity and for their good work.

I have long viewed the struggle to save our cultural heritage as very similar to a war with, as in any war, many battles. Few, if any, of these battles will go according to plan, no matter how hard and how well we plan them. So it is critically important to have a clear vision of how the past can serve the future and common agree-

ment on our goals, and to see the importance of even the most localized battle. I hope these reports on the work that is being done help clarify the importance of the past to the future and highlight the value of each and every battle that seeks to save part of the past.

..... William H. Mulligan, Jr.

About the Authors

Harry A. Butowsky is a research historian with the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. He is the author of five National Historic Landmark Theme Studies, including *Man in Space* (1983), *Warships Associated with World War II in the Pacific* (1985), *The U.S. Constitution Theme Study* (1986), *Astronomy and Astrophysics* (1989), and *Geology Theme Study* (1994-draft). He is the author of more than 50 articles concerning the history of the American space program and American constitutional, social, military, and labor history. He received his B.A. degree in history from Pennsylvania State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois.

Craig Drone was educated at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, where he earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1988 and a Master of Architecture degree in 1990, with a specialization in historic preservation. Upon graduation, he worked as a summer intern for the Historic American Buildings Survey in Charleston, South Carolina. Since that time, he has worked as a historic architect with Fischer-Wisnosky Architects, Inc., of Springfield, Illinois. In this position, he has worked on preservation projects that include the Dixon Historical Center in Dixon, Illinois, and several historic structures within the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, a few blocks from his office.

Susan Deaver Olberding lives near Flagstaff, Arizona. She has a Master's degree in history from Northern Arizona University and works as an independent historian, focusing primarily on Southwest topics. Her book on the history of the USFS Fort Valley Experiment Station is in progress.

Parker B. Potter, Jr., is the administrator of planning and registration and the director of publications for the Division of Historical Resources, which is New Hampshire's state historic preservation office. Prior to his employment with the state, which began in 1987, Potter spent four years in Annapolis, Maryland, as the assistant director of "Archaeology in Public in Annapolis." While in Annapolis, he researched his Ph.D. dissertation (Brown University, 1989), which is being published this summer by the Smithsonian Institution Press as *Public Archaeology in Annapolis: A Critical Approach to History in Maryland's Ancient City*.

Nancy Jo Chabot is the assistant registrar at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord. Prior to that, she worked as a consultant in public archaeology (with the Public Archaeology Facility in Binghamton, New York) and in historical interpretation (with Chabot & Clark of Concord and Manchester, New Hampshire). Trained as an archaeologist, she holds an M.A. in anthropology (State University of New York at Binghamton, 1992) and has done a wide variety of historical and prehistoric survey and excavation in Virginia, Maryland, New York, and New Hampshire, as well as in Israel and Honduras.

Susan Stevens has an M.A. in creative writing from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, and has taught high-school English on the Navajo reservation. She recently retired from the U.S. Forest Service, her last assignment having been on the Prescott National Forest. She now pursues freelance writing and will soon become an English instructor at Yavapai College.

Dana B. Supernowicz is a Zone Historian with the U.S. Forest Service, based on the El Dorado National Forest in Placerville, California. He received his M.A. in history from California State University-Sacramento, and has been employed with the federal government for 15 years in the fields of history, archaeology, and historic preservation. He is active in several local history and preservation groups. He is currently working on numerous nominations of vernacular properties in the Sierra Nevada to the National Register of Historic Places.

E. Steve McNiel is on the faculty of the Landscape Architecture Program at the University of California-Davis. He has taught at three major universities over a 20-year period and conducts courses and lectures nationally and internationally on the use of computer technology in land planning and cultural preservation. He currently serves as principal investigator for GIS-based research for the USFS, the Department of the Navy, the Yosemite Rail Road Company, and the California Coastal Conservancy, and as a consultant to several agencies and firms.

Rebecca Yamin is a principal archaeologist and project manager with John Milner Associates in Philadelphia. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Pennsylvania and received a Ph.D. in anthropology from New York University in 1988. Her dissertation is a historical archaeological study of local trade in pre-Revolutionary New Jersey using data from the Raritan Landing excavation in Middlesex County and comparative data from sites in lower Manhattan. She directed the interpretive program for the Morven landscape archaeology project in Princeton and has taught two Rutgers University field schools on the Walnford site in Monmouth County, New Jersey. She is presently the principal investigator for the Five Points site in New York City.

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