The 2016 EHA Meetings: Economic History and Economic Development

The annual meeting of the Economic History Association will take place September 16-18, 2016 in Boulder, Colorado. The theme for EHA 2016 is “economic history and economic development.” Economic history is contextual and a longitudinal process, and so too is economic development. Both fields, moreover, view law and politics as important drivers of economic change. Yet, the fields are typically somewhat divorced. Economic history focuses on past development experiences, often (though not exclusively) in currently-developed economies, while economic development focuses on economies that are currently poor. While there is a great deal of methodological congruence, studying the past usually requires exploiting observational, archival data (perhaps exploiting “natural experiments”), while the study of the present allows for implementation of randomized control trials that represent a benchmark for identifying causal effects. One aim of the conference is to point to what the two fields can learn from each other. We thus welcome papers wedding economic history and economic development, and papers drawing on insights from law and political science, as well as (naturally) economics and history.

The Program Committee (Alan Dye, Barnard College (chair), together with Edwyna Harris (Monash University), Rick Hornbeck (University of Chicago), Gary Libecap (University of California, Santa Barbara), and Noam Yuchtman (University of California, Berkeley) welcomes submissions on ALL subjects in economic history, though some preference will be given to papers that specifically fit the theme. Papers should be submitted individually, but authors may suggest to the Committee that three particular papers fit well together in a panel. Papers should in all cases be works in progress rather than accepted or published work. Submitters should let the program committee know at the time of application if the paper they are proposing has already been submitted for publication. Individuals who presented or co-authored a paper given at the 2015 meeting are not eligible for inclusion in the 2016 program.
Papers and session proposals should be submitted online. Paper proposals should include a 3-5 page proposal and a 150-word abstract suitable for publication in the *Journal of Economic History*. Papers should be submitted by January 31, 2016 to ensure consideration.

Graduate students are encouraged to attend the meeting. The Association offers subsidies for travel, hotel, registration, and meals, including a special graduate student dinner. A poster session welcomes work from dissertations in progress. Applications for the poster session are due no later than May 21, 2016 online on the meetings website. The poster submission system will open on March 1, 2016. The dissertation session, convened by Hoyt Bleakley (University of Michigan) and Petra Moser (New York University), will honor six dissertations completed during the 2015-2016 academic year. The submission deadline is May 15, 2016. The Alexander Gerschenkron and Allan Nevins prizes will be awarded to the best dissertations on non-North American and North American topics respectively. Dissertations must be submitted as a single PDF file. Files of less than 5 MB in size may be sent directly to the conveners as an email attachment.

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2016 Clio and EHA sessions at ASSA
January 3, 2016, 10:15 am
Union Square 24, Hilton Union Square

New Wine in Old Bottles: Capitalism, Monetary Policy, Panics and War
Organizer: Claude Diebolt (Strasbourg)
Chair: Claude Diebolt (Strasbourg)

Discussants: Robert Margo (Boston University), Mike Haupert (University of Wisconsin – La Crosse), Jon Moen (University of Mississippi), Claude Diebolt (Strasbourg)

Papers:
“The ‘New History of Capitalism’ and Slavery,” Paul Rhode (Michigan) and Alan Olmstead (UC-Davis)
“The Taylor Rule in the 1920s,” Alexander Field (Santa Clara)
“How to Prevent a Banking Panic: the Barings Crisis of 1890,” Eugene White (Rutgers)
“The Irrational Rationality of War and Economics,” Roger Ransom (UC Riverside)

January 3, 2016, 12:30 pm
Union Square 24, Hilton Union Square

Historical Growth Dynamics of the Modern World
Organizer: Claude Diebolt (Strasbourg)
Chair: Mike Haupert (University of Wisconsin – La Crosse)

Discussants: David Mitch (University of Maryland Baltimore County), Ahmed Rahman (U.S. Naval Academy), Raphael Franck (Brown)

Papers:

“Reconstruction Dynamics: The Impact of World War II on Post-War Economic Growth,” Petros Milionis (University of Groningen) and Tamas Vonyo (Bocconi University)

“Keeping our Bearings in Public R&D: Lessons from Britain’s Board of Longitude (1714-1828),” Paul David (Stanford)

January 3, 2016, 2:30 pm
Union Square 24, Hilton Union Square

Money and Banking: Local and Global
Organizer: Claude Diebolt (Strasbourg)
Chair: Claude Diebolt (University of Strasbourg)

Discussants: Vincent Bignon (Banque de France), Eric Monnet (Bank of France), Sumner La Croix (University of Hawai‘i), Gary Richardson (University of California – Irvine)

Papers:
“Bank Concentration in the United States, 1835-1920,” Matthew Jaremski (Colgate) and Caroline Fohlin (Emory)

“Global Banking and the International Transmission of the 1931 Financial Crisis” Olivier Accominotti (LSE)


“UK Monetary and Credit Policy after the Radcliffe Report,” Oliver Bush (LSE), David Aikman (Bank of England), and Alan Taylor (UC Davis)

January 4, 2016, 12:30 pm
Sutter A & B, Hilton Union Square

Social Mobility and Demography in China and Japan
Organizer: Richard Hornbeck (Harvard)
Chair: Noam Yuchtman (UC-Berkeley)

Discussants: Noam Yuchtman (UC-Berkeley), Chiaki Moriguchi (Hitotsubashi University), Ruixue Jia (UC-San Diego)

Papers:
“Social Mobility in China, 1645-2012: A Surname Study,” Gregory Clark (UC Davis)

“The Engine and the Reaper: Industrialization and Mortality Rates in Late Nineteenth Century Japan,” John Tang (Australian National University)

“Civil Service Exams and Social Mobility: Jinshiâ’s Exam Performances and Official Careers in Ming China (1368-1644),” Se Yan (Peking University)

January 4, 2016, 2:30 pm
Room Sutter A & B, Hilton Union Square

Institutions Matter: Economic and Social Policies in the Long Run
Organizer: Richard Hornbeck (Harvard)
Chair: Julia Cage (Sciences Po)

Discussants: Daniel Shoag (Harvard), Eric Edwards (Utah State), Julia Cage (Sciences Po), Michael Bordo (Rutgers)

Papers:
“Policy Uncertainty and Investment: Evidence from the English East India Company,” Dan Bogart (UC Irvine)
“Inter-annual Water Supply Variation and Irrigated Agriculture in the Arid Western United States: One Hundred Years of Agricultural Census Observations from Idaho,” Zeynep Hansen (Boise State), Scott Lowe (Boise State) and Wenchao Xu (Xiamen University)

“Institution Protections, Capital Costs, and Long-Run Economic Growth,” Benjamin Chabot (Federal Reserve Bank – Chicago)

“Foreign Reserves and International Adjustments Under the Bretton Woods System: a reappraisal,” Eric Monnet (Bank of France)

Cliometric Society Reception
January 4, 2016, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Union Square 22, Hilton Union Square

Old Main, University of Colorado, c 1880

EHA Grants, Fellowships, and Prizes

The EHA supports research in economic history through four grant programs. Three of these are administered by the Committee on Research in Economic History (CREH) and one by the Annual Meetings Program Committee.

