

Sarah Jane Shoenfeld
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Historian/
Writer/Editor**

Prologue DC, LLC. Feb 2014–present. Clients include:

Mapping Segregation in Washington DC. Write and edit engaging online content for a general audience; undertake historical research; collect and manage data for mapping; give public presentations and walking tours; work with K-12 students.

DC Historic Preservation Office. Identify sites and develop content for 20th Century African American Civil Rights Heritage Trail consisting of 100 sites throughout DC.

Smithsonian’s Anacostia Community Museum. Researched and advised on content for forthcoming exhibition and for the museum’s 50th Anniversary Project. Wrote and edited literature review; surveyed and documented relevant archival resources and oral histories; recommended resources for digitizing; conducted oral history interviews.

Bloomingdale Historic Designation Coalition. Wrote 20,000-word historical narrative and gave public presentations to support a DC neighborhood’s designation as a National Historic District.

American University’s Kogod School of Business. Collected images and wrote/edited/proofread captions and citations for permanent photo exhibit on DC business history.

Boss Shepherd’s Restaurant. Wrote/edited/proofread text panels and image captions for exhibit on Alexander “Boss” Shepherd and the history of DC’s theater district.

Cultural Tourism DC. Wrote/edited/fact-checked/proofread Neighborhood Heritage Trail booklets for public distribution.

Smithsonian Channel. Researched footage for videos featured in the **Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture.**

**Freelance
Historian/
Writer/Editor**

SJS Research. Sep 2009–Jan 2014. Clients included:

DC Public Library: DC By the Book. Wrote succinct, engaging content for mobile-based historical walking tours.

Cultural Tourism DC. Researched, wrote, edited, and collected images for four DC Neighborhood Heritage Trails of 15-20 signs each (250 words per sign); fact-checked others as needed.

National Public Radio: Radio Diaries. Researched archival audio for documentary radio programs.

Film Odyssey, Inc. Researched photos and footage for nationally-broadcast PBS film *James McNeill Whistler & The Case for Beauty* (aired Sep 2014).

- Historian** **Joseph Henry Papers Project, Institutional History Division, Smithsonian Institution Archives.** 2002–2007, 2010–2011. Wrote essays and identified documents and images for website on Joseph Henry, 19th-century American scientist and founding Secretary of the Smithsonian (siarchives.si.edu/history/exhibits/joseph-henry). For printed volumes, researched and wrote annotations accompanying Henry's correspondence. Produced a cumulative index for the 11-volume series, and developed web pages on the founding of the National Zoo.
- Project Archivist** **America I AM: The African American Imprint.** 2007–2009. Identified, located, and helped acquire graphics and artifacts for 12,000 square foot traveling exhibition. In addition to archival research, worked with private collectors to obtain images and objects; participated in content development meetings and edited treatments for exhibit galleries.
- Research Consultant** **Avoice: African American Voices in Congress, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.** 2007. Researched and wrote content for online archive of the Congressional Black Caucus (avoiconline.org). Collected, scanned, and catalogued photographs from the collections of current and former members of Congress. Provided background research and participated in interviews with Charles Rangel, John Conyers, Walter Fauntroy and other CBC founders.
- Freelance Editor/Researcher** **SJS Research.** 2001, 2004–2006. Worked directly with **John Dean**, former chief counsel for President Richard Nixon, on researching and editing two books, *Conservatives Without Conscience* and *The Rehnquist Choice: The Untold Story of the Nixon Appointment That Redefined the Supreme Court*. Worked directly with **Jane Fonda** on research at the National Archives for her 2005 memoir, *My Life So Far*.
- Archives Technician** **National Archives and Records Administration.** 2001–2002. Worked with team responsible for publishing World War II-era records related to artwork and other assets looted during the Holocaust. Assessed physical condition of primary source materials to determine preservation needs; arranged records; developed descriptive finding aids for NARA's online Archival Research Catalog; and wrote pamphlets to accompany microfilm publications.
- Researcher/Writer** **WGBH/The American Experience.** 1997, 1999-2000. Researched and produced content for PBS documentaries *Africans in America* and *Jubilee Singers: Sacrifice and Glory*, and a series on education reform.
- Project Manager** **Blackside.** 1997–2000. Produced print and online materials in conjunction with PBS series *Hopes on the Horizon: The Rise of the New Africa* and *I'll Make Me a World: A Century of African-American Art*.
- Research/Editorial Assistant** **Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies at Radcliffe College.** 1997. Identified and reviewed essays for inclusion in anthology *Feminist Approaches to Theory and Methodology* (Oxford University Press, 1999).
- Assistant Editor** **Northeastern University.** 1996–1997. Helped write and edit book commemorating Northeastern University's centennial. Identified and provided guidance to contributing writers and researchers.
- Research Intern** **National Archives and Records Administration, Center for Legislative Archives.** 1995. Located and documented women's petitions to Congress for use in nationally distributed curriculum package *Our Mother's Before Us: Women and Democracy, 1789–1920*.

EDUCATION

Northeastern University Boston, MA. 1996–1999. M.A. in History with Certificate in Public History. Focused on 19th-century African-American history. Completed documentary editing project for publication in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*.

Earlham College Richmond, IN. 1988–1993. B.A. in Women's Studies. College Honors.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Reviewed *Race, Class, and Politics in the Cappucino City*, by Derek S. Hyra (*Washington History*, forthcoming).
- Co-writing "Open Data Meets History: Mapping Segregation in American Cities, Then and Now," for *Open Cities: Open Data: Collaborative Cities in the Information Era* (Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming).
- Lead historical walking tours and give public presentations on DC history (2014-present).
- Wrote scholarly article on the history and legacy of racially restrictive housing covenants for *Washington History* (published Spring 2017).
- Reviewed *Just Another Southern Town: Mary Church Terrell and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Nation's Capital*, by Joan Quigley (H-AfroAm, Feb 2017).
- Served as Humanities Scholar for Latin American Youth Center program "Places: Soul of the City " (2013).
- Gave 2013 Black History Month lecture, "From Emancipation to the March on Washington: The Growth of African American Neighborhoods in Washington DC," at the American Association of Medical Colleges.
- Reviewed *The Paper Bag Principle: Class, Colorism, and Rumor and the Case of Black Washington, D.C.*, by Audrey Elisa Kerr (H-DC, Aug 2007).
- Reviewed Teaching American History grant applications for the U.S. Department of Education.
- Wrote 3,000-word narrative on DC history for curriculum produced by the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. for District of Columbia Public Schools.
- Located artifacts for Anacostia Community Museum exhibition *East of the River*.
- Served as peer reviewer for proposal submitted to the National Historic Publications and Records Commission to process archival collections documenting African-American history in Alabama.
- Produced database and filing system for compiling research on fugitive slaves documented in William Still's 1872 work, *The Underground Railroad*, for the Menare Foundation.
- Judged National History Day finalist papers and projects at DC public high schools.
- Completed documentary editing project, "Applications and Admissions to the Home for Aged Colored Women in Boston, Massachusetts, 1860–1887," for publication in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (Jul 2001–Jan 2002).
- Reviewed *Sojourner Truth: A Life, A Symbol*, by Nell Irvin Painter (*The New England Quarterly*, Dec 1997).