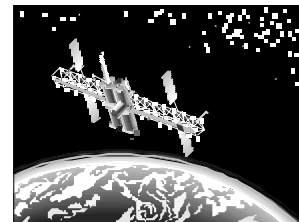




STATE HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO

2205 East Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, ID 83712-8250
(208) 334-2620

Steve Walker, State Historical Records Coordinator
swalker@ishs.state.id.us



"The Mission of the Idaho State Historical Records Advisory Board is to be an advocate for the creation, preservation, dissemination and use of information that accurately chronicles the people and institutions of Idaho, both public and private."

October, 2003 Meeting Minutes of the Idaho Historical Records Advisory Board at the Meet at Basement Conference Room, Boise High School 1010 West Washington Street, Boise, ID

Board members present at 9:00 am meeting: Babbitt, Blake, Bogstie, Johnson, Reed, Schreiber, Smylie, Virta, and Walker. Meeting chaired by Mary Reed. Visitor, Linda Morton-Keithley, State Historical Society, Rod House, State Archives

Report on NHPRC grant -Steve Walker

This current project meets the Commission's goal of promoting broad public participation in historical documentation by collaborating with the State Historical Records Advisory Boards to plan and carry out jointly funded programs to strengthen the nation's archival infrastructure and expand the range of records that are protected and accessible.

In Idaho, generally those who create and maintain records have little records management awareness and have received no basic training in how to manage and preserve the records for which they have assumed responsibility. This project will help provide a foundation of basic level records training for those responsible for historical records. The other priorities of our strategic plan will

build upon this foundation.

Upon notification of approval of the revised budget and workplan, the State Archivist met with the Idaho Association of Clerks and Commissioners, and the Idaho Council for History Education to enlist aid and support. Training workshops were scheduled and advertised. The State Archivist produced the power point presentation "Public Records Management: Why Should I Care and What's In It For Me?" and "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow?: Ensuring Access to the Future's History" and planed a series of public presentations to help the citizens of Idaho become more aware of the importance of historical documentation and steps they can take to pass our heritage on to future generations. A .PDF of one of the powerpoint presentations is on the web at:

http://www.idahohistory.net/pub_rec_man01.pdf

and the other will be posted in the near future.

Presentations and training workshops were at:

SHRAB Presentation “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow” at Daughters of American Revolution, Nampa, April 24, 2003, 31 attended

SHRAB Presentation “Public Records Management: Why Should I Care and What’s In It For Me?” Idaho Association of Clerks and Commissioners, Best Western Conference Center, Burley, June 11, 2003, 76 attended

SHRAB Presentation “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow” at ISHS Historical Library, Boise, September 24, 2003, 10 attended

SHRAB Presentation “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow” at Idaho Council for History Education, Boise High School, Boise, October 2, 2003, 8 attended

SHRAB Presentation “Public Records Management: Why Should I Care and What’s In It For Me?”, Boundary County Courthouse, Bonner’s Ferry, October 7, 2003

SHRAB Presentation “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow” with St. Gertrude’s Historical Museum at Oscar’s Restaurant, Grangeville, October 10, 2003,

SHRAB Presentation “Public Records Management: Why Should I Care and What’s In It For Me?” Idaho Genealogical Society Annual Conference, Lewiston, October 11, 2003,

SHRAB Presentation “Public Records Management: Why Should I Care and What’s In It For Me?” Burley City Hall, Burley, October 16, 2003,

SHRAB Presentation “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow” at Arco Elementary School, Arco, October 30, 2003,

SHRAB Presentation “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow” at Lemhi County Community Center, Salmon, October 30, 2003,

At least two other presentations are planned in the coming months.

Governor Kempthorne proclaimed October as “Documentary Heritage Month in Idaho” and a great deal of publicity for the workshops is being generated by radio and newspaper announcements as well as e-mail notifications. The arrangement with Commonwealth Media Corporation, Inc. to provide a comprehensive Disaster Recovery e-learning program for awareness training, “Disaster Recovery/Business Resumption: Planing, Testing, Readiness — What Every Employee Needs To Know” was customized with a welcome statement from the Executive Director of the Idaho State Historical Society and links to SHRAB produced materials. This e-learning program will be available to 500 licensed users for a one-year active enrollment period. This program could be expanded to considerably more users should other funding become available. The links are found at:

http://www.idahohistory.net/library_collections.html#anchor571509

At least two other presentations are planned in the coming months.