All applicants or recipients of an EHA grant or prize must be members of the Association, and all application materials must be submitted electronically. To join, go online to http://eh.net/eha/membership where you can use our online shopping cart to most efficiently join the EHA. After paying your membership dues please complete the Directory Registration Form. You can also join by printing out a membership form at the membership site and sending it in with a check or credit card.

Arthur H. Cole Grants in Aid: The Committee on Research in Economic History awards Arthur H. Cole grants-in-aid to support research in economic history, regardless of time period or geographic area. Awards typically are in amounts up to $5,000, although higher amounts may be awarded in exceptional cases. Applicants must be members of the Association and must hold the Ph.D. degree. Preference is given to recent Ph.D. recipients. Please direct any questions about these grants to Professor Kirsten Wandschneider, Committee on Research in Economic History, kirsten@oxy.edu.


The following three programs are for those who have not yet received the Ph.D. degree:

Graduate Dissertation Fellowships:

Students with approved topics and making progress towards completion are eligible for Dissertation Fellowships. Students at early stages of dissertation development are not eligible for fellowship support. Funds awarded during this application cycle are intended to provide support during the 2016-17 academic year. Applicants must be members of the Association, and dissertation fellowships are not renewable.

There are two types of Awards:

EHA Graduate Fellowships ($10,000)

Sokoloff Fellowship ($15,000) Thanks to a generous gift from Ken Sokoloff’s estate and other individual contributions, this fellowship honors the major contributions of Kenneth Sokoloff to economic history, and in particular
his care and concern for the many students he introduced to economic history.

Please direct any questions about these fellowships to Professor Kirsten Wandschneider, Committee on Research in Economic History, kirsten@oxy.edu.

Applicants are eligible to receive either a Sokoloff fellowship or an EHA Graduate Fellowship but not both. Applicants are asked to submit a CV, a project description and two letters of reference (one of which should be from the dissertation committee chair). Please note that where the application asks for a 5 page project description, this is to be double spaced with at least one inch margins on all sides and font size no less than 11 point.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:** January 15, 2016. Awards announced by February 28, 2016.

**Exploratory Travel and Data Grants:**

Exploratory Travel and Data Grants are early stage grants for doctoral students writing a dissertation in economic history. They provide funding for specific research purposes (for example, visiting archives, data transcription, or purchase of microfilm or CD-ROMs) and in most instances will not exceed $2,500. They are nonrenewable, but recipients are eligible to apply subsequently for a Graduate dissertation fellowship (see above).

Please direct any questions about these grants to Professor Kirsten Wandschneider, Committee on Research in Economic History, kirsten@oxy.edu. Applicants must be current members of the Association. Please note that where the application asks for a 3 page project description, this is to be double spaced with at least one inch margins on all sides and font size no less than 11 point.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:** January 15, 2016. Awards announced by February 28, 2016.

**Annual Meetings Travel and Hotel Subsidies: Poster Session**

Intended for disseminating preliminary results from graduate thesis work. Those accepted receive the following support:

- Travel subsidies up to $500 for domestic flights or train fare, up to $800 for international flights
- Complimentary hotel rooms, shared with another graduate student, for up to three nights
- 60 percent discount on the registration fee
- 80 percent discount on Saturday Presidential Banquet
- Free dinner with other graduate students Friday night of the conference

Applicants will need to provide a 250 word abstract, a current CV, and request a letter of support from their dissertation advisor. Poster sessions are intended for those in the process of pursuing their Ph.D. degree. Deadline for applications: May 21, 2016. Awards announced by June 21, 2016.

Graduate students who have presented a poster are eligible for the dissertation session in a subsequent year, but may present a poster session only once during their graduate career. If a student applies both for the dissertation session and to present a poster, and the student is accepted to be part of the dissertation session, a prior invitation to present a poster that year will be withdrawn. Participating in the poster session does not preclude submitting a paper and having it accepted for the regular program the following year.

Graduate students interested in attending the annual meeting but not participating in the poster session are eligible, depending on funding availability, for up to three nights’ complimentary hotel room (double occupancy, shared with another graduate student). Send requests to Jari Eloranta at elorantaj@appstate.edu. Applicants must be members of the Association. Deadline: July 5, 2016. Awards announced by July 26, 2016.

Questions about the poster session should be directed to Professor Alan Dye, chair of the program committee at adye@barnard.edu.
Ph.D. recipients selected for the dissertation session will receive a travel subsidy. See procedures for applying for the Nevins or Gerschenkron prizes.

**Conditions of Support:**
All recipients of EHA fellowship and grant support must file a short (one or two page) report on how they spent their money and how it facilitated their research. This report should be filed by August 31 of the year subsequent to receipt of the funds and can be sent as an email attachment to the chair of the Committee on Research in Economic History, Kirsten Wandschneider, at kirsten@oxy.edu.

**Prizes**
The EHA recognizes excellence in research, publication, and teaching of economic history by awarding several annual and biennial prizes at the President’s Awards Banquet during the annual meetings. Each fall the Announcements page on this web site and the EHA newsletter include Calls for Nominations and submission information.

**Dissertation Awards**
The Nevins and Gerschenkron prize are awarded annually for the best dissertations on North-American and non-North American topics completed during the previous year. Six finalists, three for each award, will be chosen to present dissertation summaries at the Association’s annual meetings each fall. Finalists will receive funds to defray travel expenses and award recipients receive a cash prize.

Scholars submitting a dissertation may not in the same year submit a proposal to the general program that is part of or derived from the dissertation. On an exception basis the Association will allow a two year window following thesis completion for submission.

**Eligibility:** Those who received their Ph.D. between June 1, 2015 and May 30, 2016 are eligible and invited to submit their dissertation for consideration. All candidates for these prizes must be members of the Economic History Association. Dissertations submitted for consideration must be in English. Submission of a dissertation implies that candidates are prepared to attend the meetings in Boulder, CO in September 2016. Presentation of a dissertation summary is required by all finalists.

To be considered for these prizes completed dissertations must be submitted by email on or before May 15, 2016. Submissions of more than 5MB should be sent as a download link rather than an attachment. Notices announcing the selection of finalists will be sent to all candidates by July 15, 2016. Dissertations will only be returned to candidates if a self-addressed envelope is provided at the time of submission.

**Allan Nevins Prize** for the Best Dissertation in U.S. or Canadian Economic History completed during the previous year is awarded annually by the Economic History Association. The award is made on behalf of Columbia University Press.

Please send submitted dissertations to:

*Professor Hoyt Bleakley*
*University of Michigan*
*hoytb@umichigan.edu*

**Alexander Gerschenkron Prize** for the Best Dissertation in the economic history of an area outside of the United States or Canada published during the preceding year. The Alexander Gerschenkron Prize in Economic History is awarded annually by the EHA.

Please send submitted dissertations to:

*Professor Petra Moser*
*New York University*
*pmoser@stern.nyu.edu*

**Jonathan Hughes Prize for Excellence in Teaching Economic History:** The annual
Jonathan Hughes Prize is awarded to recognize excellence in teaching economic history. Jonathan Hughes was an outstanding scholar and a committed and influential teacher of economic history. The prize includes a $1,200 cash award. The winner is selected by the EHA Committee on Education and Teaching.

