Using Family History to Teach Immigration History

By Thomas Dublin

This is a stimulating time in which to teach American immigration history. Immigration is in the news, and students view the topic as one of more than historical interest; we are addressing some of the more contentious issues of our times. New writing about immigration is appearing in abundance, and challenges teachers to continually rethink the interpretations we offer to students.

During twenty years of teaching a survey course for undergraduates on American immigration, I have looked for ways to connect the broader issues to students’ lives. When I first taught the course in January 1977, I was bothered by the perspectives of available course readings. The texts at that time focused on European immigration, the assimilation of Europeans into broader American culture, attitudes toward immigrants, and the changing legal framework in which immigration took place. These perspectives seemed unnecessarily confining.

Consequently I made two decisions that have continued to shape the course ever since. First, I began a systematic search for first-person sources dealing with the range of immigrant groups to the United States. Second, I attempted to draw upon the family experiences of students in the course, to give them the opportunity to integrate their family experience into the larger picture of immigration. The student population at two large public universities where I taught contained many for whom the immigration experience was quite immediate and personal, and not some distant phenomenon. This approach has become even more fruitful as the proportions of recent immigrants and students of color have grown over time.

The two strategies reinforced each other in useful ways. By using first-person accounts nearly every week, the course confirmed the fact that immigration involves people’s lives and personal experiences, not just some abstract social phenomenon. Eventually I assembled primary sources about immigrants covering all of American history from the diary of an indentured servant in Virginia in the 1770s to an oral history of a Vietnamese family that settled in Chicago in the 1980s. This rich array of personal accounts made it that much easier for students to consider their own family’s place in immigration history.

Early in the semester, I gave students an assignment that became the pivot around which their studies in the course would turn:

Write a six- to eight-page, typed, double-spaced paper discussing your ethnic roots. Trace your maternal and paternal forebears. If immigrants, where did they come from? What can you learn about their lives before migration, their motivations in coming, and their initial experiences in this country? Move beyond description and discuss what you can learn about your ancestors’ changing relations to American society. What evidence is there of your forebears’ acceptance or rejection of assimilation? If it seems appropriate, discuss the influence of ethnicity has had on your life.

Handing the assignment out early permitted students to contact distant family members and begin to collect family oral traditions. I was also challenging them to make connections between their family experience and the broader themes of the course. To assist students in their work, we offered an hour-long seminar in which a reference librarian assembled printed and on-line sources that students might draw upon in doing local and family history and genealogical research. The range of sources available for different ethnic groups is quite remarkable. Students were amazed to discover what information they might find about their families. The library seminar helped break down the barrier between “history” as something that happened to other people as distinct from what happened to families like their own.

The process of integrating these research papers into the course encouraged comparisons across periods and ethnic groups. In the first week of the term, the students read “roots” papers written by students in previous years. They began to think about similarities and differences across groups and across generations. Because all the students were interviewing parents and grandparents and delving into family histories, they talked with one another about the patterns they were discovering in their families’ lives. At the end of the term I asked four students to present their papers to the class, so that students could again consider how the experiences of their own families compared to those of others.

The abundance and variety of students’ writings ultimately led me to edit a collection of their papers: Becoming American, Becoming Ethnic: College Students Explore their Roots (Temple University Press, 1996). The volume consists of thirty essays and two poems written by students between 1977 and 1994. The writing is supplemented with about fifty photographs which offer (continued on page 8)
News from Libraries, Museums and Historic Sites...

Ellis Island Controversy to Have Further Arguments;
New Ukrainian Museum Under Way in New York City

The case of what state may hold sovereignty over Ellis Island is still pending before the United States Supreme Court (Immigration History Newsletter, May 1997, p.2). Originally the court had been expected to make a decision during the fall based upon the report received from a special master last April. However, objections to the settlement were received from both New Jersey and New York, and the court decided to hear new arguments from those parties in early 1998.

Construction is set to begin this month on a new Ukrainian Museum at 222 East Sixth Street in New York City. The museum, which is sponsored by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, is presently contained in a brownstone house at 203 Second Avenue. The five-million-dollar project is scheduled to be completed during 1999. The new three-story brick building will house about 17,800 square feet of space, including exhibitions, archival collections, and an auditorium.


