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The newsletter of the Idaho Humanities Council Spring 2013

Five Lives: Idaho in 1863

by

Keith C. Petersen

State Historian

Idaho State Historical Society

Editor's Note: The year 2013 marks Idaho's Territorial Centennial. Two years into the Civil War, on March 4, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared Idaho a Territory. To date, to commemorate “Idaho at 150,” a number of commemorative projects and programs have been and are currently underway. The Idaho Humanities Council, for example, will sponsor a series of two-day summer workshops for teachers in four cities exploring territorial history (see related story, page 4). The IHC also has partnered with the Idaho State Historical Society in developing a modest traveling exhibit, circulated by the ISHS throughout Idaho, exploring territorial issues. We asked Keith Petersen, Idaho’s State Historian, to reflect on that history. The following article is excerpted from a special edition of Idaho Landscapes, devoted to scholarly reflections on territorial history, published in the spring of this year. Petersen chose to explore the story of 1863 Idaho through the lives of five individuals.

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The 37th Congress adjourned in the early morning of March 4, 1863, having finally agreed to boundaries for a huge new territory in the West. A few hours later, President Abraham Lincoln signed the act officially creating Idaho.

On that very day, from his home on F Street in the nation’s capital, Captain John Mullan hastily scribbled a letter to Lincoln seeking appointment as the territory’s first governor. In another part of the city, William Wallace also composed a letter to the president promoting himself for that same position. In Yamhill, Oregon, a continent away, William J. McConnell invested his life savings in mules to carry him to the new territory to seek his fortune. Lorenzo Hill Hatch already had a considerable fortune. On March 4, he was living in Lehi, Utah, about to receive a call from Brigham Young, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to become Bishop of the new community of Franklin—a town both Young and Hatch believed to be in Utah. And along the Snake River in Lewiston, Madame Melanie Bonhore LeFrancois, married three weeks, registered guests to help fund a public reading at her new Hotel De France, promising “good board, good rooms, and prompt attention.”

Until that spring of 1863, John Mullan’s career had been an ascending arc. The oldest child of a large Annamalai family, as an audacious 17-year-old he journeyed to the nation’s capital to meet with President James Polk. Mullan came away with an appointment to West Point. In 1853, Isaac Stevens, Washington’s first territorial governor and head of one of several expeditions sent west that year to ascertain the best route for America’s first transcontinental railroad, selected the recently graduated Lieutenant Mullan as the youngest of seven Army officers in his 230-person party.

Mullan earned Stevens’ confidence on the trek west, and as Stevens headed to Olympia to assume his governor’s duties, he left Mullan in the Bitterroot Valley, where, over the course of a year in 1853-54, he undertook some of the most significant explorations in Northwest history, searching the best railroad route across the mountains.

In those days, wagon roads preceded railroads, means by which to get supplies to work crews. Stevens recognized that for a transcontinental railroad to follow the route he explored, he would first have to lobby for a wagon road. And, as both Washington’s governor and later as its territorial delegate to Congress, he did. When Congress authorized the War Department to construct the road,
40 Years
By Rick Ardinger

The year 2013 is a special year for Idaho, as the state commemorates its territorial sesquicentennial in some important and imaginative ways. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the Idaho Humanities Council, one of 56 humanities councils in the states and territories devoted to promoting greater public understanding of literature, history, law, and other humanities disciplines. Congressionally-created, the Idaho Humanities Council has invested many dollars in research projects of university faculty and independent humanities scholars. Hundreds attend library reading programs every year. Thousands of Idahoans attend IHC Speakers Bureau lectures annually. Hundreds of K-12 teachers over the years have attended the IHC’s humanities workshops and institutes, and thousands of students have benefited from those experiences. It’s been my great fortune to serve the IHC for more than half of its existence. I could not work with a better staff that truly deserves the credit for making it all possible. During my time, I’ve had the privilege of working with an outstanding board of directors, volunteers from all walks of life, all political parties, and from all corners of the state who believe simply that the humanities give meaning to the lives of Idahoans, strengthen civic infrastructure, promote civility, and make a better world. Our work together has created many strong friendships. Our work together has taught us a lot of good.

IHC’s partners—the many libraries, historical museums, colleges and universities, and individuals who take responsibility to make our communities better—are very grateful for the financial support IHC awards for so many projects and programs. But the IHC is equally grateful to so many individuals and organizations for helping the Council meet its mission to enhance access to the humanities throughout this geographically diverse state. Here’s to 40 more.

News and Opportunities

Fred Walters (Cambridge)

Murry Feldman (Boise)

Russ Tremayne (Twin Falls)

Wendy Jaquet (Ketchum)

The Board of Directors of the IHC elected four new members from southwest and southeast Idaho to its 19-member board. The new members will serve three-year terms. Three of the four attended their first board meeting in March.