The Committee on Education of the Economic History Association invites nominations for the annual Jonathan Hughes Prize for Excellence in Teaching Economic History. Letters of nomination should state what qualities of excellence the candidate’s teaching of economic history has embodied. The strength of the nominating letter will be the primary basis for selecting the pool of finalists for the prize. After arriving at a short list of finalists, the committee will gather further supporting information. Anyone is eligible to write a letter of nomination.

Letters of nomination should be sent to:

**Professor Ran Abramitzky**
Department of Economics
579 Serra Mall
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-6072
[ranabr@stanford.edu](mailto:ranabr@stanford.edu)

Other members of the committee are:

**Professor Katherine Shester**
Washington and Lee University
Huntley Hall
Lexington, VA 24450
[shesterk@wlu.edu](mailto:shesterk@wlu.edu)

**Professor Karen Clay**
Carnegie Mellon University
Heinz College
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
[kclay@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:kclay@andrew.cmu.edu)

The Alice Hanson Jones Prize for an outstanding book in North American (including Caribbean) economic history will be presented at the Association’s annual meeting in September of 2016. This $1,200 prize is awarded biennially and alternates with the Gyorgy Ranki Prize for a book in European economic history.

Eligibility and Nominations: Only books published in English during 2014 or 2015 are eligible for the 2016 prize. The author need not be a member of the Association. Authors, publishers, or anyone else may nominate books. Authors or publishers should send a copy of the book, plus a curriculum vitae of the author(s), with current information on addresses and telephone numbers, to each member of the committee.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:** March 1, 2016

Selection Committee:

**Professor Werner Troesken**
Department of Economics
University of Pittsburgh
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**Gyorgy Ranki Biennial Prize**  
**The Gyorgy Ranki Biennial Prize** is awarded every other year for an Outstanding Book on the Economic History of Europe.  

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: March 1, 2017**  
The Ranki Prize was established by the Economic History Association in 1989 to honor the late Gyorgy Ranki, a distinguished Hungarian economic historian who taught in both Hungary and the United States. The Ranki Prize is awarded biennially for an outstanding book in European economic history and is in the amount of $1,200. It alternates with the Alice Hanson Jones Prize for a book in North American (including Caribbean) economic history.

The tenth Ranki Prize will be awarded in September 2017 for a book published in 2015 or 2016. To be eligible, a book must be published in English and must, in whole or in substantial part, treat aspects of European economic history in any period from classical antiquity to the present. For purposes of this prize, Europe is understood to include European Russia as well as the British Isles. Books that compare European experience to that of other parts of the world, or that use historical information to examine present or anticipate future issues and trends, are also eligible as long as they pay significant attention to European economic history.

Nominations for the prize may be made by authors, publishers, or anyone else. Authors of nominated books need not be members of the Economic History Association. Date of publication rather than date of copyright determines eligibility. Translations of books published previously in a language other than English are eligible in the year of publication in English.

Whoever nominates a book should send a copy of the book and the curriculum vitae of the author(s) to each of the five members of the Ranki Prize committee.

**Arthur H. Cole Prize** is awarded annually by the Editorial Board of the *JEH* for the best article in the previous year's volume of the *Journal*.

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**The EHA in Nashville**  
The Economic History Association met in Nashville from September 11-13, 2015. The only previous trip the EHA made to the Volunteer State was in 2003, when the Hilton Suites was the site of the meeting centered on the theme “Transitions in Economic History.” This time around, President Robert Margo chose the theme “Diversity in Economic History.”

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*Boulder, Colorado*
This time around a total of 231 economic historians gathered for the festivities, including 41 graduate students. The conference was headquartered at the Sheraton Downtown, next door to the historic Hermitage Hotel, which headquartered both the pro and anti-suffrage movements in 1920 in the days leading up to the ratification of the 19th amendment, and across the plaza from the historic state capitol.

Financial and in-kind support for the meetings was provided by the Nashville Public Library and Nashville Public Library Foundation, Vanderbilt University College of Arts and Sciences, the Vanderbilt Department of Economics, Terence E. Adderley Jr. (Chair, Department of Economics), Boston University, Alex Hollingsworth and Keith Myers (both Arizona), Lana Sooter, Global Financial Data, and Cambridge University Press.

The Program Committee consisted of Martha Bailey (Michigan), Tomas Cvrcek (University College London), and Suresh Naidu (Columbia). The local arrangements committee was composed of Jeremy Atack (chair), William Collins, Claudia Rei, and Peter Rousseau.

The arrangements committee organized tours of the Nashville Public Library, the Hermitage, and the Country Music Hall of Fame. In addition, a job market tips session was organized for graduate students planning to hit the job market in the near future.

The meetings consisted of sixteen sessions featuring 48 papers, as well as the usual array of business meetings, topical breakfasts and lunches, and the presidential address and awards banquet. An additional 25 graduate students prepared posters for presentations. The presidential address, “Obama, Katrina, and the Persistence of Racial Inequality,” was delivered on Saturday evening by Robert Margo (Boston).

As usual, Saturday afternoon was given over to business meetings and the dissertation session, featuring the outstanding dissertations written during the previous year.

Eric Chaney (Harvard) convened the Gerschenkron Prize competition for the best dissertation on a non-Canadian or American topic. The first finalist to present her research was Amanda Gregg (Middlebury College) who wrote “Factory Productivity, Firm Organization, and Corporation Reform in Late Imperial Russia,” at Yale University under the guidance of Timothy Guinnane, Naomi Lamoreaux, and Mark Rosenzweig. She was followed by Casey Lurtz (Harvard). Casey wore “Exporting from Eden: Coffee, Migration, and the Development of the Soconusco, Mexico, 1867-1920” at the University of Chicago. Lurtz’s dissertation advisors were Emilio Kouri, Mauricio Tenorio, and Dain Borges. Jose Anonio Espin Sanchez (Yale) presented his work, “The Illiquidity of Water Markets.” He completed his research at Northwestern under Joel Mokyr, Joseph Ferrie, Regina Grafe and Robert Porter.

Marianne Wanamaker (Tennessee) convened the Nevins Prize session. The Nevins Prize is awarded for the outstanding dissertation written on a Canadian or American topic. Andrew Jacob Goodman-Bacon (UC Berkeley) presented “Three Essays in health Policy Evaluation.” He completed his work at Michigan under the direction of Martha Bailey. Next up was Natacha Postel-Vinay (Warwick) who completed “Sitting Ducks: Banks, Mortgage Lending, and the Great Depression in the Chicago Area, 1923-1933” while at LSE, writing under the direction of Albrecht Ritschl and Oliver Accominotti. Finally Zach Ward (Australian National) presented “The Circular Flow: Return Migration from the United States in the Early 1900s.” He completed his work at the University of Colorado with Ann Carlos serving as his primary advisor.

The Friday evening reception was held at the Nashville Public Library, conveniently located across the street from the conference hotel. The reception was preceded by a special plenary session honoring the 75th anniversary of the EHA. Ran Abramitzky (Stanford), William Collins (Vanderbilt), Naomi Lamoreaux (Yale),
and Kris Mitchener (Santa Clara) each gave their take on the future of economic history.

The EHA will celebrate its 76th anniversary in Boulder, CO from September 16-18.