The National Park Service has acquired the Manzanar National Historic Site, location of an internment camp for Japanese-Americans during the Second World War. The 80-acre site is in the Owens Valley of eastern California, about 220 miles north of Los Angeles; the land was formerly owned by the City of Los Angeles, which had bought it for the water rights in the 1920s. The site has not yet been developed, and only a few structures from the internment camp still remain. Admission is free, but there is no visitor center and no regular NPS staffing. For information, contact the Park Service at (760) 878-2932. Occasional tours of the site are arranged by the Eastern California Museum in Independence, California; for information telephone (760) 878-0258.

Ground was broken on May 9, 1997 for the new home of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota (Immigration History Newsletter, Nov. 1996, p.3). The new Minnesota Library Access Center, which will house the IHRC and seven other resource centers, is expected to open in about two years.

The new Centre for Emigration Studies at the Ulster American Folk Park in Northern Ireland was formally inaugurated on April 16, 1997, with William J. Crowe, Jr., U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain, in attendance. The new research center will provide databases and information on Irish emigration for the use of scholars, teachers and local historians. For information, contact John A. Walsh, Ulster American Folk Park, Mellon Rd., Omagh, County Tyrone BT785QY, Northern Ireland.

The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., New York City 10128, currently has an exhibit, "Facing the New World: Jewish Portraits in Colonial and Federal America." The exhibition will be on view until Jan. 11, 1998.

Those attending the American Historical Association convention in January may wish to plan a visit to the Wing Luke Museum, devoted to Asian-American history. The museum is located at 407 7th Ave. in Seattle. Permanent exhibits at the museum include one on the development of the Seattle’s International District. A temporary exhibit, called "Immigration," will close on January 11, the last day of the AHA convention. Information: (206) 623-5124.

The National Museum of Health and Medicine at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., will have an exhibit on "Doctors at the Gate: the U.S. Public Health Service at Ellis Island." The exhibit, planned for Feb. 5-June 21, 1998, will deal with the medical inspection of incoming immigrants, with emphasis on Ellis Island during its peak years. Information: (202) 782-2200.

The Asian American Studies Center at the University of California at Los Angeles has announced a fellowship for the academic year 1998-99 for research in Asian American studies. The fellowship is for $20,000 to $23,000 per year plus health benefits and up to $3000 in research expenses. Deadline for application: Dec. 31, 1997. For application forms and information, contact Enrique de la Cruz, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, PO Box 951546, Los Angeles CA 90095-1546. Telephone: 310-825-2974. E-mail: tulisan@ucla.edu

The Social Science Research Council has announced a program of 1998-99 fellowships for research on migration to the United States. One-year fellowships are available for both dissertation research and postdoctoral research. Grants may be used for both research expenses and for salary. Application deadline: Jan. 9, 1998. For information and application materials, contact International Migration Program, Social Science Research Council, 810 Seventh Ave., New York City NY 10019. E-mail: migration@ssrc.org

Temple University and its Feinstein Center for American Jewish History are
offering six dissertation fellowships for research on the history of American Jewish women. Fellowships are in the amount of $3600 and are open to graduate students in any American or Canadian university. Residency in Philadelphia is not required. For information and to submit proposals, contact Murray Friedman, 117 S. 17th St., Suite 1010, Philadelphia PA 19103. Telephone: (215) 665-2300. Application deadline: Feb. 28, 1998.

The Balkh Institute of Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia, has announced the availability of summer research fellowships for 1998. Grants are available for scholars from outside the Philadelphia area who wish to use the Balkh’s unique resources on immigration and ethnicity. Fellows receive a stipend of $500 per month, plus free accommodations in the Balkh Fellows’ Residence, a nearby townhouse. Fellowships may be for a period of one to three months during the period May 15-Sept. 15, 1998. Open to both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals who are holders of the Ph.D. or equivalent, Ph.D. candidates, or independent scholars. Applicants may be in any relevant field of research. Applicants are urged to consult with the library staff by phone, mail or e-mail before applying, to acquaint themselves with Balkh holdings relating to their project. Information concerning Balkh holdings is also available on the World Wide Web at: http://www.libertynet.org/~balch/balchgd.htm

For detailed instructions for applying and other information, contact Eric L. Pumroy, Balkh Institute for Ethnic Studies, 18 South Seventh St., Philadelphia PA 19106. Telephone: 215-928-8090, ext. 215. E-mail: pumroye@balchinstute.org Application deadline: March 15, 1998.