Fred Walters (Cambridge) is a historian and architectural conservator who has worked with the Idaho Heritage Trust, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service, among other organizations. He has been honored by the Maryland Historical Trust and has received the Distinguished Preservationist Award from the Idaho Historic Preservation Council. Fred holds a B.A. in English Literature from the University of New Mexico and a post-graduate diploma in the Conservation of Historic Buildings from the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies from the University of York (England).

Murray Feldman (Boise) is a partner at the Boise law firm Holland and Hart. He represents clients in environmental litigation, including Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act cases, public land litigation and administrative proceedings, and the defense of citizen suit and government enforcement actions. He holds M.S. and J.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Idaho respectively.

Russ Tremayne (Twin Falls) is an associate professor of history at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. He is a member of the Friends of Minidoka Board of Directors, and he has been involved in planning and conducting the annual Civil Liberty Symposium since its inception. He received CNI’s “Outstanding Academic Faculty Award” in 2006. He holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from Boise State University and the University of Washington respectively.

Wendy Jaquet (Ketchum) is a former member of the Idaho State Legislature, where she served nine terms (18 years) in the House, holding many leadership positions including Minority Leader. Wendy was elected to the board as an “At-Large” member. Prior to her service in the State Legislature, Wendy served 14 years as the director of the Ketchum-Sun Valley Chamber of Commerce. She has served on many boards and committees, has taught at Boise State University on state and local government, and currently serves on the board of the Sun Valley Marketing Alliance and the Foundation for Parks and Lands.

The IHC board is comprised of Academic, Public, and At-Large members representing all regions of the state. Four members are appointed by the governor. Terms are three years, renewable once. Several members rotate off the board each fall as terms expire and new members are elected.

The Idaho Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization, receives funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from other foundations, private corporations, and individuals. IHC’s mission is to increase the awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities in Idaho. It accomplishes this through educational projects for the general public and various target audiences. The Council plans and conducts projects on its own and in concert with other organizations such as universities, colleges, libraries, civic clubs, professional associations, historical societies and museums, and other cultural, educational, and community entities. IHC also provides grant support for humanities projects throughout Idaho.

Opinions expressed in Idaho Humanities do not necessarily reflect views of the Idaho Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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The mission of the Idaho Humanities Council is to deepen understanding of human experience by connecting people with ideas.
FIVE LIVES

Stevens insisted that John Mullan be in charge. From 1858 to 1862, Mullan led a crew constructing the first engineered highway in the Pacific Northwest, a 625-mile route from Fort Walla Walla to Fort Benton, finally fulfilling Thomas Jefferson’s dream of connecting the Missouri and Columbia rivers.

In the winter of 1862-63, the 32-year-old Mullan—recently promoted to captain—sat in the office of Commodore George Dewey, connecting the Missouri and Columbia rivers. Benton, finally fulfilling Thomas Jefferson’s dream of a 625-mile route from Fort Walla Walla to Fort Benton, eventually became Interstate 90, with Idaho’s portion officially named the Captain John Mullan Highway.

News of gold strikes lured William McConnell to Horseshoe Bend and the Boise Basin in 1860, and Walla Walla where he quickly went bankrupt. By that time the first automobiles had made their way over the road he had engineered. With Mullan’s map, the highway would become Interstate 90, with Idaho’s portion officially named the Captain John Mullan Highway.

With gold discoveries in the Clearwater Valley, Washington Territory’s population shifted dramatically east. These new residents clamored for a territory with a more conveniently located capital, and the inhabitants of Olympia enthusiastically consented, believing the eastern population surge threatened their city’s status as seat of government if Washington retained its existing boundaries, being a capital far removed from most of the populace it served. As territorial delegate, Wallace assisted the Senate. And on October 31, he won the seat as Idaho’s congressional delegate. Idaho’s first governor served one term as territorial delegate, then return to Puget Sound, where he died in 1879.

But though Madame Bonhore had lost her most celebrated guest, she remained in Lewiston until her death in 1897. She created an oasis of elegance. She hired a Parisian chef who astounded Lewstonians with such exotic fare as frog’s legs, foie gras, pigeon pie, and wine-simmered rabbit. The Madame sold imported wines, choice liquors, and fine cigars; her brightly wallpapered parlor became a favored spot for weddings. The De France eclipsed the Luna House, which Hill Beachy sold in exasperation in November 1864. He journeyed south and established a stage line from California into the southern Idaho territory. He then returned to Lewiston where he died in 1879.