**Awards Presented at the 2015 EHA Meetings**

The Economic History Association recognizes outstanding achievements among its membership each year. The following awards were presented at the 2015 conference in Nashville, TN.

**The Allan Nevins Prize** for best dissertation in US or Canadian economic history was awarded to Andrew Goodman-Bacon, for his dissertation “Three Essays in Health Policy Evaluation,” competed at the University of Michigan under the guidance of Martha Bailey.

**The Alexander Gerschenkron Prize** for the outstanding dissertation in non-U.S. or Canadian history was presented to Jose-Antonio Espin-Sanchez for his dissertation “The illiquidity of Water Markets.” Espin-Sanchez wrote his dissertation under Joel Mokyr, Joe Ferrie, Regina Grafe, and Robert Porter at Northwestern.

**The Jonathan Hughes Prize** for excellence in teaching economic history was awarded to Price Fishback (Arizona).


The **Kenneth Sokoloff Dissertation Award** was presented this year to two individuals. One award went to Shameel Ahmad (Yale) who is writing a dissertation entitled “Trade and Demography in Colonial India.” Ahmad is working under the direction of Tim Guinnane. The second recipient was James Feigenbaum who is writing “Intergenerational Mobility and Inequality in the Twentieth Century,” under the supervision of Claudia Goldin at Harvard.

**Dissertation Fellowships** Three dissertation fellowships were awarded this year. Adriane Fresh (Stanford) is writing “Essays on Elites, Institutions and Development,” under the direction of Steve Haber. Michela Giorcelli, also at Stanford, but working under Ran Abramitzky, is writing “Firm Productivity: Evidence from the US Marshall Plan in Italy.” The third recipient was Ariell Zimran, who is working on “Does Sample-Selection Bias Explain the Industrialization Puzzle?” Zimran is supervised by Joel Mokyr at Northwestern.

**Exploratory Travel and Data Acquisition Grants**

Exploratory grants for preliminary work on dissertations were awarded to Jialu Chen (Yale), Felipe Gonzalez (UC Berkeley), Nathaniel Lane (Harvard), Keith Meyers (Arizona), Natalie Oberguber (IFO), Arianna Ornaghi (MIT), Craig Palsson (Yale), Santiago Perez (Stanford), Jakob Schneebacher (Yale), Walter Scott (American), and Eric Smith (Yale).

**The Arthur H. Cole Prize** is awarded each year to the author(s) of the outstanding article published in the *Journal of Economic History* from September of the previous year through June of the award year. The 2015 prize was awarded to Price Fishback (Arizona) and Valentina Kachanovskaya (both Arizona) for “The Multiplier for the States in the Great Depression,” published in the March issue of the *Journal of Economic History*.

**Cole Research Grants** were awarded to Erik Hornung (Max Planck Institute) for his work on “Compulsory Health Insurance and Mortality,” Taylor Jaworski (Queen’s University) for his work on “Economic Policy for Regional Development: A Historical Perspective,” and Miguel Morin (Cambridge), who is writing “Adapting to Workplace Technological Change over the Long Run: Evidence from Longitudinal Data for the United States.”
Notes on the EHA teaching breakfast, September 12, 2015

By David Mitch

Ten dedicated teachers of economic history showed up at 6:45 a.m. to participate in the 2015 teaching breakfast at the Nashville meeting of the Economic History Association. The breakfast featured a presentation by Price Fishback on a pedagogical project he has developed at the University of Arizona to get undergraduates involved with doctoral students as well as in his own research.

The origin of the project was his effort to fill in gaps in state level government finance data for the period between 1932 and 1936 and to tell the story of how state governments responded to the Great Depression and the New Deal. Price obtained Charles Koch Foundation and National Science Foundation funding for this project. He has had undergraduates who wanted to write an honors thesis. He worked with groups of about 5 students each year. Each student would pick a state on which to work. Each year’s group would begin by reading all state statutes looking for details on fiscal and taxation policies for that state. Each student was asked to pick the five most important things they saw in reading these statutes. They develop a spreadsheet with all of the statutory changes and then provide a five or six page summary of their initial findings from the statutes. Price then works with them to choose five key issues on which to focus. For each of the issues they then were also asked to read newspapers and historical magazines for material related to the issue and provide a five to six page narrative about the issue. For the first semester of this project, they were just asked to focus on the history rather than collecting quantitative data for their states. By the end of the semester they have about a 30-page write-up that describes the major changes in state policy in the 1930s.

To illustrate the engaging anecdotes that can surface from this initial narrative, descriptive effort, Price mentioned the case of Governor Langer of North Dakota. He had his own newspaper and required all state employees to donate to his gubernatorial election campaigns. This was not illegal in North Dakota at the time. However, when North Dakota received federal relief funds under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, Langer still sought donations from the relief employees. This was illegal under federal law and he was indicted and driven from the governorship. Late in the decade he was re-elected as Governor and then became a U.S. Senator from North Dakota.

For the second semester of the project, students were asked to compile quantitative data for their states. One issue that arose in developing comparability in merging with later quantitative series, was to look at the overlap year of 1937 between the data the students were putting together and the figures available from standard sources. In a number of cases there were major
Inconsistencies for this overlap year. Students are now being asked to generate a complete quantitative series for the years 1929-1940. Hathi Trust digitized versions of state reports were used as a data source. The students built up panel data for some states and compared the series of their states with those other students had compiled for other states.

Using research by the students and his own research, Price created a panel data set over the period 1929-40 with 150 variables to tell the story of the state in numbers. The final phase of the project was to merge the state data sets collected for that year to run fixed effects regressions. One key issue was to look at the impact of state level income and federal spending on state tax revenue. Each student would then pick additional variables to add to the regression, such as manufacturing income to look at the effect on revenues once one controlled for state income. After the students made their own choices, they would meet with Price as a group and discuss how to improve the choice of variables, adjust for inflation, adjust for population, and then consider the meaning of the coefficients for each variable.

He prodded students to take the numbers they generated in the spring semester and interweave them with the narrative account they had developed the previous fall. In some instances such as that of Chicago during the great depression, a marked disconnect emerged between newspaper accounts and quantitative accounts.

Price requires that his students write complete sentences to describe what is in their graphs. He made them write an executive summary for each graph. They also had to write up a verbal summary in complete sentences about their regression results. He distributed to students an unpublished statement he used to send to JEH contributors on how to write up regression results. This prompted mention of Donald McCloskey’s 1985 Economic Inquiry article, “Economical Writing.” The final product is a 40 to 50 page honors thesis.

Students located newspaper websites. Calling current newspapers can yield information on where digitized versions of older issues can be accessed online. The project is still entering data for the period 1929-40. Some states have been done multiple times, such as California. Price expects in a few years to have coverage of all relevant states.

Someone asked how undergrads and grads interacted. Price said they would present to audiences of faculty and graduate students in economic history, attend seminars given by the graduate students, and attend seminars given by external faculty. Typically, after the external seminars the group would share dinner at a local brewpub. Undergrads were asked to present their findings and progress and grad students would be there to comment. Undergrads had to do multiple presentations. They met with Price and students to do presentations 11 times per semester.

An article related to some of these issues is forthcoming in the Oxford Handbook of American Economic History.

