



## Brig. Gen. Temple selected military programs director Next Division Engineer, Brig. Gen. Grisoli

North Atlantic Division Engineer, Brig. Gen. Merdith W. B. Temple, will be moving on to take the position of Director of Military Programs, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC. Brig. Gen. William T. Grisoli, the current Northwestern Division Engineer will become the new NAD Commander.

Brigadier General Merdith W. B. (Bo) Temple assumed command of the North Atlantic Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on November 25, 2002. He joined the Division after a tour as Commander of the Corps' Transatlantic Programs Center in Winchester, Virginia.

The North Atlantic Division is one of eight Corps of Engineers regions providing engineering and construction services to the nation. It is the Corps'

regional business center in the Northeast and 51 other countries, with district offices in Concord, Mass., New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk and Wiesbaden, Germany.

As Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Temple oversees the planning, design and construction of projects to support the military, protect America's water resources, and restore and enhance the environment within a 180,000 square mile area along the Atlantic Coast, including 13 states from Maine to Virginia and the District of Columbia. He is also responsible for the Division's work with a variety of engineering and construction activities for international, Federal, state and local governments and agencies in the United States and overseas.

Through the Division's headquarters in Portland, Ore. and a Missouri

River regional office in Omaha, Neb., Brig. Gen. William T. Grisoli directs all Corps of Engineers civil, military and environmental activities in an area comprising one-quarter of the continental U.S. The Division's annual programs exceed \$2 billion and are largely carried out through five district offices in Kansas City, Mo.; Omaha, Neb.; Portland; Seattle and Walla Walla, Wash. A large part of the civil works program budget is earmarked for maintaining and operating hydroelectric, navigation, and flood control projects, in addition to fish and wildlife activities at Corps projects in the Missouri and Columbia River basins.

Brig. Gen. Grisoli also directs the Corps' military construction program for the states of Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska,

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## A little bit of Italy in Iraq

*Bob Hanacek (left) assists a member of the Carabinieri, an Italian Military Unit, in making pizzas during his tour in Iraq. Italian soldiers took the bricks from damaged buildings in the area and built the oven from scratch.*

*The pizzas, according to Ken Paton, "were fantastic." For more on our District team's adventures in Iraq, please see Ken's update on page 6.*

# Yankee Voices

MaryDunn  
Real Estate Division



## Congratulations

... to **Barbara Ingersoll**, Resource Management, for her selection as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for March 2005. Barbara received the award due to her efforts to support to her fellow employees.

... to the **Scarborough River Maintenance Project Team** that was selected as the WE Committee's Team of the Month for March 2005. The team was nominated for its outstanding efforts in completing the project within budget and ahead of schedule. Team members include **Stephen Kelley, Bob Meader, Bob Holt, George Norton, Bob Zwahlen, Christine Johnson, Craig Hysler, Gary Cooper, Trish Sumner, Rachael Raposa, Todd Randall, John Winkleman, Dave Goodrich, and Michael Walsh.**

## Sympathy

... to **Gary Cooper**, Central Resident Office, on the passing of his father, **Herb Cooper**, March 1.

## OPM teams with other federal agencies against diploma mills

The Office of Personnel Management has joined the U.S. Department of Education, the Federal Trade Commission and members of Congress in an effort to expose diploma mills. The partnership has recently announced the availability of new resources to educate the federal workforce and potential students about fraudulent practices.

"OPM has aggressively tracked and dealt with diploma mill issues since the mid-1980's," said OPM's Stephen Benowitz, Associate Director for Human Resources Products and Services. "Our position has been consistent and clear - there is no place in federal employment for credentials from diploma mills."

OPM has provided ongoing guidance to federal departments and agencies via memoranda to their leadership making it clear that so-called "degrees" from diploma mills will not be accepted for purposes of qualifying for federal positions, for student loan repayment and for purposes of paying for employees to obtain college degrees.

In addition, OPM has provided training sessions for federal human resources management and personnel security staff to train them about diploma mills, how they work and how to treat applications claiming degrees from diploma mills. ([opm.gov](http://opm.gov))

## Buried Veterans' records are now online

The Veteran's Administration has made it easier and faster for the public to get answers about family history, old war buddies or famous war heroes. The agency has put on the Web 3.2 million records for veterans buried at 120 national cemeteries since the Civil War.