Also I would like to call your attention to the certificate and plaque that will be presented to Elaine Curzon as recipient of the SHRAB's first award of special recognition.

Old Business

Discussion on "Teaching with Original Records"

Several web-sites dealing with Idaho history were presented as places where teachers could find information and lesson plans for students:

http://www.idahohistory.net/Capitol_All_Lesson_Plans.pdf

<http://www.idahohistory.net/museum.html#anchortravexh>

<http://www.idahohistory.net/OThome.html>

<http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/crbeha/tutorial.htm>

These sites have photographs, oral histories, regional histories, documents, as well as lesson plans.

Examples of lesson plans for other states that could easily be adapted for Idaho were:

<http://www.coshrc.org/arc/education/primsources.htm>

Blaine Bake: At BYU-Idaho, we have begun to create our own digital image materials along with our Western States Marriage Information project. We have been putting on eastern-Idaho early settlers life sketches on the web and we will be expanding out and putting other primary documents there.

Steve Walker: I think a web network for Idaho teachers needs to be created that helps make them aware of the material that is available to them. I am sure most historical organizations would be happy to work with teachers, so that copies of primary sources were made available to students. With access to e-mail and the web, teachers do not have to travel to the historical organizations as they once did to receive historical information. At the State Archives we handle requests for documents over the phone, fax, and e-mail all of the time.

Steve Smylie: The biggest problem I see, especially now as we are going into high stakes testing is time and access. All of the independent research projects that I used to do have dropped by the wayside because now every teacher knows that when they fill out your evaluation they are going to look at your test scores. Teachers are concentrating on this now and things like "history day" and other special presentations and activities are falling by the wayside. The pressure it such that when a teacher does original source data, they need to be able to extract quickly. They don't have the luxury to do one or two days research. Unfortunately, this also takes away from the children the ability and enjoyment of learning how to do research.

Mary Reed: So the children are just learning how to take tests?

Steve Smylie: Unfortunately, that is what it often comes down to.

Steve Walker: This conversation leads to mention the recent grading of Idaho by the Fordham Institute. The Thomas B. Fordham Institute is a non-profit organization that has just published a 2003 report card for effective state standards for U.S. History (at: <http://www.edexcellence.net>

or <http://www.fordhaminstitute.org>

The forward states, “Today, the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act of 2001 is the strongest force driving U.S. schools toward standards-based reform and stronger pupil achievement. Without intending to, however, NCLB may actually worsen the plight of U.S. history. By concentrating single-mindedly on reading, math, and science, it will likely reduce the priority that states, districts, and schools assign to other subjects. And by highlighting performance (or the absence thereof) in only those three core fields, it will focus the attention of state and community leaders on their schools' results in those subjects—and deflect their attention from others.”

However, it goes on to say that in the post 9/11 World, history is more important than ever and reviews state standards in terms of comprehensive historical content, sequential development, and balance. While some state's reports reflected “A's,” Idaho's grade was a “D.” Whether or not, one agrees with specifics of this score or not, I think everyone is aware that History education in Idaho needs improvement. Part of this grade reflects not using original historical resources. The story of Idaho's grade has been carried in most of the newspapers around the state.

New Business

Byron Johnson: I think we need to approach the Governor to see if he is willing to be a champion for the concept of saving our public records and making them accessible to teachers and others who have an interest and concern with Idaho history.

Steve Walker: I think we also have to be aware of some of the recommendations of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Committee. The committee has made the recommendation that the State Archives, State Records Center, and State Library's Government Documents Program be consolidated for better economic and operational reasons and placed under an elective official.

Steve Smylie: I would be willing to initiate a bill in the House for a dedicated fund for the preservation and access of public records based on a user fee or increased filing fee of government documents. It costs money to maintain and preserve these records and make them easily available. I would advocate a dedicated fund because you need to count on these funds year after year rather than risk losing funds from the general fund in tough fiscal years. However, I agree that we need a champion to fight for this idea. I will approach Brian Whitlock and see if the Governor has support for this idea.

Blaine Bake: Perhaps a bill that takes into account the Governor's Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations of a more independent consolidated program along with a dedicated fund to finance it would be in order.