Mullan’s version of territorial boundaries passed the House in February 1863. Wallace’s map cut Washington off at its current eastern boundary. The gold panhandle in an Idaho territory that otherwise resembled Mullan’s. In this vision, Olympia was not as distant from its eastern Washington extremities. Wallace’s version passed the Senate.

Mullan’s map made geographical sense. Northerners for years attempted to secede from Idaho and join up with Minnesota, where Mullan had placed them—nearly succeeding in 1887 when such a measure passed both houses of Congress, only to receive President Grover Cleveland’s veto note. But in 1863, in the waned hours of the last day of the 37th Congress, both houses—over the vigorous protests of Ashley—approved Wallace’s map; the panhandle would become part of Idaho. Much of Idaho’s political history was shaped by that late-night decision.

James Ashley of Ohio came calling. Ashley chaired the House Committee on Territories. Though the proposed new territory did not yet have a name, Ashley’s committee spent much of its time discussing boundaries of the huge land mass that eventually became Idaho. Since no one knew that part of the West better, Ashley recruited Mullan to draw the territory’s boundaries.

William Wallace, 19 years Mullan’s senior, had served in the Iowa legislature before moving to Washington Territory in 1853. In 1861, he replaced Isaac Stevens as Washington’s delegate to Congress, representing a territory that included all of what is now the State of Idaho.

Wallace knew the Lewiston of 1861; the 37th Congress did pass an act making Lewiston the capital of Washington, Idaho would consist of all the rest left what is now the Idaho panhandle and its miners would return. Wallace’s version passed the House in February 1863.

Mullan resigned from the Army, married, and moved to Lewiston where he quickly went bankrupt. By that time the first automobiles had made their way over the road he had engineered. With Mullan’s map, the highway would become Interstate 90, with Idaho’s portion officially named the Captain John Mullan Highway.

Hatch believed he was “Idaho’s oldest city.”

Hatch was born in Vermont in 1826, about 30 miles from the birthplace of Brigham Young. Young was a religious member of the Brigham Young’s inner circle, he was about to move with his three wives to Franklin to bring civic and religious leadership to Idaho’s easternmost county. Hatch was another decade or before anyone living in Franklin realized they were in Idaho. Hatch believed he was moving to northern Utah. Only after a boundary survey in 1872 did the 10-year-old Franklin suddenly become “Idaho’s oldest city.”

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(See FIVE LIVES, Page 4)
Many people passed through Idaho in its first year. Most left no tracks in the sands of documentary evidence. These five did.

A modest traveling exhibit developed by the Idaho State Historical Society in partnership with the Idaho Humanities Council will be on display at each workshop. Special evening lectures also will be open to the public at each site.

Successful applicants will receive lunch, texts, lodging (if needed), and the opportunity to apply for optional college credit. In addition to the texts, teachers also will receive a variety of lesson plans, workshops, and essays and articles recommended by the presenting scholars. This resource will include possible lesson plans and/or curriculum ideas related to the topic.
interactive program for middle school students, combining reading, performance, and discussion to explore the themes of a variety of workshop activities. The American Place Theatre’s “Literature to Life” organization was to present Lois Lowry’s The Giver in Boise and carry on to renew their commitment to the place through cultural survival as well.

**EXHIBITS AND MULTIMEDIA:**

**The Jacklin Arts and Cultural Center, Post Falls,** received $3,483 for an exhibit about Idaho’s North Idaho War of 1863. The exhibit will feature interpretive museum at the project director is Mark Kurlansky.

**The Idaho Botanical Garden, Boise,** received $1,825 to develop a short video exploring the history of the area’s mining and ranching history. The video will be shown to visitors of the interpretive museum. The project director is Johnne Ogden.

**Boundary County Historical Society, Bonners Ferry,** received $2,000 to help fund the interpretive exhibit about the White Caribou Bar, a popular meeting place started in the early Idaho era. The project director is George Sibly.

**The Sawtooth Institute, Sun Valley,** received $3,122 to support public presentations and production of a DVD presenting an interdisciplinary study of the history and culture of Idaho. The project director is John Lewis.

**Boundary County Historical Society, Bonners Ferry,** partnered with the White Sturgeon Project through community presentations, workshops, interpretive exhibits, and other activities to help support the project. The project director is Brian Keesan.

**The Weippe Community Club, Weippe,** received $1,000 to help support the annual Camas Festival to be held May 24-25, 2013. The event will provide educational presentations at the 2013 Malad Valley Rendezvous. The project director is Lila Means.

**The Idaho Historical Society, Boise,** was awarded $2,000 to help support the 2013 Heritage Conference to be held in Boise in September of 2013. Sponsored by a collaboration of Idaho organizations, the conference will provide opportunities for attendees to explore Idaho’s heritage, culture, and history. The project director is Mary Reed.

