

HOW SUBMITTED MATERIALS TO THE VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT BECOME A COLLECTION: FROM THE MAIL ROOM TO THE ARCHIVES

Did you ever wonder what happens to each veteran’s collection once it leaves CCSU? The Library of Congress illustrates the journey each collection takes on its way to the permanent archive.



1: CCSU VHP sends materials via UPS to the LOC.

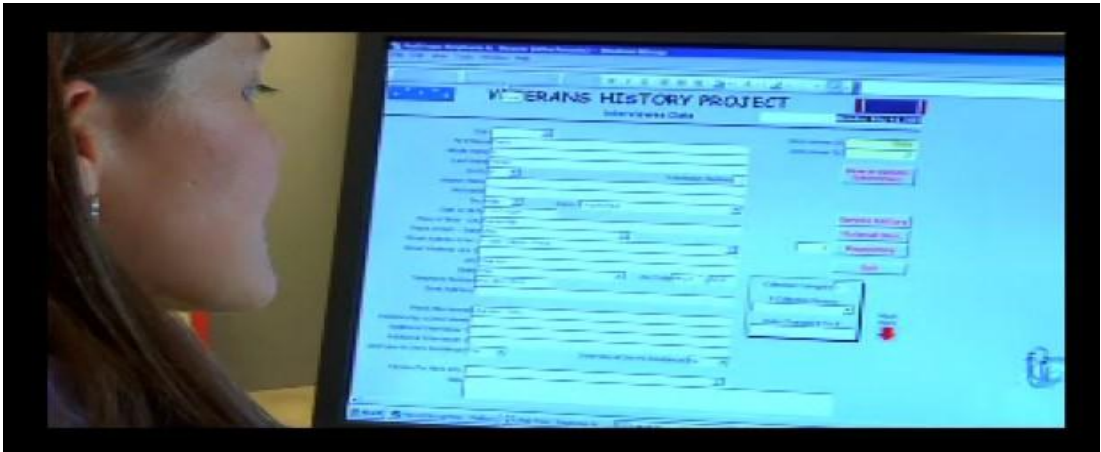


2: Materials are accessioned, processed, and placed in archival housing.

Examples of Collection Materials



3: Information about collection materials is entered into the LOC database.



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INSIDE THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS (CONTINUED)

4. A web page is created for every veteran who shares a story or submits materials.



To visit the Library of Congress web site
go to: www.loc.gov/vets

*Collection Materials in
Archival Housing*



5. Once the collection is processed, materials are housed in a safe, climate-controlled environment at the Library of Congress.

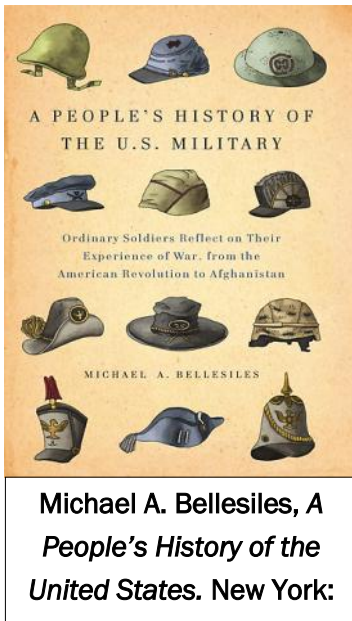
6. Collections can be accessed by the public at the American Folklife Center Reading Room.



7. Collections are used by researchers, educators, family members, and others.

A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE U.S. MILITARY

By Owen Rogers



This recent work of public history traces the collective experience of United States' servicemen and servicewomen from the American Revolution through the present. Incorporating an elaborate collection of primary sources, CCSU professor Michael Bellesiles authored *A People's History of the U.S. States Military*, in which he examines military history from the "bottom-up." In doing so, he makes extensive use of transcripts from CCSU Veterans History Project interviews. As a resource, these oral histories offer an intimate glance into the emotions and ideas derived from military service.

Admittedly, veterans speak of their service in terms of hardship. However, they also identify the military as a source of refuge from social ills, as well as a system of meritocratic reward. The majority of veteran voices in this work are those of enlisted men, from whom he extracts the reasoning for military service and the long-lasting effects on their lives. It is this notion, in particular, that indicates the complementary relationship between military and civilian life. Ultimately, Bellesiles theorizes that the powerful strides towards racial and gender equality accomplished within the military are a democratizing force for society as a whole.