Minutes of the Business Meeting
EHA annual conference
September 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Margo (Boston) at 1:00 p.m. President Margo began by asking for a moment of silence in remembrance of members who died in the past year, including Lois Carr, Nate Rosenberg, John James, Ross Thompson, and Jacob Price.

He then announced the election results. Michael Bordo (Rutgers) is president-elect, Greg Clark (UC Davis) is vice president, and Karen Clay (CMU) will be added to the Board of Trustees.
The Board also decided to support and be a signatory for the AAUP Statement on Tenure. Price Fishback (Arizona) gave the Executive Director’s Report on the budget. A copy of the budget is reproduced elsewhere in this newsletter. Jari Eloranta (Appalachian State) gave an update on the 2015 meetings and announced that the 2016 meetings would be held in Boulder, CO and the 2017 meetings would be held in San Jose, CA. Paul Rhode (Michigan) then gave a report on the state of the Journal.

Margo returned to the podium to give the president’s report. He announced that the Board of Trustees approved San Francisco as the site of the 2020 meetings. This unusual scheduling of a conference so far in advance was due to a unique opportunity to lock in a very attractive hotel package. He also confirmed that Boston would be the host city for the 2018 World Economic History Congress, the first time the World Congress has returned to the U.S. since 1968.

The EHA experimented with on-line balloting in 2015 and the Board deemed it a success, thus ushering out the paper ballots. All future elections will be conducted electronically.

The Board explored potential sources of funding for pre-dissertation fellowships as well as additional funds for dissertation fellowships. They recommended a fund raising drive perhaps featuring matching donations from the EHA. In other budget news, President Margo announced a favorable decision has been made by Cambridge University Press on their overpayment to the EHA. Finally, funds have been reallocated for staff support for the offices of the Executive Director and the Meetings Coordinator, as well as non-salary compensation for the Book Review Editors.

President Margo publicly thanked the Nashville Public Library for the donation of the space for the Friday night reception. He announced that the EHA would make a $2500 donation to the library as a gesture of its appreciation for their generosity.

Reports were received from affiliated organizations. Peter Coclanis reported on behalf of the AHA, followed by Ann Carlos (Clio), Alan Olmstead (NBER), Daniel Raff (ACLS), Maggie Levenstein (Business History Conference), Patrick Van Horn (EBHS), Mike Haupert (EH.Net), Gavin Wright (OAH), Anne McCants (SSHA), Lee Alston (ISNIE), Warren Whatley (IEHA), Rick Hornbeck (ASSA), and Marianne Wanamaker (Committee on Archives).

Jari Eloranta arose to give well deserved thanks to the local arrangements committee, consisting of chair Jeremy Atack, William Collins, Claudia Rei, Peter Rousseau, and Andrew Goodman-Bacon. Robert Margo then thanked the program committee of chair Martha Bailey, Suresh Naidhu, and Tomas Cvrcek.

The meeting was adjourned by new President Lee Alston, who accepted the gavel from outgoing President Margo with great pomp and circumstance.
# Economic History Association

## Financial Report 2014-15

(all amounts rounded to nearest dollar)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE/EXPENSES</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Membership:</td>
<td>39160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>48643</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridge U. Press</td>
<td>286,921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Dividends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Realized Gains (losses)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrealized Gains (losses)</td>
<td>(511)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eh.Net amts from other organizations</td>
<td>2,265</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions to prize funds</td>
<td>4798</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ORDINARY REVENUES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>including realized gains</td>
<td>425,212</td>
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<tr>
<td>including realized and unrealized gains</td>
<td>424,700</td>
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<td><strong>EXTRAORDINARY REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td>Sokoloff estate</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ORDINARY + EXTRAORDINARY REV</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ORDINARY EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>Awards and Grants-in-Aid</td>
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<td>Sokoloff Dissertation Fellowship</td>
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<td>Editorial Offices</td>
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<td>Eh.Net Website</td>
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<td>Management</td>
<td>68,013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Expense</td>
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<td>Membership+Goodwill</td>
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<td>Office &amp; Miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>309,647</td>
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<th></th>
<th>2014-15</th>
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<tr>
<td>BAL ON ORDINARY ITEMS</td>
<td>115,565</td>
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<td>EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES</td>
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<td>Graduate Education Initiative Grants</td>
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<td>Grad. Educ. Init.: Meetings Expenses</td>
<td>22,747</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ORD + EXTRA. EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>BALANCE ON ORD. + EXTRA. EXPENSES</td>
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<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CASH BALANCES</strong></td>
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<td>Checking Account (EHA Office)</td>
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<td>Savings Account (EHA Office)</td>
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<td>Petty Cash Account (EHA Office)</td>
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<td>Checking Account (Meetings Office)</td>
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<td>Online payment Meeting Account</td>
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<td>Morgan Stanley Account</td>
<td>120,019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total in Bank and Cash Accounts</strong></td>
<td>456,607</td>
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<td><strong>INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
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<td>U.S. Treasury Bonds and Notes</td>
<td>278,479</td>
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<td>Mutual Funds (Vanguard)</td>
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<td><strong>Investment Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Securities and Cash</strong></td>
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<td>Endowment Funds for Journal, Prizes, and Fellowships</td>
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<td><strong>Detail on Vanguard Holdings</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>500 Index Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Stock Market Index</td>
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<td>International Growth</td>
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<td>TIPS (inflation protected)</td>
<td>388,395</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasury Money Market</td>
<td>312,044</td>
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EHA Committees 2015-16

Nominating
Chair: Bob Margo (Past President) (ex officio)
Phil Hoffman (Past Chair) (ex officio)
Gregory Clark (Vice President) (ex officio)
William Collins (2016)
Karen Clay (2016)
Dan Bogart (2016)
Price Fishback (non-voting) (ex officio)

Membership
Chair: Leandro Prados de la Escosura (2016)
Alexander Whalley (2017)
Carl Kitchens (2018)
Price Fishback (ex officio)
Michael Bordo (President elect) (ex officio)

Research in Economic History
Chair: Kirsten Wandschneider (2016)
Steve Nafziger (2016)
Nick Ziebarth (2017)
Dan Fetter (2017)
Christian Dippel (2018)
Suresh Naidu (2018)
Price Fishback (ex officio)

Sokoloff Fellowship
Kirsten Wandschneider (CREH Chair) (2016)
Jean Laurent Rosenthal (2016)
Jeremy Atack (2017)

Investment
Chair: Joseph Davis (2016)
Howard Bodenhorn (2018)
Price Fishback (ex officio)

Budget and Audit
Chair: Matt Jaremski (2019)
David Wheelock (2021)
Gregory Clark (Vice President) (ex officio)
Michael Bordo (President elect) (ex officio)

Ranki Prize
Chair: Joyce Burnette (2016)
Jane Humphries (2017)

Joe Manning (2018)
Christophe Chamley (2019)
Chris Meissner (2020)

Jones Prize
Chair: Werner Troesken (2016)
Frank Lewis (2017)
John Murray (2018)
Claudia Olivetti (2019)
Mike Haines (2020)

Education in Economic History
Chair: Ran Abramitzky (2016)
Katherine Shester (2017)
Karen Clay (2018)
Price Fishback (ex officio)

Research Archives and Data Bases
Chair: Nathan Nunn (2016)
Laura Salisbury (2017)
Andrew Seltzer (2018)
Price Fishback (ex officio)