The Asian American Studies Center at the University of California at Los Angeles has published a second edition of a bibliography listing its collections on Japanese-Americans during the Second World War. The new bibliography updates the first (1992) edition with about fifty new citations. It also includes a section of supplemental readings for instructors on the primary and secondary level wishing to integrate materials on Japanese internment into their curricula. The bibliography, *Japanese Americans during World War II: A Selected, Annotated Bibliography of Materials Available at UCLA* (2nd ed.) is available for $10 plus $3 shipping and handling from the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, PO Box 951546, Los Angeles CA 90095-1546.

The German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., has issued a new reference guide, *Oral History and Postwar German-American Relations: Resources in the United States.* It lists oral history collections on various subjects including German immigration, prisoners of war, and the U.S. military in Germany. For information: (202) 387-3355.

Among recent additions to the archival collections of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota are: papers of Reino Hannula, Finnish-American computer scientist; records of the International Institute of Connecticut and of the International Institute of San Francisco, both member agencies of the Immigration and Refugee Services of America; and additional papers of Nicholas Royce, Greek-American entertainer and advocate for Orthodox Christians.

Plans are underway for a new periodical, *Women in Judaism: A Multidisciplinary Journal,* to be published over the Internet in electronic form only. The journal is intended as a forum for discussion of gender-related issues in Judaism. Information: Dina Eylon, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Univ. of Toronto, 4 Bancroft Ave., Toronto Ontario MSS 1C1, Canada. E-mail: dina.eylon@utoronto.ca

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia has announced the closing of its facilities during the period Nov. 20, 1997 to April 14, 1998. During that period the Society will carry out a $7.5 million renovation project.

President’s Message...

Dear Colleagues:

The IHS Task Force—consisting of myself as chair, along with June Alexander, James Bergquist, Donna Gabaccia, David Gerber, Alan Kraut and David Reimers—has begun its work. The principal result of much exchange of views by e-mail was the decision to poll the membership on some of the issues raised in the electronic conversations. You have no doubt already received the questionnaire. If you have not yet returned it, I urge you to take a few moments to give us your responses.

The purpose of the survey is to give the Task Force a sense of the range of opinions within the IHS as to why we are losing members; what we can do to reverse the trend; and how, in general, those who belong to the Society would like to see it develop. The specific items in the survey are designed to elicit your views on those broad questions, but please feel free to comment on other points if they come to mind as you are going through the questionnaire.

When the returns are in we will go over them carefully and present the results at a joint meeting of the Task Force with the officers and executive board of the IHS at the AHA convention in Seattle. The survey itself and the discussions in Seattle will enable the Task Force to nail down some concrete proposals for action at the general meeting of the IHS membership next April in Indianapolis. We will provide as much advance information on the agenda items as possible, and I urge all of you who can possibly do so to come to that IHS business meeting.

We haven’t decided yet where next April’s social hour and dinner will be held, but the speaker for that occasion will be Robert M. Taylor, Jr., Director of the Education Division of the Indiana Historical Society. Dr. Taylor got his Ph.D. under Robert Swierenga at Kent State, and is the senior editor of *Peopling Indiana,* a comprehensive ethnic encyclopedia of the state published in 1996. He will show a film based on that project (continued on p. 10)
Conferences and Meetings...


The Immigration History Society will hold its annual meeting with the Organization of American Historians in Indianapolis, April 2-5, 1998. The IHS business meeting, dinner and jointly-sponsored sessions will take place at this time.

The Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction will hold its second biennial meeting at the Henry Huntington Library in San Marinó, California on April 4 and 5, 1998. The forum is concerned with European expansion from the 14th through the mid-19th century. Proposals closed Oct. 15, 1997. Information: David Hancock, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Robinson Hall, Harvard Univ., Cambridge MA 02138. Email: hancock@umich.edu

The Society for Cinema Studies will hold its 1998 conference April 4-7 in San Diego. Topic: "Media on the Border," including the role of media in border and immigration issues. Information: Robert Kolker, Dept. of English, University of Maryland, College Park MD 20742; or see the web site: http://www.cinemastudies.org

The American Conference for Irish Studies will hold its 1998 convention April 15-19 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Theme of the conference, held on the 200th anniversary of the 1798 Irish Rebellion, is "Revolutions and Evolutions." Proposals closed Oct. 10, 1997. Information: James Douin, Dept. of Liberal Arts, Nova Southeastern University, 3301 College Ave., Fort Lauderdale FL 33314, Email: douin@polaris.acast.nova.edu

The National Council on Public History will hold its annual meeting April 15-19, 1998 in Austin, Texas. Theme: "International, Multicultural, Interdisciplinary: Public History Policy and Practice." Proposals closed in September. Information: Carl Phagon, Batelle Pantex, PO Box 30020, Building 12-B, Amarillo TX 79120-0020. Email: KMitchell1@pantex.com

The Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware has scheduled its series of research seminars for the academic year 1997-98. Included is a presentation on April 16, 1998 at 6:30 PM by Victor Garcia (Indiana University of Pennsylvania): "Transnational Labor and the Mushroom Industry: The Emergence and Growth of Mexican Enclaves in Southern Chester County, Pennsylvania." Papers available in advance. Contact:
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The Society for German-American Studies will hold its twenty-second annual symposium April 23-25, 1998 in Indianapolis. Theme: "The 1848 Revolution—150 years: the German-American Dimension." Proposals closed October 15, 1997. Information: Giles Hoyt, Dept. of Foreign Languages, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis IN 46202. E-mail: HOYT@IUPUI.edu


The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee plans a conference on May 1-2, 1998 in Milwaukee: "The Impact of Migration on Urban Life in Developed and Developing Countries." Presentations are limited to twenty minutes. Proposals due Dec. 15, 1997. Address Center for International Studies, Garland 102, PO Box 413, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI 53201. E-mail: uwmcis@csd.uwm.edu

The 8th International Conference on Latina/Latino Cultures will take place at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, May 25-29, 1998. Theme: "Shifting Boundaries: Place and Space in the Romance Cultures of North America." Proposals closed in September. Information: Hub Hermans, Centro de Estudios Mexicanos, Rijks Universiteit Groningen, Oude Kijk in ‘t Jatstraat 26, 9712 EK Groningen, Holland. E-mail: hermans@let.rug.nl

The Jacob R. Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and the American Jewish Historical Society will hold the third biennial Scholars’ Conference on American Jewish History at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, June 10-12, 1998. One-page paper abstracts and panel proposals are due November 30, 1997; contact Karla Goldman, HUC-JIR, 3101 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220.

The State Historical Society of Iowa will hold its annual conference in Des Moines, June 12-13, 1998. Theme: "Migrations in History: People, Cultures, Ideas." Proposals due Nov. 30, 1997. Contact: Marvin Bergman, SHSI, 402 Iowa Ave., Iowa City IA 52240. E-mail: mbbergman@blue.wueeg.uiowa.edu

The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences will hold its 56th annual meeting at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. June 12-13, 1998. Deadline for proposals: March 31, 1998. Contact Thaddeus Gromada, Polish Institute, 208 E. 30th St., New York NY 10016. E-mail: tgromada@compserv.com

The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Virginia Humanities Foundation will sponsor a Summer Seminar for undergraduate college teachers at the University of Virginia, June 8-7, 1998. Theme: "Roots: The African Background of American Culture through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade." Deadline: March 2, 1998. Information for applicants on the World Wide Web: http://www.virginia.edu/vhf/roots.nehinst or send e-mail to jh3v@virginia.edu

The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations will hold its annual conference in College Park, Maryland, June 18-20, 1998. Proposals from related fields relevant to foreign policy are solicited; the deadline for proposals has been extended to Dec. 9, 1997. Contact: Chester Pach, Contemporary History Institute, Ohio Univ., Athens, OH 45701. E-mail: SHAIR98@umail.umd.edu


