



# WHAT IS PAST IS PROLOGUE

The Prologue Society Newsletter

January 26, 2016

## FROM THE CHAIR

As I said in my introduction on Wednesday, January 20 was a very, very special day—our very own Arva Moore Parks offered an outstanding presentation about her biography of George Merrick, subtitled *Son of the South Wind*. Everyone (especially old-time Coral Gables folks) was entranced at the abundance of her information about Merrick and his team. It's a great story, told by a fine historian.

We can now announce the remainder of the Spring Season! Here are the next three events for this Spring (details below):

**February 24:** Fergus Bordewich, *The First Congress: How James Madison, George Washington, and a Group of Extraordinary Men Invented the Government*

**March 17:** Les Standiford, *Water to the Angels: William Mulholland, His Monumental Aqueduct, and the Rise of Los Angeles*

**April 14:** Janice Nimura, *Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back*

All of these events are now posted on the website at [www.theprologuesociety.org](http://www.theprologuesociety.org) and you can register right away if you wish—but be sure to register for the February 24 event before February 18.

If you have friends and neighbors who might be interested in The Prologue Society, now is the time to invite them to join or to attend an event as your guest.

The Prologue Society continues to thrive. Your Board will meet early in February to begin thinking about next year's authors and books. If you have any suggestions for us, please contact me at [dpark@performanceinc.net](mailto:dpark@performanceinc.net) or Debbie at [theprologuesociety@gmail.com](mailto:theprologuesociety@gmail.com).

Good reading!

Dabney (Bud) Park

## NEXT LUNCHEON: Fergus Bordewich, February 24

*The First Congress: How James Madison, George Washington, and a Group of Extraordinary Men Invented the Government*

### To register:

- **The deadline for members to register for this luncheon is Thursday, February 18.**
- **Online:** Go to [www.theprologuesociety.org](http://www.theprologuesociety.org) and follow the instructions;
- **OR by telephone:** Call 305-323-1154 and talk to Debbie Hirshson or leave a voicemail message that you plan to attend;
- **OR by regular mail:** Send note with a check for \$50.00 per person to The Prologue Society, 18495 S. Dixie Highway #373, Miami, FL 33157.
- **Include** the names of your guests.
- **IMPORTANT: IF YOU REGISTER BY MAIL, you must also call Debbie** (or reply to this email) so that she knows to expect you!

### To pay:

- **Enter your credit card number** on the website;
- **OR mail a check** for \$50.00 per person to The Prologue Society, 18495 S. Dixie Highway #373, Miami, FL 33157;
- **OR bring a check** to the luncheon.

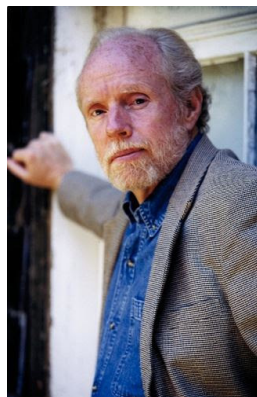
### Note:

- To speed up luncheon check-in and accounting, our preference is that you: 1) pay online, OR 2) mail a check well in advance of the luncheon.
- Mail is taking a while to reach us. (Remember to call or email Debbie right away if you're registering via the mail.)
- **If you haven't yet sent in your membership application**, please do so right away (or activate and pay for your membership online). You will need to be on the membership rolls before we can accept your reservation for this and all future luncheons of this season.

## FEBRUARY 24: FERGUS BORDEWICH

*The First Congress: How James Madison, George Washington, and a Group of Extraordinary Men Invented the Government*

The little known story of perhaps the most productive Congress in US history, the First Federal Congress of 1789–1791.



The First Congress was the most important in US history, says prizewinning author and historian Fergus Bordewich, because it established how our government would actually function. Had it failed—as many at the time feared it would—it's possible that the United States as we know it would not exist today.

The Constitution was a broad set of principles. It was left to the members of the First Congress and President George Washington to create the machinery that would make the government work. Fortunately, James Madison, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, and others less well known today, rose to the occasion. During two years of often fierce political struggle, they passed the first ten amendments to the Constitution; they resolved bitter regional rivalries to choose the site of the new national capital; they set in place the procedure for admitting new states to the union; and much more. But the First Congress also confronted some issues that remain to this day: the conflict between states' rights and the powers of national government; the proper balance between legislative and executive power; the respective roles of the federal and state judiciaries; and funding the central government. Other issues, such as slavery, would fester for decades before being resolved.

*The First Congress* tells the dramatic story of the two remarkable years when Washington, Madison, and their dedicated colleagues struggled to successfully create our government, an achievement that has lasted to the present day.

~ Simon & Schuster

photo credit: Jack Barschi

## RECENT LUNCHEONS

Arva Moore Parks delighted members at the January 20 luncheon with her tales of little-known and unknown Coral Gables history.



## UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

### SAVE THESE DATES

**March 17, 2016**

Historian and author Les Standiford will join us to present his book, *Water to the Angels: William Mulholland, His Monumental Aqueduct, and the Rise of Los Angeles*

**April 14, 2016**

We will be hearing from Janice Nimura, whose book is titled *Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back*

**ALL LUNCHEONS**  
are held in the Riviera Country Club Ballroom  
1155 Blue Road, Coral Gables  
12 Noon to 2:00 pm  
Doors open at 11:30 am

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For membership and luncheon information, please visit us online at [www.theprologuesociety.org](http://www.theprologuesociety.org), email us at [theprologuesociety@gmail.com](mailto:theprologuesociety@gmail.com) or phone us at [305-323-1154](tel:305-323-1154).

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