**The Adams County Historical Society, New Meadows,** received $1,200 to develop an interpretive project dating to Idaho’s territorial period to the present day. The project director is Mary Shaughnessy.

**The Centennial Project, Garden City,** received $2,750 to help support the 10th anniversary of Idaho’s Hispanic History Month. The project director is Karen Larsen.

**The Idaho Botanical Garden, Boise,** received $1,825 to help fund a year-long educational program to help support the updating and reprinting of two booklets – Idaho’s Trail of the Old Potato and Idaho’s History of Agriculture. The project director is Anne Hall.

**The Idaho State University, Pocatello,** received $4,175 to support a festival titled “Hard Boiled: Global Detectives and Spies.” Held in March of 2013, the festival will feature presentations and performances by 20 international authors in a variety of disciplines. The project director is Mark Kurlansky.

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**The Weippe Community Club, Weippe,** received $1,000 to help support the annual Camas Festival to be held May 24-25, 2013. The theme is “Rendezvous,” focusing on the fur trade era of the early 1800’s. Speakers will explore the diverse heritage and traditions of early western life and participants will experience activities of the early fur traders, including those at the annual Rendezvous. Marge Ketcham is the project director.

**The Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission, Portland, Oregon,** received $5,266 for an educational assembly-type presentation for schools. The project director is Betty Wolfer.

**The Idaho Botanical Garden, Boise,** received $3,300 to continue a project that integrates literacy instruction with Idaho music. The project director is Steve Larsen.

**The Weippe Community Club, Weippe,** received $1,000 to support a multi-faceted traveling exhibit about Idaho’s history written by librarian Sandra Hofferber, Regional Manager of the Boise Public Library. The project director is Anne Hall.

**The Idaho State University, Pocatello,** was awarded $3,500 to help support the creative digital application about Yellowstone Lake now off public. The project director is Mary Shaughnessy.

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New book about doctorsin Idaho
Washington State University Press announces publication of Rugged Mercy: A Country Doctor in Idaho’s Sun Valley, about the life of pioneer physician Robert H. Wright, who practiced medicine in Hailey, Idaho, in the early 20th century. Written by grandson Robert Spencer Wright, the book tells the story of a doctor practicing rural medicine in mountainous central Idaho, performing surgeries by lantern light, traveling by horseshoe, dog sled, and other means to reach patients. His practice was performed in remote wildernesses, often as rescue efforts for victims of fever epidemics, avalanches, and mine cave-ins. Based on the author’s interviews and research, the book is available to a range of cultures and lifestyles of early Idaho, including Basque sheepherders, Chinese miners, and many other backcountry settlers. AVAILABLE IN PAPERBACK, 250-page book sells for $26.95, available from WSU Press at www.wsupress.wsu.edu.

Idaho Humanities Council

The Idaho State Historical Society offers essential services that provide a better understanding of Idaho’s unique history and the significant role history plays in leading to a shared vision of the future. Join them at the Idaho Sesquicentennial. Visit http://history.idaho.gov/idaho-150 for more information.

Poet Robert Morgan to keynote Thomas Wolfe Society Conference in Boise, Friday, May 24

The Idaho Humanities Council will help sponsor a lecture by acclaimed North Carolina author Robert Morgan, entitled “From the Blue Ridge to the Rocky Mountains: Thomas Wolfe and the American West,” on Friday, May 24, 7 p.m., at the Idaho State Capitol Senate Auditorium, as part of the national Thomas Wolfe Society’s 35th annual conference, to be held May 24-25 at the Grove Hotel in Boise. Co-sponsored by the Wolfe Society, the Northwest Regional Wolf Club, and Idaho State University’s Hemingway Western Studies Center, Morgan’s lecture on Wolfe is free and open to the public. This is Morgan’s most renowned writer of the early twentieth century, most famous for his rhymic novel Look Homeward, Angel (1929) and the posthumously published You Can’t Go Home Again (1940). Wolfe’s untimely death at age 37 in 1938 was brought on in part by a whirlwind two-week car trip across the American West, beginning in Oregon and crossing eleven national parks in 1,500 miles. Perhaps Wolfe’s untimely death has been drawn toward the West. In most of his books, Morgan has focused on the western frontier. Perhaps Morgan’s best known novel, Gap Creek (Algonquin 1999), follows the struggles of a newly wed couple to begin a life together on an abandoned frontier farm in the early twentieth century. Gap Creek won the Southern Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction (2000), was chosen as a Notable Book by the New York Times Book Review, and was selected for the Oprah Book Club and the Appalachian Writers Association’s Book of the Year for 2000.