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT PRESENTS AT THE "OUR STATE, OUR STORIES" CONFERENCE

At the invitation of the Connecticut Humanities Council, the CCSU Veterans History Project hosted two workshops at the June 4, 2012 "Our State, Our Stories" oral history conference. Offering both a morning and afternoon workshop, the VHP made extensive use of collected primary source materials, including personal papers, military documents, photographs, publications, and videotaped interviews. Through an explanation of "Do's and Don'ts," the challenges facing oral historians were analyzed and then demonstrated using actual footage of interview mishaps.

To truly exhibit the intricacies of an oral history interview, Kjell Tollefsen, a Vietnam War veteran previously interviewed by the VHP, participated in a mock interview. Performing two interviews, one in which the interviewer conducted himself in an amateur fashion and another in which he followed best oral history practices. This live demonstration indicated the structure required for successful interviews. Through the lens of both error and experience, attendees witnessed the potential of successful oral history techniques.

Furthermore, Briana McGuckin, a certified librarian and VHP staff member, explained the collection management techniques employed by the CCSU Veterans History Project. As an official archive partner of the Library of Congress, these skills are necessary for the satisfactory submission of veterans' materials. Her aptly titled presentation, "Order Out of Chaos," illustrated the fragile and unorganized state in which original materials are often delivered. Explaining the process step-by-step and a thorough dissection of the gathered materials indicated the eclectic qualities of archival contents as well as their value to future researchers and historians.

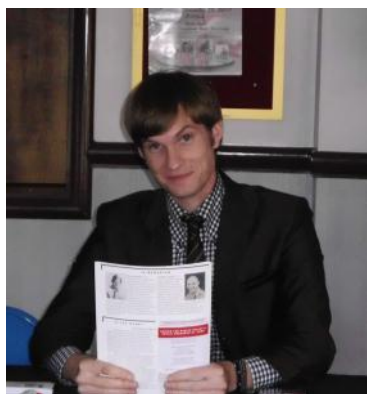


(L-R): Timothy Jones, Kjell Tollefsen, and Owen Rogers at the "Do's and Don'ts"

OWEN ROGERS LEAVES FOR WASHINGTON D.C.

It is with great pride that we announce the hire of graduate student Owen Rogers by the Library of Congress. Owen will continue to work on the Veterans History Project, except now he will be working directly at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.. When Owen began working for the VHP at CCSU as an intern in 2010, his knowledge of military history along with his passion for veterans quickly landed him a paying job. Owen possesses a rare combination of knowledge and interest in all things military, a genuine enthusiasm for learning, and a rare work ethic. While earning his Master's Degree in Public History at CCSU, Owen consistently maintained a high GPA in addition to conducting research and working at the VHP. Owen learned all facets of the VHP, from

conducting interviews, processing digital collections, editing the newsletter, assisting with the overhaul and maintenance of our website to presenting at conferences and speaking to audiences about the VHP. His respect for veterans and his passion for the VHP are evident in the great care and attention to detail Owen takes to accurately document American history. Owen has been an integral part of the VHP for over two years, and we will certainly miss him. His education at CCSU in both the classroom and the community will serve him well in his new position.



VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT VISITS JFK LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



On September 22, 2012, the CCSU Veterans History Project and a large group of interviewed veterans travelled to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, located in Boston, Massachusetts. On site, they

were treated to a specialized tour of the facility.

Steven Kliger, Executive Director of the Center for Public Policy and Social Research, also serves as a docent for the Kennedy Library and Museum. His six years of experience and familiarity with the museum collection allowed him to craft a tour that focused on the military history of the 35th president. Then-Lieutenant Junior Grade Kennedy, whose devotion to the crew of his Patrol Torpedo Boat (PT-109) forged a path to his later presidency. The private tour also included the "thirteen days in October," which documented the political and military history of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The tour concluded with a tribute to the U.S. Army Special Forces, whose official headgear, the "Green Beret," was endorsed by President Kennedy. This appreciation endures through the JFK Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Honor Our Heroes this Veterans Day.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY & SOCIAL RESEARCH AT CCSU

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Visit the Veterans History Project!

Online at <http://www.ccsu.edu/vhp>

On YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/ccsuvhp>

On Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/vhp.ccsu>

On Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/ccsuvhp>