The VA's Nationwide Gravesite Locator also has records for some state veterans cemeteries and burials in Arlington National Cemetery since 1999 (<http://www.cem.va.gov/>). The navigator includes names, dates of birth and death, military service dates, service branch and rank if known, cemetery information and grave location in the cemetery.

The VA will withhold some information, such as next of kin, for privacy purposes. ([www.militaryreport.com](http://www.militaryreport.com))

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# Commander's Corner:

## Can we make Regionalization a reality?

by Col. Thomas Koning  
District Engineer



*In the December issue of the Yankee Engineer, an article appeared entitled, "Think as a Region, Act as a Region," which was the first of what will be many articles by the District and Division that*

*will discuss regional topics.*

Although the North Atlantic Division is comprised of six different Districts, through integration, collaboration and sharing of resources we can leverage the best of our collective resources to provide the best services to our customers.

As we actualize the Regional Business Center by implementing principles of 2012 we have begun to share our expertise within the region to meet the technical needs of our customers and improve communications amongst everyone. I am proud of the initiatives we have begun within New England District to poise ourselves and the region for success.

Did you know that Engineering and Planning has six of the region's 17 technical experts in plan formulation, geographic information systems, economics, navigation and environmental? The chief of Engineering attends the "BOND" meetings with the other NAD District chiefs to discuss and share

technical workload. The chief of Construction attends the "SLUMP" meetings with the other NAD District chiefs to discuss and share construction workload.

Contracting has implemented regional contracts and joint processing with the Baltimore District for environmental work. Sharing contract capacity with our sister Districts has become a common part of our acquisition strategy planning.

Resource Management has been heavily involved in the planning for regional rates for all our accounting metrics. Standardization of our processes is important so we can more

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**'I am proud of the initiatives we have begun within New England District to poise ourselves and the region for success.'**

**- Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer**

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easily shift workload and share resources.

All of you have been reading the PAO messages on how regionalization is affecting specific members of the workforce. And soon you might see changes in Logistics as we look at new travel procedures and consolidated property books to get more efficient.

Change takes time and patience. All the above and more are still in their infancy of implementation and all are not fully functional. Join the team and be part of this transformation. I look forward to celebrating our successes.

## New commander named for North Atlantic Division

*Continued from page 1*

North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. This program includes the design and construction of barracks, hospitals, airfields and family housing at Army and Air Force installations.

The Northwestern Division is a national leader in providing environmental cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste for the Environmental Protection Agency and at hundreds of formerly used defense sites and active military installations.

A registered professional engineer in the state of

Virginia, Brig. Gen. Grisoli graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., and was commissioned in 1976.

He received a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois and a second master's degree in Natural Resource Strategy from the National Defense University.

Prior to his assignment to Northwestern Division, Brig. Gen. Grisoli served as Deputy Director of Army Transformation at the Pentagon. He has held numerous other command and staff positions in the U.S. and abroad.



Sheila Holt teaches children how to make a hoop glider during the "ZOOM Into Engineering" event held at the Museum of Science in Boston, Mass.

## District volunteers inspire future engineers during "ZOOM Into Engineering" event

by Sally Rigione  
Public Affairs

*How can engineering concepts be introduced to kids of all ages and maintain a level of excitement year after year? The coordinators from the PBS television show, "ZOOM," know just the right mix of fun, activities, entertainers, and willing engineers along with lots of gumdrops and smiles to get the job done.*

On Saturday, Feb. 19, at the Museum of Science in Boston, Mass., this PBS team brought together another action packed ZOOM into Engineering (ZIE) event with the assistance of local engineering companies and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This was the third year that the Corps has worked with ZOOM coordinators to locate engineers who were eager to assist thousands of kids understand what it's like to be an engineer for the day.

There were four activities for young minds to experiment with: hoop gliders, cup towers, flinkers, and the tall-sturdy building. Steve Umbrell spent about one hour at each station and said, "They were all fun -- there were crowds at all stations all afternoon long."