In 2007, Morgan published a bestselling biography of Daniel Boone. He followed this biography with Lions of the West: Heroes and Villains of America’s Western Expansion, a comprehensive biography of such figures as Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Johnny Appleseed, Sam Houston, and Davy Crockett, as well as less well known figures. The book allows the reader to determine who were the villains and who were the heroes.

Morgan currently teaches literature at Cornell University. For more information about Morgan or the Thomas Wolfe Conference in Boise, go to http://www.thomas-wolfe.com.

NEWS

Continued from Page 2

New book for Idaho’s Sesquicentennial

Ever wonder who brought irrigation to the Magic Valley? You may assume that the road through Idaho to Yellowstone National Park has always been there—but who was responsible for getting it built and why? And just how did a Michigan lumber company end up owning so much of North Idaho?

Ridenbaugh Press announces publication of Idaho 100: The People Who Most Influenced the Gem State, by longtime Idaho political strategist and IHC Board Member Martin L. Peterson. Peterson and political analyst Randy Stagluss, a volume that unearths the sometimes famous, sometimes infamous, and often obscure people who most transformed Idaho in ways large and small, to create what many people now take for granted. According to the authors, to a large extent, Idaho is the result of what these 100 people did. Idaho probably wouldn’t have its trademarked potatoes but for the imagination of one energetic potato farmer. The names of these 100 people have a physical and mythical land — the Idaho Conservation League, Wilderness Society, and the advocate of conservation Wolfe Conference in Boise, go to http://www.thomas-wolfe.com.

New memoir about stroke, recovery and environmental conservation

Caxton Press of Caldwell announces publication of Dark Side of the Moon: An Unlikely Recovery, and environmental memoir about stroke, recovery, and environmental awareness on the part of Idaho’s unique history and the significant role history plays in leading to a shared vision of the future. Join them at the Idaho Sesquicentennial. Visit http://history.idaho.gov/idaho-150 for more information.

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Alan Marshall honored for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities

The Idaho Humanities Council honored retired Lewis-Clark State College Anthropology Professor Alan Marshall, of Lewiston, by presenting him with IHC's award for “Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities” at a standing-room-only ceremony in Lewiston’s Red Lion Hotel on March 21. The award, which carries a $1,000 honorarium, was presented to Marshall for his exemplary career as a teacher, scholar, and mentor to many interested in exploring cultural anthropology and Native American studies. For many years, he made extraordinary efforts to reach off-campus to promote greater awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Nez Perce culture. At the award presentation, a number of Marshall’s LCSC colleagues and friends from the Nez Perce tribe spoke to the appropriateness of him receiving the award. After several testimonials, Marshall delivered his own talk about his life’s work:

“Alan Marshall established strong and trusting relationships with the Nez Perce over several decades of teaching and research at Lewis-Clark State College,” said IHC Chair Katherine Aiken, Dean of the College of Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences at the University of Idaho. “His work is inspiring, and his legacy is a program that promotes cross-cultural understanding and the preservation of the Nez Perce language.”

After earning his Ph.D. in anthropology from Washington State University in 1977, Marshall began his career at LCSC a year later, teaching courses and building relationships with Nez Perce tribal historians, elders, and other leaders to better interpret tribal culture and history. Over thirty years, he taught hundreds of students, but he also committed himself to quiet, unheralded work interpreting treaties with the Nez Perce regarding hunting, fishing, and water rights, for federal, state, and local agencies.

Most significant is his role, in collaboration with Nez Perce tribal elders, in bringing Nez Perce language instruction to LCSC. Today, LCSC students may take Nez Perce to satisfy the general language requirement. Students may even earn a minor in Nez Perce.

As part of his consulting work, Marshall has written several major reports that detail the Nez Perce tribe’s conception of and interaction with the environment. Through his work Marshall has served as an informed source and cultural guide through traditional Nez Perce ways.

“Alan’s work has been exemplary and is worthy of recognition,” said colleague Christopher Riggs, LCSC professor of history and a board member of the Idaho Humanities Council. “His commitment is passionate and his work in the field has benefited tribal culture and the academic professions of teaching and research.”

Although retired, Marshall continues his research and work with the Nez Perce.

The IHC has presented its award for “Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities” annually since 1986. Previous recipients of the award have included State Historian Keith Petersen, Twin Falls anthropologist James Woods, College of Idaho Professor Louie Atteberry, State Historian Merle Wells, Constitutional scholar David Adler, Moscow writer Mary Clearman Blew, BSU History Professor Robert Sims, Idaho poet William Studebaker, historian Arthur Hart, Nez Perce elder Horace Axtell, former LCSC English Professor Keith Browning, Idaho State University History Professor Ron Hatzenbuehler, Basque Museum and Cultural Center Director Patty Miller, Boise Independent Schools administrator and history teacher Russ Heller, North Idaho College English Professor Virginia Johnston, and others.