Steve Smylie: I would be willing to write that if I knew that Steve Guerber, Pam Ahrens and Charlie Bolles supported that and would be willing to draft it and get it ready to roll. I could

introduce it, but I would want all of your support as well. If it passes, it passes. If it doesn't, it doesn't, but at least we could get people considering the idea.

MOTIONS MADE AND PASSED

Blaine Bake: I would like to make a motion to see that **Steve Walker and Steve Guerber continue efforts to explore and prepare possible proposals to obtain an ongoing source of revenue for historical records and implementing the Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations.**

Byron Johnson seconded the motion

Motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion on proposals for grants in 2005.

Mary Reed: I make motion that **SHRAB members apply the amount of time that they spend on SHRAB activities as a match to future grants in addition to an in-kind match of half the State Archivist's salary for future grant proposals.**

Carol Schreiber seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mary Reed: I would like to see more examples of materials on the web with an interpretation on what we can learn from them. Many researchers are not aware of the information you can obtain from public records.

Steve Walker:

The SHRAB web page has been modified so that it now carries just items pertaining to the SHRAB. A link on the page will take you to the State Archives section which has the Digital Image Guide for Idaho, a searchable procedures manual (which also provides a detailed inventory of historical records and oral history collections), technical leaflets and archival and records management information. In the coming months we hope to have more of the information that you would like to see on that State Archives link.

There are number of county and municipal clerks that are aware of the records they use on a daily basis, but are not aware of the information found in older records or how to obtain it. We hope to offer information that would be useful to custodians of records as well as those historical researchers.

The problem the SHRAB and the State Historical Society are running into with grant funding agencies is the fact that the state does not adequately fund normal operating expenses. Grant funding agencies tell us that they are there to provide funding on additional projects, not to replace funding the state should provide. If the funding well is not replenished on a regular basis, we shouldn't be surprised to find funding from other sources dry up. Grant-funding agencies providing a helping hand to States is one thing, and expecting a handout is another. What we need to make people realize is that the essence of our democracy is accountability of the government to the people. The main way in our society that accountability is maintained is through accessibility of the public record. Preserving records and making them accessible takes

expertise, time, equipment, facilities, and supplies – all of which cost something. If we wish grant-funding agencies to supplement our activities, we must make sure that we have normal operating funds that we can depend on.

Linda Morton-Keithley: To illustrate what Steve has just said, I recently submitted a grant to the NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities) for a stabilization of humanities collections and it is to help non-profit organizations with storage shelving, HVAC equipment, etc. I submitted a grant for \$133,000 to buy additional shelving for our archives building and when talking with the program officer is reviewing the draft proposal, we kept coming back to the question “Why isn’t your state funding this type of activity?” She felt strongly the state should be funding this type of activity.

Steve Walker: The funding agencies are seeing what other states are doing – states that have less population and resources than Idaho – and see no reason why this state can’t contribute more to maintaining its own historical records. They recognize that all states have funding difficulties, but they tend to help those who can provide basic resources on their own. Again, the wish to supplement basic activities that should already be funded. They don’t want the state to shift the burden of doing basic maintenance onto the grant funding agencies.

Duane Bogstie: The State Records Center also deals with permanent records (some 17,000 cubic feet) that we house and provide educational instruction as well. Perhaps, our agency can figure into a grant application as providing in-kind match. I will check with our department head to see if that is a possibility.

As to our next meeting, I would like to suggest Room 155 in the Len B. Jordan Building. It is close to the Capitol and to where the Historical Society Board of Trustees will meet. If I knew how many would be attending, I might be able to talk to security to make some parking available.

Steve Smylie: I would like to suggest that when you meet in January, that SHRAB members arrange to meet with legislative representatives to make them aware of your work. It is especially important for members outside of Boise to do this. You need to call a couple of weeks before and actually set up appointments. If some of the SHRAB members could talk about some of the concerns we have with historical records in this state, it would be an excellent opportunity.

**The next meetings will be at:
Rm 155, LBJ Building, Boise on January 23, 2004
BYU-Idaho, Rexburg on March 26, 2004.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 pm for lunch and concluded with a tour at the State Archives Building.

Respectfully submitted by
Steve Walker

State Historical Records Coordinator