"ZOOM was even better than expected, I thoroughly enjoyed it," said Sheila Holt. "The kids were wonderful and the event was well thought out. I would do it again, if asked."

Erik Matthews said he had fun participating at ZOOM. "There was lots of energy, and the kids were quick to modify designs and experiment," he said. "I especially noticed this at the paper airplane station, where the kids quickly modified the example design we gave them. And even when their designs failed, they kept trying until they got something that worked. Real Engineering!"

"There was a wonderful collection of interested and talented kids, willing to try activities with enthusiasm," said volunteer engineer Ian Osgerby. "Everyone had a wonderful attitude among the volunteers. It was really rewarding, particularly working with very small kids with fingers still learning fine motor skills."

Returning veteran volunteer John Wutzer reflected on the day, "The event was excellent," he said. "New experiments for the kids were used which kept the day very interesting. It was great to take part again this year! Would gladly do it again! Best part was that I assisted building the tallest 'Tall Sturdy Building' using gumdrops and pasta sticks. It was 63 inches tall!"

Susan Buckey and Ellen Robinson, the ZOOM outreach coordinators sent a personal note to all the volunteers. "We did it!" they wrote. "I think we've concluded this tradition in grand style! The ZOOM Into Engineering event was a whopping success thanks to you and your enthusiasm for getting kids engaged in engineering activities. Ellen and I can't say 'thank you' enough! We witnessed many impressive kids who



Photos provided by WGBH.

*Many children and parents take part in the "ZOOM Into Engineering" event, sponsored by WGBH. New England District engineers have taken part in the program for the last three years.*

took your advice to try something new and to test it out. Many spent as long as a half hour at each station! Essentially, kids were getting our message. They were using the design process and thinking like engineers! Thank you for making the activity stations a safe place for kids of all ages to think of solutions, build, test, rebuild, and test again. Every child I saw was beaming with pride over their accomplishments and pleased as punch to give their name, age, and height

of their tower or building or distance of their glider. The kids and their parents had a wonderful time. So, Ellen and I will say it again – thank you for your smiles, your enthusiasm, and your supreme dedication to your profession. We (and the many kids who you met) really appreciated all your help on Saturday!"

One parent who attended the event told Susan, "Well, we've just met the most amazing engineers who work in all

sorts of capacities in New England. What an accomplished group of engineers!"

Paul Howard was another returning veteran engineer to the ZOOM arena and he shared some thoughts on the day. "The event on the 19th went very well," he said. "As usual, it's the enthusiasm of the kids that's the most memorable and exciting part of the event. It's interesting to watch them apply their imagination in understanding and solving problems. The enthusiasm of the kids was contagious, as the volunteer engineers got more and more involved with kids' efforts to succeed and to build things better. Unfortunately, this was the last ZOOM event at the Museum of Science. WGBH is not going to continue the ZOOM program after filming the last series this April. But WGBH ZOOM staff, and we, are hoping there's funding for similar programs in engineering and science that might lend themselves to future Museum of Science programs like the ZOOM event. I'd certainly like to be involved in this kind of thing again."



*Children and adults alike enjoyed constructing the cup towers.*

# Adventures in Iraq:

## Ken Paton sends word of District Team working overseas

*A team of New England District employees is firmly embedded in Southern Iraq on Tallil Air Base. The team deployed in two groups. The first group arrived in-theater on Dec. 2, 2004, consisting of Phil Morrison, Jerry Nunziato, Dave Kratz, Rich Riley, Don Wood and Farrell McMillan. Phil deployed to the Northern District and he is presently stationed in Kirkuk, Iraq.*

A second group arrived in-theater on Jan. 2, consisting of Don Hassett, Bob Hanacek and Ken Paton. The group said good-bye to Jerry who returned home for a family emergency after serving for seven weeks. Chris Lindsay rounded out the present team of eight stationed on Tallil Air Base with his arrival on Feb. 1.

Deployed to the Northern District are Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson serving as the Area Engineer in the Tikrit Area Office, and Richalie Griffith serving as a CON Rep in the Anaconda Resident Office.