Best-selling writer Alexandra Fuller speaks to 250 in Idaho Falls

Best-selling author Alexandra Fuller gave IHC’s 6th Annual Eastern Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture in April at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls. Fuller spoke about “Tales from the Motherland: How Africa Gave Me a Voice, and America Gave Me the Freedom to Use It” to an audience of 250.

Fuller has written four books of non-fiction. Her debut memoir, Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood, was a New York Times Notable Book, a Booksense Best Non-fiction book, a finalist for the Guardian’s First Book Award and the winner of a Winifred Holtby Memorial Prize.

Prior to speaking that evening, Fuller greeted dozens of Benefactors at the beautiful home of Tim and Anne Hopkins.

Tremendous thanks goes to the supporters and sponsors of the event including the Bank of Idaho, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, the Post Register, Idaho Public Television, Teton Toyota, and Barnes and Noble. Thank you also to Robin and Steven Piet, Jim Francis and Karen Leibert, John and Marion Buzzell, Georgia Haynes, John McGimpsey, Effie’s Book Club and EIRMC for the student scholarship donations.

Lastly we’d like to thank IHC’s Idaho Falls’ board members Chris Hatch and Ed Marohn whose dedication to the humanities in their community made this evening possible.

Honored and roasted: LCSC anthropologist Alan Marshall (with plaque) is flanked by friends and colleagues (L to R) Mary Aragon, Katherine Aiken, Steve Evans, Chris Riggs, Silas Whitman, and Alan Pinkham.

Clockwise: (1) Writer Alexandra Fuller thanks benefactor reception guests for the invitation to speak in Idaho Falls. (2) IHC Board Member Ed Marohn (R) presents autographed books to reception hosts Tim and Anne Hopkins. (3) Reception guests take time to meet Fuller. (4) Host Tim Hopkins thanks Fuller for coming back to Idaho. (5) After her lecture, Fuller signed books for many dinner guests.
National Book Award-winning historian Nathaniel Philbrick to speak in Boise, Thursday, September 26

Narcissistic Book Award-winning historian Nathaniel Philbrick will be the speaker at the IHC’s 17th Annual Distinguished Humanities Lecture and Dinner on Thursday, September 26, 2013, at 7 p.m., at the Boise Centre.

The event is made possible in part by the generous support of Olds Boise Community Fund, Idaho Public Television, the Boise Co-op, and more.

Tickets are available now for purchase online at www.idahohumanities.org under “IHC Events,” or by calling the IHC at 345-5346. General tickets are $60. Benefactor tickets are $125 and include a no-host reception and preferred seating at the dinner and lecture. IHC always recommends a pre-dinner reception with Philbrick in a private home and preferred seating at the dinner and lecture. IHC always recommends reserving tickets early as the event usually sells out. The evening will begin with a no-host reception at 6:00 p.m. at the Boise Centre. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., with Philbrick’s talk to follow. Philbrick’s books will be available onsite and he’ll be available for signing afterwards. A silent auction of signed first edition books will be in the lobby of the Boise Centre.


RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW!

When: Thursday, September 26
Where: Boise Centre
General Tickets $60
Benefactor Tickets $125
Benefactor Table for 10 $1,000 ($250 savings)

Beneficiaries receive an invitation to a pre-dinner reception with Nathaniel Philbrick and preferred seating.

Purchase online at www.idahohumanities.org
Or call (208) 345-5346

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW: Historian Douglas Brinkley to speak in Coeur d’Alene, Thursday, October 3

Prize-winning historian Douglas Brinkley will be the speaker at the IHC’s 10th Annual Northern Idaho Distinguished Humans Lecture and Dinner on Thursday, October 3, 2013, at 7 p.m., at the Coeur d’Alene Resort. Tickets to the event are available now.

The event is made possible in part by support from Idaho Forest Group, Hagadone Corporation, the Coeur d’Alene Press, and Idaho Public Television.

Brinkley is a professor of history at Rice University and one of the most distinguished historians of our time. He is the author, co-author, and editor of more than two dozen books exploring American history and literature, the American presidency, and contemporary culture and events. His books range from biographies of Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter and histories of World War II, to the compilation of letters and unpublished manuscripts of contemporary literary icons Jack Kerouac and Hunter S. Thompson. He is the official historian for CBS news, contributes to CNN, NBC and PBS news productions and to the New York Times, Boston Globe, Vanity Fair and Rolling Stone.