The Journal of Economic History
Chair: Bob Margo (2016)
Dan Bogart (2016)
Leah Boustan (2017)
Joshua Rosenbloom (2018)
Paul Rohde (advisor)
Ann Carlos (advisor)
Price Fishback (ex officio)

EHA Administration
Chair: Phil Hoffman (2016)
Lee Craig (2016)
Werner Troesken (2017)
Alex Field (2018)

EHA Program Committee
Chair: Alan Dye (2016)
Rick Hornbeck (2016)
Gary Libecap (2016)
Noam Yuchtman (2016)
Edwyna Harris (2016)
Jari Eloranta (ex officio)

Dissertation:
America: Hoyt Bleakley (2016)
Elsewhere: Petra Moser (2016)

Local Arrangements
Co-Chair: Carol Shiue (2016)
Co-Chair: Murat Lyigun (2016)
Jari Eloranta (ex officio)

EH.NET Executive
Peter Meyer (2016)
Robert Whaples (2017)
Mike Haupert (2018)
Price Fishback (ex officio)
Jari Eloranta (ex officio)
Joe Ferrie (Board Representative)

Call for Committee Members
Committees play an important role in the workings of the EHA. If you are interested in being considered for membership on a committee, please contact Price Fishback, Executive Director, at fishback@email.arizona.edu, or any other officer or member of the Board of Trustees.

Officers and Trustees
President: Lee Alston (Indiana)
President Elect: Michael Bordo (Rutgers)
Executive Director: Price Fishback (Arizona)
Immediate Past Presidents: Robert Margo (Boston), Phil Hoffman (CalTech), Robert Allen (Oxford)
Vice President: Gregory Clark (UC Davis)
Trustees: Steve Broadberry (Warwick), Leah Platt Boustan (UCLA), William Collins (Vanderbilt), Karen Clay (CMU)
Editors: Paul Rohde (Michigan), Ann Carlos (Colorado)
Chair, Budget Committee: Mark Geiger (Independent Scholar)
IEHA Representative: Claude Diebolt (Strasbourg)

Meetings Coordinator: Jari Eloranta (Appalachian State)

Representatives and Liaisons
American Council of Learned Societies: Daniel Raff (2018)
NBER: Alan Olmstead (2020)
Allied Social Science Association: Melissa Dell (2016), Werner Troesken (2017)
American Historical Association: David Carlton (2016), Bill Summerhill (2017)
Clometric Society: Ann Carlos (2016)
Business History Conference: Margaret Levenstein (2016)
Social Science History Association: Elyce Rotella (2016)
International Society for New Institutional Economics: John Wallis (2016)
Economic and Business Historical Society: Patrick Van Horn (2016)
AHA Fellowship for Aerospace History: Peter Meyer (2017)
Past Presidents of the EHA:

George Rogers Taylor

George Rogers Taylor, the George Daniel Olds Professor of Economics at Amherst College, was installed as the twelfth President of the Economic History Association on September 9, 1962. He held the position for two years, which was customary at the time.

Taylor was born in Beaver Dam, WI in 1895. He attended the Wisconsin State Normal School at Oshkosh from 1914-16 and began his academic career as a 6th grade teacher and principal of a small public school in Waukesha, WI before enlisting in the navy for a two year stint beginning in 1917. After his discharge he returned to teaching, this time at his alma mater, the Wayland Academy, where he spent the 1919-20 year teaching eighth grade.

In the fall of 1920 he enrolled at the University of Chicago, where he earned a Ph.B. (at the time it was the Chicago equivalent of a B.A.) in 1921 and his Ph.D. in 1929, studying under Chester Wright and Frank Knight. In between he taught at the University of Iowa, Earlham College, the University of Chicago, and Amherst College.

He went to Amherst in 1924 at the invitation of Paul Douglas, one of his instructors at Chicago, who had been hired at Amherst. Douglas needed an instructor and offered the position to Taylor. Douglas stayed only one year. Taylor outlasted him by forty. He did take several visiting positions during his tenure at Amherst, including Mt. Holyoke, Smith, Columbia, the University of Hawaii, and Tokyo University. After retiring from Amherst in 1965 he became the Senior Resident Scholar at the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library in Wilmington, DE and taught graduate courses in economic history at the University of Delaware from 1966-70.

Before accepting the position at Amherst, Taylor consulted with its recently deposed president Alexander Meiklejohn about the atmosphere there and the wisdom of joining a faculty that had so recently undergone a cataclysmic change – the firing of its president and subsequent resignation of 13 faculty in protest. However, Meiklejohn advised him that Amherst would be a good place to begin his career, and it would overcome this crisis. Apparently it was more than just a good place to begin a career, since he stayed for more than 40 years.

During WWII he served in the Office of Price Administration and War Production Board, and after the war spent the summer of 1947 consulting for the Bureau of Internal Revenue. He was the editor of the _JEH_ from 1955-60, President of the American Studies Association (1956-58), and Chairman of the Council on Research in Economic History (1959-62), before his election as EHA President in 1962.

Taylor’s early research focused on the economic problems of the Midwestern frontier as they related to the War of 1812. He questioned the standard explanation for that war, arguing that it was as much about clearing shipping lanes from the Midwest through southern ports as it was protecting Yankee traders from British marauders. Later he would author a series of essays assessing the validity of Turner’s frontier thesis.

Taylor was not an economic historian in the German tradition, interested primarily in the descriptive history of economic institutions as such. He regarded the analysis of economic development as the central problem for the discipline, regarding economic change and growth as inseparable from the political and social environments in which they operated. He was an early advocate of the use of statistics to illuminate economic history. While he did not possess the technical skills of the generation of new economic historians that would follow him, he was, none the less, one of their progenitors in style, if not substance.
His approach was evident as early as his dissertation, which was published in two articles in the *Journal of Business and Economic History* (1930-32) and the *Journal of Political Economy* (1931) focusing on the agricultural prices in the Mississippi Valley before the War of 1812. This was further developed in his landmark books, *The Transportation Revolution* (1951) and *The American Railway Network* (1956, with Irene Neu).

*The Transportation Revolution* presented a massive base of empirical data, drawn from earlier studies and Taylor’s extensive work with original sources. His interpretive conclusions were explicitly reached by a process of systematic argument based on those data. Taylor’s thesis was that government policy and law shaped economic growth, a concept essentially assumed away in the early work of the new economic historians, but a path famously embraced by Douglass North later in his career.

He used his EHA presidential address to encourage more research on American economic growth before 1840. His hypotheses laid the groundwork for much subsequent research in that time period. New economic historians took his ideas and applied more sophisticated technical tools to them than Taylor ever mastered, but it was Taylor who provided the impetus for them to carry his ideas beyond the frontiers he was capable of himself. Much of this work was published in the *JEH* under his editorship.

Taylor was noted for his humanist approach to economic history. Despite his keen interest in analysis and statistics, he was not pleased with the growth of the new economic history movement, frequently criticizing his successors as editors of the journal (North and Parker) for focusing too much on mathematics. He thought the use of formal modeling was going too far because of the tendency of its practitioners to make extreme assumptions. He did not object to formal modeling per se, but rather what he termed the “nonsensical sort” that relied on extreme assumptions to the point of bending the facts to fit the theory. In this regard he was particularly critical of Robert Fogel’s use of the counterfactual in his railroad study.