York University, Toronto, will sponsor an international symposium June 26-28, 1998 on the theme "Citizenship, Democracy and Cities in a Global Age." Says the organizing committee: "Since the 1970s, a new wave of global immigration has blurred the boundaries between First and Third World cities...This interdisciplinary symposium brings together international scholars to address the issues of citizenship, democracy and cities in a global age." For further information: Engin F. Isin, Urban Studies, York University, Toronto. E-mail: isin@yorku.ca

The Society for Historians of the Early American Republic will hold its 20th annual meeting July 16-19, 1998 at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Theme: "The Invention of American Nationalisms." "The committee is interested in ways that postrevolutionary Americans conceived and created notions of national identity, and also in the fracturing of nationalisms in the middle decades of the nineteenth century." Proposals due Jan. 15, 1998 to Jack Rakove, Dept. of History, Stanford Univ., Stanford CA 94305-2024. Email: rakove@leland.stanford.edu


The Oral History Association will hold its 1998 conference Oct. 15-18 at Buffalo,
New Publications Noted...


Greenwood, Michael J. and Paul A.


MELUS (Journal of the Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States) 21:4 (1996) is a special issue on ethnic humor.

Miller, Sally M. Race, Ethnicity and Gender in Early Twentieth Century American Socialism. Westport, CT: Garland, 1996.


(continued on p. 10)
Using Family History in Teaching (continued from page 1)

additional views into family immigration experiences. This fall I am teaching the course for the first time using the volume, and will be interested to see the results.

While focusing on the reconstruction of family and personal stories, the essays in the collection raise important issues of identity and assimilation and of conflict and cultural change which are staple themes in American immigration courses. The student authors come to terms with the formation of their own sense of ethnic identity and address their changing relations to family tradition and to the dominant American culture. We see, for example, immigrants in the World War I period striving to “become American,” while their grandchildren and great grandchildren seek to recapture an appreciation of their own ethnicity. We see recent Asian and Latino immigrants operating quite differently in American society from the way their European counterparts did seventy or eighty years ago. But we also see immigrants of very different backgrounds facing similar conflicts during the process of becoming American. A teenager born in Bombay and growing up in Syracuse, New York, experiences a severe divergence between her Indian and American identities in ways remarkably similar to the emotional conflict felt by an adolescent Mexican American growing up in the barrio of East Los Angeles. In both accounts we see the pressures the second generation feels when caught between the influences of the parents and the pressures of the American-born peer group. Despite surface distinctions, Americans of different ethnic backgrounds have much in common.

When I first offered this assignment, I thought about it in terms of immigration and generational change in the lives of the children and grandchildren of immigrants. However, African American students in the course showed me that the assignment spoke to their experiences as well. LaToya Powell, a recent Binghamton student, began her paper by making an explicit connection between the immigrant and African American experiences:

“Although generations before me did not come to the United States from a different country, we as African Americans have endured our own form of immigration.” She described how she and her grandfather related to the dominant white culture in ways parallel to what a native-born young person and her European or Asian grandparents might encounter. Her grandfather's migration from North Carolina to New York City had required adjustments much like those experienced by immigrants from abroad. And like many grandchildren of immigrants, LaToya Powell felt a need to set new terms upon which to relate to the culture around her, and came to a sense of her own ethnicity that contrasts sharply with that of her grandfather. Although I had some initial concerns about whether this assignment would work for all of my students, I found over time that students are able to use it to explore widely varying experiences.

The United States is unique among nations of the world in terms of the number and diversity of immigrants who have come to its shores and the varied peoples who call themselves Americans. With newcomers arriving at the rate of almost one million annually, the late twentieth century stands as one of the great periods of mass immigration in American history. Thus historians have an opportunity to address at the same time a major theme throughout the country’s history and a major element of contemporary American life. When we ask students to explore the personal dimensions of the immigrant experience, we make a statement that history is not a distant phenomenon. History is always in the making, and it entails the life experiences of quite ordinary men and women as well as the exploits of the famous.

Thomas Dublin teaches the history of American immigration at the State University of New York at Binghamton. He has also taught at the University of California, San Diego. In addition to Becoming American, he has edited Immigrant Voices: New Lives in America, 1773-1986 (University of Illinois, 1993).