The New England District Team transformed the Tallil Area Construction Office into a one-sided group of New England Patriots fans which came in handy on Superbowl Monday. Due to the eight hour time difference, the Superbowl started in Iraq about 2:45

a.m., Monday morning. The workload in the Southern District (GRS) of the Gulf Region Division is heavy and everyone is working seven 12-hour days a week.

The New England District Team is responsible for over \$1 billion in construction contracts being managed by GRS. The Tallil Area Office (TAO) is responsible for the management of construction in the Provinces of Thi Qar and Muthanna in Southern Iraq. Construction is split into six sectors consisting of Electricity, Health & Education, Transportation, Public Works, Security & Justice, and Oil.

The work is challenging, fast paced and rewarding. In many instances the work requires a lot of interaction with the local population where many Corps employees have thrived on the experience. Projects range from a \$50,000

school renovation to infrastructure projects valued at \$200 million. Quoting the previous GRD Commander, Maj. Gen. Johnson, "this is the biggest reconstruction effort in the history of the world."

Prior to his departure, Jerry worked in Logistics and was heavily involved in the LAN and satellite TV systems installation at the District Headquarters. Jerry brought a lot of energy to the team and did not hesitate to jump into every project that came down the road.

Don Wood was pulled from the group to work as a Project Manager in the Public Works Sector because of his experience in sewer, water and water resources design. He is responsible for the programming and management of more than \$300 million in water treatment and drainage projects. Don's position requires the interaction and coordination with local officials, construction contractors and the GRS leadership. He still has daily interaction with the New England District Construction Team.

Don Hassett is serving as a CAD Technician at Tallil and performing a plethora of "other jobs as assigned," which include escorting Iraqi Engineers from the Visitor Control Center to the TAO.

Don has been heavily involved in relocating the TAO to a new trailer on the GRS Headquarter Compound. He has dug trenches, run fiber optic cable, and assisted with the final hookup of printers, computers and the TAO plotter. Don also is involved with data entry into RMS whenever he has a spare moment. He has become the office's "go to guy" when someone needs something in a hurry.



Photo provided by Ken Paton

*The current New England District team: First Row Left to Right: Bob Hanacek, Ken Paton, Farrell McMillan, Don Hassett and Don Wood. Second Row: Chris Lindsay and Rich Riley. Third Row: Falah Thamer Al Badry (Iraqi Engineer) and Dave Kratz.*

Rich Riley is assigned to the Education and Health Sectors in the TAO. He is responsible for 100 school projects and 10 Primary Health Care Facilities in the Thi Qar Province of Iraq.

Rich is a "quick study" in construction management and is performing regular site inspections throughout his Province. He has also been actively involved in performing on-site assessments on proposed projects. Rich has walked through as much of the local gumbo mud and seen as much of the countryside as almost anyone deployed to Iraq. He has gotten a crash course in Iraqi traditions and does an outstanding job representing America.

Dave Kratz and Bob Hanacek are serving as Resident Engineers in the TAO. Chris Lindsay and Ken Paton, are also serving as Resident Engineers in the TAO.

The work is challenging and diverse as can be seen by Dave's workload. He is responsible for a new \$100 million Iraqi Army Base, eight projects with the 56th Brigade Combat Team, five projects with the 122nd ENG Battalion, 25 projects with the 194th ENG Battalion, and a Civil Defense HQ/Fire Station complex.

Farrell McMillan is the Area Engineer for the TAO and is responsible for all construction management in the Provinces of Thi Qar and Muthanna. In addition to the New England District Team, he is the supervisor of over 20 Iraqi Engineers and additional Local Nationals hired by the TAO. The Resident Engineers are responsible for managing the workload of the Iraqi Engineers to effectively and efficiently provide oversight on the diverse array of construction projects.

The Iraqis perform the bulk of the travel to remote sites performing quality assurance inspections and reporting. This can be a challenge because of the language barrier, but is rewarding because of the Iraqis' desire to be part of the solution in a country set back by 30 years of war and suppression. They crave freedom, peace and a better Iraq.

## Coalition members get head start on Women's Day

by Sgt. 1st Class Darren D. Heusel  
105th Mobile Public Affairs  
Detachment

Approximately 40 members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan and the Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan got a head start on International Women's Day March 4 by delivering much-needed supplies to more than 300 refugees at the old Russian Agricultural Building in Demazhang on the outskirts of Kabul.