Mentored by historian Stephen Ambrose, with whom he co-wrote three books, Brinkley’s long list of books includes The Magic Bus: An American Odyssey: The Reagan Diaries; Voices of Valor: D-Day, June 6, 1944; Tour of Duty: John Kerry and the Vietnam War, The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America. Brinkley first gained fame with his nonfiction classic In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex, which familiarized modern readers with the harrowing true story behind Herman Melville’s Moby-Dick. The gripping bestseller won the prestigious National Book Award in 2001, and later inspired a PBS American Experience documentary about the Essex. Philbrick revisited the bestselling list with Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War, his fresh take on the Pilgrims’ journey to Plymouth Rock. He has also penned absorbing accounts of the battles that continue to haunt our collective imagination.

A renowned scholar who wears his learning lightly, Philbrick entertains listening audiences with fascinating accounts of America’s past and tales of his own seagoing adventures. His lectures are delivered in the same brisk and engaging style that has made him one of the country’s most popular authors of historical narrative. Tickets are available now for purchase online at www.idahohumanities.org under “IHC Events,” or by calling the IHC at 345-5346. General tickets are $60. Benefactor tickets are $125 and include a no-host reception and preferred seating at the pre-dinner reception with Philbrick in a private home and preferred seating at the dinner and lecture. IHC always recommends reserving tickets early as the event usually sells out. The evening will begin with a no-host reception at 6:00 p.m. at the Boise Centre. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., with Philbrick’s talk to follow. Philbrick’s books will be available onsite and he’ll be available for signing afterwards. A silent auction of signed first edition books will be in the lobby of the Boise Centre.


RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW!

When: Thursday, October 3
Where: Coeur d’Alene Resort
General Tickets $45
Benefactor Tickets $100
Benefactor Table for 8 $800

Beneficiaries receive an invitation to a pre-dinner reception with Douglas Brinkley and preferred seating.

Purchase online at www.idahohumanities.org
Or call (208) 345-5346

Idaho Humanities 8
Remember to send back that envelope...

To read the feature story in this issue of Idaho Humanities you had to use the donation envelope — please don’t throw it away. Show your support for the work of the Idaho Humanities Council today by sending it back with your tax-deductible gift enclosed. The IHC is dependent more than ever on donations from our readers, program participants, teachers, civic leaders, community activists, and others who believe that lifelong learning in the humanities helps build a more literate, tolerant, and intellectually inquisitive Idaho citizenry. If you agree that lifelong learning in the humanities improves civic discourse and enhances informed civic involvement, then please return your envelope today. The IHC will put it to good use funding summer institutes and workshops for teachers, traveling Smithsonian exhibits, our Humanities Speakers Bureau, reading/ discussion programs, lectures by some of the best writers, historians, and journalists writing in the world today, and many other timely programs.

Return your envelope with a check, or make your donation online at www.idahohumanities.org, and help the Idaho Humanities Council deepen public understanding of human experience and connect people to ideas.

Make your tax-deductible gift today!
GRANTS (Continued from Page 5)

History Librarian at The Community Library. The book includes photographs and family histories specific to Hailey.

Bradley Voile, Lakeside High School, Plummer, was awarded $1,000 to expand lesson plans to incorporate contributions of Native American soldiers in WWI. He will present his lesson plans at a seminar at the National WWI Museum in Kansas City, will conduct additional research, and will include references to local Coeur d’Alene tribal members serving in WWI. The lesson will be shared on a national website, with the Coeur d’Alene tribe, with the Coeur d’Alene and Boise Human Rights Education centers, and with his colleagues.

Shirley Ewing, Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology, Boise, received $700 to support the Museum Rock Party in September. The event focuses on the mining, archeological and geologic history of Idaho. Several hands-on stations including fossil digs, mine mapping, gold panning, etc., are prepared and run by teachers and museum volunteers.

Margaret Marti, Writers@Barriman, Boise, was awarded $1,000 for support of the week-long writing workshop for high school students. The camp brings students and teachers together in workshops and hands-on activities designed to engage student writers and promote increased learning.

Sandra Gray, Washington Elementary, Pocatello, received $1,000 to bring children’s book author Gary Hogg to the school for several presentations during a one-day visit. Hogg will present at an all-school assembly, conduct reading and writing workshops for classes, and a teacher workshop at the end of the day.

Ellen Weismann, Sandpoint, was awarded $1,000 for a pilot project in the Bonner County schools developing curriculum and teaching students about the Kalispel Indians, their literacies and heritage in northern Idaho. Kalispel cultural educators, Johnny Arlee and Kayleen Sherwood, will make school presentations and meet with fourth-grade classes at Sandpoint’s Washington Elementary School.