Conferences and Meetings... (continued from p. 5)


Ben Gurian University of the Negev has announced a conference Oct. 19-21, 1998 at Beer-Sheva, Israel. Title: “The Abraham Conference: Encounters among Jews, Christians and Muslims.” The conference will focus on the impact of migrations among Jews, Christians and Muslims both in history and in the contemporary world. Information and Proposals: Fred Lazin, Dept. of Behavioral Sciences, Ben Gurian Univ. of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, 84105 Israel. E-mail: lazin@bgumail.bgu.ac.il

The American Society for Legal History solicits proposals for its meeting Oct. 22-24, 1998 in Seattle. Deadline for submissions: Jan. 15, 1998. Information and proposals: Daniel Ernst, Georgetown Univ. Law Center, 600 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington DC 20001. E-mail: Ernst@law.georgetown.edu

The American Historical Association has issued its call for papers for its 1999 annual meeting, to be held in Washington, D.C., Jan. 7-10. The Program Committee particularly encourages papers and sessions relating to the theme, “Migrations and Diasporas in History.” John Voll, co-chair of the program committee, writes: “Your society [the AHA] clearly deals with the issues basic to our theme. I hope you will encourage your members to submit proposals.” Final deadline for submissions is Feb. 13, 1998. For information and guidelines for proposals, contact John Voll, Dept. of History, Georgetown University, 37th and O St. NW, Washington DC 20057. E-mail: vollj@gus.earth.georgetown.edu
IMMIGRATION HISTORY ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

The World Wide Web has been expanding at an astonishing rate, bringing with it a number of Internet sites devoted to subjects of interest to researchers and teachers in the field of American immigration history. Following is a sampling of some websites that are currently available. Sites listed have been checked as being in operation as of November 1, 1997. Readers may wish to recommend other sites for future listings in the Newsletter. Send your suggestions to the editor (addresses on p. 11).

The European Research Center on Migration and Ethnic Relations, known as "ERCOMER," at the University of Utrecht in Utrecht, Holland, maintains a page listing its current programs and research activities. Address:
http://www.ercomer.org/

ERCOMER also maintains the web page of the "Virtual Library on Migration and Ethnic Relations." This contains perhaps the most complete listing of links to databases and research facilities in that field. The listing is world-wide. Address:
http://www.ercomer.org/wwwv/index.html

The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia, has a web page listing its programs, guides to its research collections, and papers presented in its "Faculty Associates" programs. The Balch is also developing a web page for the Association of North American Migration Institutions (ANAMI). The Balch's web site is being further developed as a research center under a grant from the Equitable Foundation. It presently includes some links to other research sites. Address:
http://www.libertynet.org:80/~balch/index.html

The Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul has a web page containing guides to its collections and announcements of its programs. Address:
http://www.umn.edu/ihre/

The Center for Migration Studies in Staten Island, New York lists announcements, publications, and resources, and has an online newsletter. Address:
http://www.cmsny.org

University College, London, and its Department of Geography, maintain a list of research places in the field of migration research. Address:
http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/mnu/europe.html

The Asian American Studies Center at the University of California at Los Angeles has a website listing its programs, publications, and links to other research institutions in the field of Asian-American studies. Address:
http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/assc/

The American Political Science Association’s Section on Race, Ethnicity and Politics maintains a web page listing research resources, programs, and a section on Asian-American politics. Address:
http://www.providence.edu/polisci/rep/

The American Jewish History Society in Waltham, Massachusetts, has a web-page containing guides to its holdings, information about its on-line discussion group on Jewish history, and extensive links to other Jewish-history organizations. Address:
http://www.ajhs.org/

The American Jewish Archives at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati has information on resources and programs. Address:
http://home.fuse.net/aja/

H-ETHNIC, a "listserv" which is part of the H-NET system of on-line discussion groups, has archives of its announcements, information and reviews on a web-page. There is also information on subscribing to the listserv. Address:
http://h-net.msu.edu/~ethnic/

The United States Census Bureau has various databases on immigration matters on its website. These include census projections, population characteristics, and a current survey on the foreign-born population. Address:
http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/immigration.html

The Immigration and Naturalization Service maintains a database of current and recent statistics on immigration. Address:
http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/stats/index.html

The Norwegian Emigrant Museum in Norway lists extensive archival resources on Norwegian emigration to the United States. Address:
http://www.humarnett.no/emigrantmuseum/