While International Women's Day isn't officially celebrated in Afghanistan until March 8, the U.S.-led coalition members wanted to hold an early celebration for members of the Afghan Women's Union and their families, according to Maria Or, spokesperson for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Afghanistan.

Among the women who were honored were ladies who have worked at the Afghan National Army Military Academy Corps' construction site," Or said. "Hajera, one of the Afghan Women's Union representatives and a former Corps employee, asked us to bring gifts and donations in celebration of the cause."

Or said Elizabeth Carver, the Corps' resident engineer for the ANA Military Academy, thought it would be a good idea to show their appreciation for the dozen or so women who worked for the Corps' contractor from January to February 2005 and to bolster the confidence for all women in Afghanistan.

Or said U.S. Navy Chaplain (Capt.) Tierian Cash, command chaplain for CFC-A, was able to provide the volunteers with clothing and toys to bring as gifts.

She said Carver was also able to collect several hundred dollars to pay for plates on which to serve refreshments, as well as cooking oil and two

commercial buses to transport many of the refugee women to Demazhang.

"The night before the event, at least half a dozen Corps employees got together to package more than 300 individually packaged and pre-sorted gifts to hand out," Or said.

Or said both men and women were invited to join in the celebration and that the men were especially encouraged to participate so they could show their support for the women as "their contributions are vital to the economic and social success of this country."

"It's good to hear and see that the women here in Afghanistan have the freedom to celebrate Women's Day, especially the women who live in the refugee camps," Carver said. "I wanted to show my support, that they are not alone in this occasion, and that I am on their side."

Hajera, who addressed the crowd before the supplies were handed out, praised Carver for what she has done to help employ Afghan women and for helping to plan the humanitarian mission. She said because of recent efforts by newly elected Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the U.S.-led coalition, women now have more freedoms and independence.

"Supporting freedom and the right to live and work for all people is at the center of our mission here," said U.S. Army Col. John O'Dowd of Bergenfield, N.J., commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Afghanistan Engineer District. "Helping the women of Afghanistan in the plight for human rights and the freedom to work is essential for us to be successful."

The coalition was planning to participate in a number of other International Women's Day activities around the country, March 8, including the grand opening of a women's center in Farah.

# Remembering Bill Brown:

## Co-workers recall his dedication to people, the Corps, and the country

War Hero. Distinguished Civilian Gallery member. Chief, Appraisal Branch. Husband. Father. Grandfather. Friend. Any and all of these words would be pretty accurate descriptions of William D. Brown, Jr. But when New England District employees learned of his passing on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, many used two words to describe him the best – "nice guy."

"He always had a kind word for everyone," said Appraisal Branch employee Mary Dunn. "He will be missed."

Mr. Brown spent 24 years as a Corps employee, starting in 1971 and retiring in 1995. According to the nomination package for the Distinguished Civilian Gallery put together by Real Estate Division, Mr. Brown was very proud to work for the Corps of Engineers and considered its employees part of his family.

Co-workers described Mr. Brown as a people person and is fondly remembered for his dedication to the Corps, the Corps customers and the Corps people.

Mr. Brown's knack for leadership began early in his life during his time in uniform. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II (1942 to 1946) and was called back into military service during the Korean War. During his time in Korea, Lt. Brown served with Company "C" of the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division from 1950 to 1952. While serving in Korea, his platoon came under attack and he was wounded by an exploding grenade. Despite the injury that would plague him for the rest of his life, he ordered his men to fix bayonets and charge the enemy position. This act of courage earned Mr. Brown the Purple Heart and the Silver Star in 1951.

According to friends and co-workers, Mr. Brown never ran away from a challenge, but charged at it head-on and was willing to accept whatever happened. "If it was something he hadn't done before, he would try it," said Mary. "He used to say, 'If I make a mistake, I'll stand corrected.'"

Mr. Brown used his leadership and people skills when he took up his position as Chief, Appraisal Branch, in 1983 and earned the respect of both his employees and co-workers. "Although I didn't work for Bill directly, I admired him because he took good care of his people," said Bob Batt. "He cared about them and helped them wherever he could."