Angela Harvey, Never Again is Now, Boise, was awarded $1,000 to help bring Linda Christensen, speaker and author of Reading, Writing and Rising Up, to a six-day course June 17-22 at BSC for 20 Idaho teachers. The course explores effective ways to teach social justice issues to inspire students to take an active role in fighting against human rights violations in their communities.

Jamesa Williams, Lapwai, received $1,000 for continuing support of a highly successful and popular program for her students – writing and publishing short stories. Williams conducts family surveys, collects photos, and helps students write about their histories and their traditions, then compiles them into hard-bound books.

PLANNING GRANT:
Preservation Idaho and the Long Valley Preservation Society, Donnelly, received $1,000 to study the feasibility and procedure for building a heritage agricultural buildings register in Idaho. LVP is working to document 300 existing sites in Valley County and their register will serve as a model for replication throughout Idaho. Frank Eld is the project director.

The Next Deadline for IHC Grants:
The next deadline for Idaho Humanities Council grant proposals – and for Research Fellowships – is September 15, 2013. IHC strongly recommends that prospective applicants contact staff to discuss their project ideas before writing their proposals. Applicants also are strongly encouraged to submit a rough draft of their proposal for staff critique several weeks prior to the deadline. Grant guidelines and online application instructions, as well as information about IHC grants and activities, are available on IHC’s website at www.idahohumanities.org, or by calling 208-345-5346.

What Are You Reading?

In each issue of Idaho Humanities, several readers tell us what they’ve been reading and what they recommend.

Reader: Marsha Niper, Idaho Falls
Book: Why the Dreyfus Affair Matters by Louis Begley
The Dreyfus Affair polarized France in the 1890’s. When I chose this book, I was aware of the miscarriage of justice that sent Lt. Dreyfus to Devil’s Island, but I wanted to know more about the conditions in French culture and the legal system that enabled this travesty to happen. Are there parallels that we can learn from?
For the most part, this short book answers well. The author covers the trials, the cover-ups, the interplay of personalities, the culture of the military, anti-Semitism, the role of the press, and the high-charged political climate. It is a convoluted and horribly fascinating story. My response to the book, however, is nuanced. Given the title, I expected the analysis of the affair’s relevance to be as carefully crafted as its historic milieu. That the Dreyfus Affair does matter in today’s world of military tribunals, renditions, torture and the suspension of habeas corpus - I don’t doubt. But Begley’s examples seem hastily tacked on to an otherwise well-done account. The space devoted to the Dreyfus Affair in French literature, while interesting, might have been used to answer Why the Dreyfus Affair Matters. Nonetheless, this is a most thought-provoking book.

Reader: John Hand, Boise
Book: The Name of War: King Philip’s War and the Origins of American Identity by Jill Lepore
Every year, Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, when colonists were saved by native peoples. Jill Lepore examines how white and native views of each other changed radically during this little-remembered New England war (1675-76). By the end of the conflict, the stereotypical “savage” image was well-established, the spirit of Thanksgiving vanished, and the stage was set for the emergence 150 years later of the “noble savage” myth. Lepore balances thoughtful scholarship with readable, often witty narrative. Famous historical characters, such as Increase and Cotton Mather and the captive Mary Rowlandson, populate Lepore’s story; but lesser known characters like John Sassamom, the Harvard-educated Christian Indian whose murder ignited the war, and Benjamin Church, the colonist who killed Philip, add depth and texture to her work. Lepore is a worthy companion to Francis Jennings and Alvin Josephy; she challenges us to re-think traditional views of Native Americans in history books and, more importantly, asks how contemporary American society can accommodate “their Indianness”.

Reader: Nancy Flagan, Coeur d’Alene
Book: The Plague of Doves by Louise Erdrich
“A Plague of Doves”…the title comes from a very old newspaper article. There was a plague of doves, and the congregation of a Catholic church gathered in order to try and walk through the fields praying to drive away the doves and prevent them from eating the crops. The story evolves from a 1897 lynching of Native American men, including a thirteen-year-old boy. Erdrich weaves a story that goes back and forth through time showing the influence of history on the passions and decisions of people who live in the present. Her narrators offer unique storytelling abilities and characters that move from depths of darkness to enlightenment. The mysticism of dream-like Native American culture mingled with storytelling that explores the existence of two cultures seeking to exist together, creates a compelling mystery. This book was my welcome to Louise Erdrich territory. The New York Times Book Review describes her as “a talented storyteller who has created a world, fictional but real: absorbing, funny, serious and convincingly human.” This view was echoed in reviews from numerous other valued reviewers and I’m in a “Believer.” Explore Louise Erdrich, and you will be delighted.

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