The Ellis Island National Park has a website listing information for visitors and about programs and its historical collections. Address:
http://www.ellisisland.org/

A collection of 24 images (stereopticon 3-dimensional views) of Ellis Island during the peak immigration years is available from an exhibition at the California Museum of Photography. Address:
http://cmp1.aec.edu/exhibitions/immigration_id.html

A historical tour of Ellis Island is produced by the International Channel and the National Park Service. It includes audio clips from the Ellis Island Oral History Project. Address:
http://www.l-channel.com/ellis/
and discuss his efforts to bring to a wider audience the results of professional scholarship in ethnic history. It promises to be both interesting and rewarding.

Our program committee, led by Betty Bergland, has arranged an excellent session for the OAH meeting in Indianapolis. It will be chaired by former IHS president John Bodnar from neighboring Indiana University, and constitutes another reason for planning to come to Indianapolis next April. I hope to see many of you there.

Philip Gleason
President, IHS

NECROLOGY

Timothy Smith, Professor of History and Education since 1968 at Johns Hopkins University, died January 19, 1998 at the age of 72. During his career he had also taught at Eastern Nazarene College, East Texas State University, and the University of Minnesota. His academic interests embraced both the history of evangelical religion in America and the history of immigration and ethnicity. His best-known books were *Revivalism and Social Reform* (1957) and *Anonymous Americans* (1971). About 1964 he was among the founders of the “Immigration History Group,” which formed the basis from which the Immigration History Society grew. While at Minnesota in the early 1960s, he was among the founders of the Immigration History Research Center. His 1966 article in the *American Historical Review*, “New Approaches to the History of American Immigration in the 20th Century,” was an influence reawakening interest in the study of ethnicity and immigration.

Henry A. Christian, Professor of English at Rutgers University in Newark, died April 9, 1997 at the age of 65. He was known for his extensive research on Slovene Americans, and for his biographical writings on Louis Adamic, Slovene-American journalist.

PERSONALS

John J. Bukoweczyk (Wayne State University, Michigan) has won a Charles Gerenshenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowship, awarded by the Board of Governors of Wayne State.

Philip Gleason (University of Notre Dame, president of the IHS, was honored by colleagues and students at the University of Notre Dame at a symposium in April 1997. The symposium was entitled “Understanding America: Ethnicity, Intellectual History and American Catholicism.” Among the speakers at the symposium were David Hollinger (University of California), Stephen Thornton (Harvard University), Jay Dolan (Univ. of Notre Dame), David O’Brien (College of the Holy Cross), and Martin Marty (University of Chicago). Gleason has retired after 37 years on the Notre Dame faculty.

M. Mark Stolarik (Univ. of Ottawa) is the subject of a master’s thesis: Andrea Sevanciová, "Marian Mark Stolarik: Prisvepok k životu a dielu" [Marian Mark Stolarik: A Survey of His Life and Work] (Univ. of Presov, Slovakia, 1996).

PUBLICATIONS NOTED

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee of the Immigration History Society seeks submissions for future programs at the major historical conventions. The committee is prepared to help formulate suggestions for papers or panels, find possible participants, and assist in submitting proposals to program committees.

Please send proposals, suggestions and ideas as far in advance of deadlines for the meeting as possible. Contact: Betty Bergland, Dept. of History, Univ. of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls WI 54022. Telephone: (715) 425-3164 or (612) 729-6456. E-mail: bergland@tc.umn.edu
IHS News Notes...

THEODORE SALOUTOS BOOK AWARD

Closing date for submissions for the annual Theodore Salouts Book Award is December 31, 1997. To be eligible, a book must be copyrighted 1997. A book may be nominated by the author, the publisher, a member of the prize committee, or a member of the Immigration History Society. Inquiries and nominations should be submitted to the chair of the Salouts Prize Committee, Prof. Cheryl Greenberg, Department of History, Trinity College, Hartford CT 06106.