During his time with Real Estate Division, Mr. Brown

received a number of awards to include performance and quality step increases. During his time as Acting Chief of Real Estate Division in 1988, the Division received the "Caring for People Award" which was presented by the Director of Real Estate, Headquarters, USACE.

In 1984 Mr. Brown was selected as one of the original panel members of USACE's Real Estate Career Screening program. His duty as a panel member was to rate each applicant in the Real Estate Career Program twice a year. It was a position he held until just prior to his retirement.

Mr. Brown received the highest honor the New England District can bestow on a retired employee, induction into the Distinguished Civilian Gallery, on June 19, 1998. When he received the honor, he thanked the District, but gave the credit to his success to his people. "The big plus I have is the privilege to have worked with such a wonderful group," he said at the time. "My particular staff is second to none."

"He was a very good supervisor and would always be ready to handle any job that needed to be done," said Mary.

The Distinguished Civilian Gallery member also thanked his wife, Helen, who supported him through the years.

In addition to his career with the Corps of Engineers, Mr. Brown served as a building inspector for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; an Instructor at his local Adult Education Center in Marblehead, Mass.; as president and vice president of the Association of Federal Appraisers; and as a member of the Whiting Club of Massachusetts, a speakers club located in Marblehead. In addition to his willingness to help others, Mr. Brown will be remembered for the smile that seemed to be permanently affixed to his face. "He always had a good sense of humor and upbeat attitude," said Bob. "He was always cracking a joke or telling a funny story."

"He was a hell of a nice guy," said Rachel Fisher, Emergency Operations. Back when the District was housed at the Murphy Federal Center in Waltham, Mass., Rachel often had lunch with Appraisal Branch employees. "He was always laughing and smiling," she said.

Mr. Brown is survived by his wife, Helen, his daughter, S. Candice Brown, his two sons, William D. Brown, III and David Brown, and a grandson.



*Distinguished Civilian Gallery member and retired Chief of Appraisal Branch, William D. Brown, Jr.*

# Black History celebration focuses on shaping history through understanding the struggle for freedom

by **Kim Osgerby**  
Public Affairs

New England District employees attended the Black History Month Celebration on the Feb. 23 in the theater. This year's topic was the "Niagara Movement."

The event was sponsored by the Black Employment Program and the EEO Office. Employees celebrate Black History Month in order to understand the roles African Americans have had in shaping our country's history through their struggles for freedom and equality.

The Niagara Movement was chosen as this year's topic because it was the 100th year anniversary of the movement. The goal of the Niagara Movement was to secure constitutional and civil rights for African Americans.

Dr. Terrance A. Gomes, President of Roxbury Community College, said in his keynote address that it is important to learn about Black history because we share the past of Black history to make our lives that much more enriching for what we do in the present, future and for our followers.

During the civil rights movement the goal of the abolitionists was to free the country of the institution of slavery and achieve full-scale equality, according to Dr. Gomes.

He believed that what is interesting about the Niagara Movement is that not much is written or known about the movement. He mentioned that what is most known about the movement is that it was the first significant protest movement of African Americans in the 20th Century.

Dr. Gomes continued his talk by explaining the history of the Niagara Movement, which was founded in 1905 by a group of African Americans. The



Photo by Brian Murphy

*Dr. Terrance Gomes addresses the audience during the Black History Month celebration.*

significant leaders of the movement were W.E.B Du Bois, John Hope and William Monroe Trotter. These leaders fought for full civil liberties, an end to racial discrimination, and recognition of human rights and equality.

According to Dr. Gomes, the first conference took place at Niagara Falls July 11-14, 1905. Originally the event was to take place in Buffalo, New York, but at the last minute the location was changed to Niagara Falls instead due to an abrupt change in room availability. Only 29 of the 59 people invited actually attended the meeting.

The keynote speaker said that the Niagara Movement renounced Booker T. Washington's views and policies illustrated in his "Atlanta Compromise" 1895 speech. Dr. Gomes said that during the conference attendees set forth a Declaration of Principles where they specified their goals and demands for the movement.

Soon after Booker T. Washington dismissed the Declaration of Principles in a speech to the National Negro Business League as, "so much idle talk."