Before arriving at Amherst, he considered himself an economic theorist, having become interested in that topic while taking courses at Chicago from Frank Knight and Jacob Viner. But at Amherst he was asked what new courses he would be willing to offer. He suggested economic history, permanently changing his outlook on the field of economics.

While he visited on occasion at institutions offering graduate instruction, he spent his life teaching undergraduates. When asked if he ever felt deprived of an opportunity to train graduate students and develop a “following” of sorts, he replied in the negative, saying that he preferred a model of education that had as its goal to stimulate a young mind to raise questions and go off in an independent direction rather than to get someone to follow a particular line of thought.

The only way in which he felt it was important to create “disciples” was in regard to method. This was borne out in his interest in American Studies. He was very much interested in a method of teaching that raised questions and forced students to make their own decisions. It was his original interest and intent in developing the course in American Studies at Amherst in 1947. The basic outline of the course was to spend two weeks studying a problem, which the students would have to analyze, and then write a three page paper in which they came to a reasoned conclusion or position that was original, not a summary of existing opinion. It was originally designed as a sophomore course in the American Studies department, which he had helped create. It led to a series of books published by DC Heath that he edited for twenty years.

The DC Heath, or “Amherst series,” was a series of paperbacks containing reading materials arranged to present the student with conflicting arguments and interpretations
concerning a variety of problems relating to the historical experience of American civilization. The idea was to learn that history does not consist of a single answer or is merely a set of facts, but to understand that the essence of facts is their free intellectual use. He taught this “doctrine of conscious choice” on the part of the student. He wanted students to learn how to select the most sensible interpretation of the data given. Taylor envisioned the series as a sort of “revolt” against the extant textbooks that he saw as too much compilation of fact and not enough analysis. He set out to fill this void in the survey course literature with this series.

He learned this short position paper technique from Chester Wright’s course on trusts at Chicago. Taylor found this course more engaging and ultimately useful than Wright’s course on U.S. economic history, which he found to be dull.

He is credited not just with growing the American Studies program at Amherst, but growing the American Studies movement as a whole on a national level. Under his presidency of the American Studies Association, membership increased more than 33 percent. He believed true interdisciplinary work was possible, and demonstrated that by example, that intellectual curiosity could overcome the invisible discipline barriers that existed (and still do) in universities and colleges. His most influential work, The Transportation Revolution, was an example of this. It was not traditional economics nor traditional history, but a rich blend of both.

Taylor’s teaching style was described as low key, deliberate, and thorough, as opposed to dynamic and forceful. He did not make an instant impression, but a lasting one. He was lauded for overseeing and holding together the American Studies program at Amherst. It was a program fashioned with more than a dozen colleagues from several different disciplines who Taylor managed to guide to work together for a greater good – educating undergraduates in a true interdisciplinary fashion. In his “Problems in American Civilization” course, which became a bedrock in the program, he saw his basic function as introducing students to a method of analyzing and coming to conclusions on the problems of living in society. He eschewed a mere recitation of facts to teach students how to analyze those facts and ask why they were important, and to whom, and how that might have mattered. The goal was to teach the art of decision making. He did not see his role as a teacher as the solver of problems or the provider of correct answers, but rather to subject his students to the discipline of conscious choice.

George Rogers Taylor died at the age of 87 on April 11, 1983 after a brief illness. In his memory, Amherst College established The George Rogers Taylor Prize, which is awarded annually to the student who shows the most promise for creative and scholarly work in American studies.

Selected publications:

“Prices in the Mississippi Valley Preceding the War of 1812,” Journal of Economic and Business History 3, (1930-32), p 157


The Transportation Revolution, 1815-1860, New York: Rinehart & Co., 1951


“American Urban Growth Preceding the Railway Age,” *Journal of Economic History* 27 no. 3 (Sep 1967) pp 309-339


With Lucius Elsworth (eds.), *Approaches to American Economic History*, Charlottesville, VA: The University Press of Virginia, 1971

Sources:


Obituary, George Rogers Taylor, Amherst College News Press Release, April 12, 1983, George Rogers Taylor file, Amherst College


Taylor, George Rogers, CV, George Rogers Taylor file, Amherst College


**Fifty Years Ago in the JEH: 1965**

Volume 25 of the *Journal of Economic History* was edited by Douglass North and William Parker. It featured 23 articles by 25 different authors – only one coauthored, for a total of 713 pages. Among the authors were five once and future EHA presidents: Herbert Heaton (1948-50), Carter Goodrich (1954-56), Lance Davis (1978-79), Jacob Price (1987-88), and Jeff Williamson (1994-95). Heaton contributed a retrospective on the formation of the EHA in the December Tasks issue. That same issue also featured an article by Fritz Redlich comparing and contrasting the traditional with the “new” approach to economic history.
In the December issue the Board of Trustees announced the creation of a new award to honor the best article published in the *JEH* each year. The Arthur H. Cole fund created an annual award with a prize of $100 for the best article published each year. The competition was slated to begin with the contributions to the Tasks issue of December 1965 with the prize announced at the EHA meetings each year. The first winner, announced in September 1966, was Lance Davis for his article “The Investment Market, 1870–1914: The Evolution of a National Market,” published in the September 1965 issue. Curiously, this article was not eligible for the prize given the original parameters announced by the committee.

In the silver jubilee after dinner speech at the 1965 meetings in New Haven, Herbert Heaton sketched some of the developments in economic history over the previous half century. He contrasted the landscape in 1910, when he first considered himself an economic historian, with the present. Back then the first generation of American economic historians were produced by one of three mentors: Schmoller in Berlin, Cunningham in Cambridge, and Ashley in Oxford/Toronto/Harvard/ Birmingham. They began to teach economic history and attract graduate students first at Harvard and Johns Hopkins, then Yale and Columbia, gradually spreading across the country.

This new generation began to publish their research, but without a dedicated field journal, the monograph was a popular outlet. Between its debut in 1906 and the eve of the creation of the EHA in 1938, half of the monographs published in the *Harvard Economic Studies* series were devoted to economic history.

Heaton highlighted some of the accomplishments of the previous half century, including the NBER, the Carnegie Institution’s seven “Contributions to American Economic History” series that ran from 1905 to 1933, and of course the creation of the EHA. He balanced that with some of the shortfalls—such as the plan for the International Scientific Committee on Price History, launched in 1929 by Sir William Beveridge and Edwin Gay with the intention of creating a coordinated study of price history in multiple countries. Sadly, most of the items on their to-do list were not accomplished. He cited depression and world war as the primary culprits.

It was the outbreak of war in Europe that provided an important impetus for the creation of the EHA. With war disrupting travel and the exchange of scholarship in Europe, the American economic historians needed to create an association of their own since they could no longer reliably access their European brethren through their association and journal. At the American Historical Association (AHA) meetings in Washington DC in December 1939 a group of economic historians gathered with the goal of exploring the possibility of forming an association which would coexist with the AHA, the Agricultural History, the Business History, and the newly created Industrial History Associations, to cover research not covered by these others, as well as to serve as a sort of unifying group inclusive of all of them.