Copies of the book must be received by all three members of the committee by December 31, 1997. Send books to Prof. Greenberg at the address above; and also to: Prof. Hasia Diner, Dept. of History, New York University, 51 Washington Square South, New York City NY 10002; and Prof. Reed Ueda, Dept. of History, Tufts University, Medford MA 02155.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In 1998, the Immigration History Society will fill three positions on the Executive Board for the three-year term 1998-2001. Send suggestions for these three positions to the Chair of the Nominations Committee: Donna Gabaccia, Department of History, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, Charlotte NC 28223. E-mail: drgabacc@uncc.edu (N.B.: This is a new e-mail address. Use this address instead of the one listed in the 1996-1997 IHS Membership Directory). Other members of the committee are: Tyler Anbinder (George Washington University); Lynn Dumenil (Occidental College); David Emmons (University of Montana); and Dirk Hoederer (University of Bremen). The deadline for submitting suggestions to the chair is Jan. 15, 1997. Ballots will be mailed in mid-February 1998.

GEORGE POZZETTA DISSERTATION AWARD

The Immigration History Society announces competition for the 1998 George E. Pozzetta Award. It invites applications from any Ph.D. candidate who will have completed qualifying examinations by Dec. 1, 1997, and whose thesis focuses on American immigration, emigration, or ethnic history. The award provides $750 for expenses to be incurred in researching the dissertation. Applicants must submit a 3-5 page descriptive proposal in English, discussing the significance of the work, the methodology, sources, and collections to be consulted. Also included must be a proposed budget, a brief curriculum vitae, and a supporting letter from the major advisor. Submission deadline is Dec. 15, 1997, with the winner to be notified by March 1, 1998. Send all materials in triplicate hardcopy (no FAXes accepted) to Professor Barbara Posadas, Department of History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2893. Inquiries: 815-753-0131.

MEETING AT SEATTLE

An informal meeting of IHS members attending the American Historical Association convention in Seattle has been organized by the Task Force which is considering ways to improve the organization. All interested members are invited to attend the meeting and contribute their ideas to the discussion. The meeting is scheduled for 4:45 P.M. on Saturday, January 10, 1998 in room 210 of the Washington State Convention Center.

The regular annual meeting of the Society will take place at the Organization of American Historians convention in Indianapolis, April 2-5, 1998. Time and place will be announced in a notice included with the IHS election ballot in February.

Activities Report for the Immigration History Newsletter

Mail your information for the next Newsletter to:
James M. Bergquist, Department of History, Villanova University, Villanova PA 19085-1699
or FAX a copy to (610) 519-4450 or send information via E-Mail to: bergquist@ucis.vill.edu

Your name and affiliation:

THE IMMIGRATION HISTORY SOCIETY

...was founded in 1965 to promote the study of the history of immigration to the United States and Canada from all parts of the world, including studies of the background of emigration in the countries of origin; to promote the study of ethnic groups in the United States, including regional groups, native Americans and forced immigrants; to promote understanding of the processes of acculturation and of conflict; to furnish through the Immigration History Newsletter information as to research, organizations, meetings and publications in the field of immigrant history; to help organize sessions on immigration and ethnicity at meetings of learned societies; and generally to serve the field of immigration-ethnic history with special reference to professional scholarship.

MEMBERSHIP

...in the Immigration History society includes subscriptions to the quarterly Journal of American Ethnic History and the semianual Immigration History Newsletter. Dues for individuals: one year, $30; 2 years, $55; 3 years, $75. Dues for institutions: one year, $72; 2 years, $138; 3 years, $184. Students: 1 year, $15. Patrons: 1 year, $100 (individuals or institutions who wish to provide more substantial financial support to the Society will have their names listed on the inside cover of the Journal). For domestic first-class mail, add $32 per year. For all subscriptions outside U.S.A., add $32 per year for surface mail, or $48 per year for airmail. Membership dues should be sent to Journal of American Ethnic History, Dept. 8010, Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ 08903.

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Inquiries about the Society should be directed to the appropriate officer. This newsletter was edited with additional assistance and support from the staff of the Library, Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. Newsletter submissions and questions about editorial matters should be sent to the newsletter editor at the address above. Requests for back issues should be sent to the editor; to purchase back issues, send $2.00 per copy (by check made out to Villanova University).

Subscriptions to the Immigration History Newsletter are part of membership in the Society. Members' changes of address should be sent to Immigration History Newsletter, Dept. 8010, Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ 08903.

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