These disputes were detrimental to the public support of the Niagara Movement. The second conference was held at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, 1906, the site of John Brown's raid.

According to Dr. Gomes, as the Niagara Movement conferences continued, racially motivated riots large and small occurred. Despite these riots the attendance increased tenfold with over 800 attending the third conference held in August 1907, at Faneuil Hall in Boston, Mass.

Dr. Gomes concluded his presentation by saying that the final Niagara Movement conference that met Feb. 1, 1909 was also the 100th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth. It was during this time that the Niagara Movement was renamed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The celebration began with Black Employment Program Manager Kevin McKelvey leading everyone in singing, "America the Beautiful."

District Engineer Col. Thomas Koning opened with a series of Black history and civil rights questions to attendees. Some of these questions were: "Have you ever heard of the Niagara Movement before?" "What are some names of distinguished people in the civil rights movement and what decade did the civil rights movement start?"

Col. Koning said he likes to participate in Corps' EEO events because, "everyone including myself gets to learn about different ethnic diversities."

After Dr. Gomes speech concluded Col. Koning thanked they keynote speaker for his efforts and presented him with a certificate of appreciation and a commander's coin.

Bill McIntyre introduced Dr. Gomes. A musical selection entitled, "Black Butterfly," followed the award presentation. At the conclusion of the musical entertainment, Kevin McKelvey and Col. Koning thanked the audience for attending this year's celebration and invited them to a small reception.

# Lest we forget:

## Historical Society, District team up for cultural history project

by Michael Currie  
North Springfield Lake

*The setting for this story is the Black River Valley on the 1,300 acres behind the North Springfield Lake Flood control project, in the towns of Springfield and Weathersfield, Vermont. The large historical floods of 1927, 1936 and 1938 are what precipitated the "Flood Control Act of 1938."*

This was the act of Congress authorizing construction of flood control facilities, beginning as early as 1939 – 1940.

Today there 33 such projects in New England managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. North Springfield Lake was constructed during the period 1957-1960.

There were many impacts related to construction of these projects, some very positive with flood damages prevented, and some impacts involved heavy community sacrifices to afford the lands needed to build a flood control dam.

The Weathersfield Historical Society and the Corps at North Springfield Lake joined together in the summer of 2003 in a cultural history project, culminating with the placement of stone and bronze memorial markers at several historic locations in and around the North Springfield Flood Control project to give recognition to some of these local sacrifices and help in a reconnection to this property.

The project partnership began in early May of 2003 with a historical tour of Lower Perkinsville in the North Springfield Flood Control Project, given by the Weathersfield Historical Society. I was also in attendance. I grew up in the area, living and growing up in North Springfield during the construction

period of the flood control project where he now works. I wanted to attend the tour to meet some of the folks affected by construction of the project, in hopes of gaining a sensitivity of the sacrifices that were made during that time. I came away moved and educated by the program and the folks he met.

Upon returning to work, I couldn't put out of his mind what I had heard and seen that Sunday afternoon. There were constant reminders surrounding me in my working world, nothing of a physical nature really, except perhaps an old bridge abutment here, a road remnant there, and the visual imagery of my childhood, reminders of life before the flood control project. I began to brainstorm, thinking of a way of preserving the wealth of knowledge and information that was still available. I shared my thoughts with Project Manager of the

project Tom Snow, and Willis Wood, President of the Historical Society. A partnership developed to bring about a cultural history tour of Lower Perkinsville Village and the Black River Valley, by physically marking locations and features of historical significance that would once again connect area residents who could remember, to the land, and give to posterity hopefully, the same connection.

Much was accomplished that summer. The primary focus was to preserve the hallowed ground of one of the original burial grounds in Weathersfield, the "Old" Grout Cemetery, established circa 1770, and was relocated in 1959 during construction. It has been marked and rededicated with some beautiful stonework, iron gates, and bronze plaques, all created by local artisans and contractors. The sites of the Butterfield, Pike/Dingman and Salmond bridges, all covered bridges and significant links in these communities, that were destroyed or relocated during construction of the Dam at North Springfield, have been permanently marked with stone and bronze.