The EHA was formally instituted in December 1940 at dual meetings in of the AHA in New York and the AEA in New Orleans. A constitution, bylaws, the first officers, with Edwin Gay as president, and plans to launch a journal and hold an annual conference were all put into place. From conception to printing, the first issue of the *JEH* was created in less than four months. And the first conference of the new Economic History Association was held in September 1941 at Princeton.

The original aims of the association were to encourage research and teaching in the history
of economic activity and economic thought; cooperate with other societies devoted to the study of agricultural, industrial, and business history; and serve as a means for bringing together economists, statisticians, historians, geographers and others who found that the story of economic change shed light on their fields of interest or was enriched by their contributions. The chief activities of the EHA were to be an annual conference and a journal, both of which have now been going for three quarters of a century.

In that first year 361 individuals, almost exclusively American, signed up for membership, and an additional 54 libraries subscribed to the journal. By 1965 memberships had increased to 2374. Foreign membership grew from nearly zero to 30% of the total.

Fritz Redlich provided a different take on the status of the discipline in his “‘New’ and Traditional Approaches to Economic History and Their Interdependence,” published in the December issue. He had some harsh words for practitioners of the “new” economic history and their work, which he characterized as being based in part on “figments,” which he defined as assumptions having no link to reality. He was particularly critical in this regard of the counterfactual. Redlich criticized Fogel’s work on railroads using this method as “quasi history.” He argued that an economic question does not become a historical one just because it investigates an event that took place in the past. An economic problem becomes one of economic history only when a specifically historical element is added. As history is essentially change over time, the economic problem must be seen as changing in order to be a subject for the historian.

To the extent that traditional economic history stresses institutions, noneconomic factors, and imponderables, it might draw for theoretical support on sociology and anthropology rather than on economics; whereas the “new” economic historians rely exclusively on the latter. Traditional economic history emphasizes the study of institutions but is well aware of the role of noneconomic factors and of imponderables, which the “new” economic historians specializing in the purely economic aspect of the field disregard.

The “new” economic historians emphasize measuring and comprehending by measuring. The traditionalists, on the other hand, stress comprehending and “understanding.” Redlich considered them interdependent. He predicted that historians would not be open to Fogel’s call to reunite economics and history because in Fogel’s plan for such a reunification, it would mean that economic history would be dropped in favor of model building. Redlich was somewhat prescient in his outlook, as the percentage of historians in the EHA has declined in the face of the cliometric revolution.
Conference Announcements

2016 Annual Cliometric Society Conference
May 20-21, 2016 in Pittsburgh, PA

The annual Cliometric Society Conference in 2016 will be held on the weekend of Friday, May 20 through Saturday, May 21 at the University of Pittsburgh and hosted by the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and the National Science Foundation.

The conference is designed to provide extensive discussion of new and innovative research in economic history. We consider applicants from all continents and papers addressing important topics in economic history for all countries. We particularly encourage interdisciplinary research and seek a diverse set of papers addressing local, country, regional, and global issues. Applications to present papers or to attend the conference are welcome from graduate students, junior faculty, and senior faculty in economic history as well as distinguished faculty in other fields who have research interests in economic history.

Typically, twelve papers are selected for presentation and discussion. These are sent out to all conference participants in advance. Each paper is a single session, in which authors have five minutes to make an opening statement and the rest of the hour session is devoted to discussion among all conference participants. All participants are required to have read all papers and to attend the entire conference, i.e., arrive on Thursday, May 19 and leave on Sunday, May 22. At least one author must be a member of the Cliometric Society. For membership information contact Professor Michael Haupert at mhaupert@uwlox.edu. The conference pays most hotel and flight expenses for graduate students and heavily subsidizes hotel and flight expenses for faculty and researchers.

Proposals and requests to attend the conference will be accepted beginning 8 December 2015. The deadline to submit a paper proposal or a request to attend the conference is Friday, 22 January 2016. Those wishing to present a paper should provide an abstract and a 3-5 page summary of the proposed paper. In choosing papers and participants, the host committee will assign priority to those who have not attended recently or who have never attended. Graduate students wishing to attend or submit a paper proposal must obtain a letter of recommendation from their dissertation advisor. Those whose papers are selected for presentation will be notified by Wednesday 17 February 2016 and are expected to provide a completed draft of the paper in the proper format for the conference volume no later than Friday 1 April 2015.

We STRONGLY PREFER that applicants submit their materials via the web at the following site: http://eh.net/2016-cliometrics-conference-proposal-submission/. Please email us at clio2016@hawaii.edu if you cannot submit via the web and we will make available alternative submission routes.

Questions? Email the conference administrator, Byron Yee, at clio2016@hawaii.edu.
Clio Sessions at the 2016 WEAI meetings
The Cliometric Society will sponsor sessions at the Western Economic Association International annual conference in Portland, OR June 29 – July 3, 2015. Anyone interested in presenting or discussing a paper, or chairing a session, should contact Mike Haupert at mhaupert@uwlap.edu.

41st Annual Economic and Business History Society Conference
Montreal, Quebec May 2-28, 2016
The Economic and Business History Society (EBHS) is now accepting proposals for our 41st Annual Conference, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel- downtown Montreal. Proposals for presentations on any aspect of ancient to recent economic or business history are welcome, as are proposals for whole panels. We welcome submissions from graduate students and non-academic affiliates. The 41st Annual Conference will also include a French track. La 41ième conférence annuelle accueillera des propositions et présentations en français comme en anglais.

The EBHS conference offers participants the opportunity for intellectual interchange with an international, interdisciplinary, and collegial group of scholars (typically about half our participants are from economics departments and half are from history or economic history departments). The EBHS prides itself on its openness to new members and we offer reduced conference fees for graduate students and early career researchers (four years or less since doctorate earned). Our regular registration fees are reasonable, as is the cost of accommodation at the conference venue.

In addition to the sessions, there will be some activities that should be of interest to all participants. These include a tour in some famous historical parts of Montreal. Of course, in keeping with the collegial nature of EBHS, there will be plenty opportunities for informal social activities within walking distance from the downtown-located Conference, including museums, fine restaurants, shopping outlets, the Old Montreal (http://www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/), as well as many festivals.

Proposals, in English or French, should include an abstract of no more than 500 words and contact details. The deadline for submission of proposals is February 15, 2016. The Program Chair will send a notification of acceptance of abstracts by March 1, 2016. Online registration will be available soon at www.ebhsoc.org.

Proposals may be submitted through the EBHS website at www.ebhsoc.org, by email to ebhs2016@ebhsoc.org, or to the Program Chair by postal mail (not preferred):
Patrice Gélinas
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Atkinson Building 254
4700 Keele St.
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3
If you have further questions about the meeting or organization please contact Program Chair Patrice Gélinas, gelinas@yorku.ca, or EBHS President Lisa Baillargeon, baillargeon.lisa@uqam.ca.

EBHS also operates a peer-reviewed open access journal, Essays in Economic and Business History, edited by Jason Taylor (Central Michigan University). Conference papers and non-conference papers alike may be submitted to Essays for consideration. We invite you to visit our website, www.ebhsoc.org, to see our editorial board and policies, as well as back issues.

We look forward to welcoming you to Montreal.
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