*"Joseph Stoughton House" circa 1870. It was the only house that was moved during the construction period of North Springfield Lake. The project's day use recreation area at Stoughton Pond was named for this family.*



*Fellows Gear Shaper plant, Springfield, during the 1927 flood.*

The project is still alive for history buffs, and residents of the pre-construction era. Three large historical roadside plaques, one for each access point to the flood control project were designed, purchased, and they were installed in the spring of 2004. The plan was to put one plaque at the Springweather east side entrance, off Reservoir Road, one plaque at the end of Maple Street in Perkinsville and one plaque along the Branch Brook Road in Amsden. These descriptive plaques were written by residents and Historical Society members to help visitors connect themselves within this valley, to a, "life and time that once was."

During the summer of 2004 North Springfield Lake expanded its outreach and education project and partnership, with the addition of new volunteers with fresh energy and ideas to include the Weathersfield Historical Society Archivist, Rebecca Tucker, North Springfield Lake's Park Ranger Lindsey Parent, and Brian Vaughn a temporary summer employee.

The team started in early spring of 2004 with a concept, to build an interactive web page exhibit incorporating the donation of eight 1927 historical flood photographs. I scanned the photos with thoughts of starting a project archive of flood and historical photos, but wanted to do more with them. During winter months most rural historical societies are not open, so I started with a newspaper article in a local paper to whet the appetite of residents in the area concerning the photos and the conceptual exhibit.

My hopes were of collecting oral histories, photos or whatever else I could through these outreach methods. I then planned to develop a delivery method/exhibit, that could advance the institutional knowledge of present and future project staff, as well as our visiting public, on the topics of valley cultural history and valley flood history, and this is when the idea of an interactive web display came about.

My interpretive concept was to incorporate public input,

local historians and historical societies and project staff resources in creating a living interactive web page exhibit for the public. The interactive exhibit concept then would gain value and significance, as a training aide too, because the young summer staff involved, knew little about flood control or of the history surrounding the project they worked on. I planted seeds for thought, and directions and resources to turn to, and developed what turned out to be a significant contribution to North Springfield Lake, as well as a training model for staff and visitors. What a better way for new staff members to understand their project than to immerse one in its history and beginnings, and finish the summer with a final product worthy of public display and enjoyment.

The final product of our summer work is an interactive project map that is displayed on our project's web site. Wait until you see and travel at the touch of a finger, this valley rich in heritage, and significantly situated to provide flood protection, where flooding as it turned out, was already a significant part in this valley's history.

This final or beginning product depending on your perspective is the fruit of many hours of research, proof reading, scanning, and enthusiasm on the part of its many contributors. Lindsey and Brian both brought technical skills related to web page design and photo editing along with them to work this summer, and shared in the enthusiasm of the permanent North Springfield Lake Project staff of Tom Snow and me in developing this teaching tool.

The Weathersfield Historical Society again this past summer was instrumental, by trusting in us, allowing us to borrow many photos and other materials to incorporate into our exhibit.

The story doesn't end here, though. Our product is not complete. This living, working, interpretive tool will take on new dimensions next season. The team is working towards another interactive map, complete with interactive "thumbnails" of the entire 204 square mile drainage area, to educate and inform the public about the project and its flood control mission. We have a vision of including historical and current photos and data, of our major contributing waterways and tributaries, data and pictures about our snow data collection process, as well as contributions from our Reservoir Control Center with real time data, that will aid us in interpreting flood events as they happen for the public and for educating emergency response personnel who could be called to action in any of these flood events.

The staff of the North Springfield Flood control project and the Weathersfield Historical Society are excited to share this new historical and educational Project.

For more information you can contact the staff at North Springfield Lake, 98 Reservoir Road, Springfield, Vermont or call the project office at 802-886-2775; or the Weathersfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 126, Weathersfield, Vermont 05151-0126.

# Dredging up the past . . .



*The first sitting committee of the Federal Women's Program pause from their meeting to take this circa 1990 photo. Front row (left to right): Jean McFedries, Jackie Norris, Marie Bourassa, and Julie Mackley. Back row: Kate Atwood, Carol Petrow and Alexine Raineri.*

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