

John Porter Bloom (1924 -)



Historian John Porter Bloom has served both as Secretary-Treasurer and as President of the Western History Association. He held the former position (now Executive Director) from 1961 until 1966 while employed by the National Park Service and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, D.C. Bloom served as twelfth president of WHA from 1973 to 1974, also while at NARA.

John Porter Bloom was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico on December 30, 1924, to Presbyterian Minister Lansing B. Bloom and Maude E. McFie, daughter of Territorial New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice John R. McFie. In their early careers, the elder Blooms served church assignments in Mexico and New Mexico. Then and later they followed long-standing interests in archival research, mainly in New Mexico, Spain, and

Mexico as Lansing served on the history faculty at the University of New Mexico. Their son John focused his own work on the United States-Mexican War and the American Southwest. He received his B.A. from the University of New Mexico in 1947, his M.A. from George Washington University in 1949, and his Ph.D. from Emory University in 1956.

Dr. Bloom's career bridged academe and public history. He served as an Assistant Professor at Texas Western College (now University of Texas El Paso), later became Editor of *The Territorial Papers of the United States*, and Senior Specialist for Western History at NARA, where he worked from 1964 until 1980. He edited *The Pacific Historian* at the University of the Pacific from 1981 until 1983. Holding life memberships in both the Organization of American Historians and the Southern Historical Association, Dr. Bloom has also made lifelong contributions to the Historical Society of New Mexico, where he served as secretary and as a board member of long standing. He was also a board member of the National Council on Public History from 1980 to 1983. Both Dr. Bloom and his wife Dr. Jo Tice Bloom served as presidents of Westerners International.

Dr. Bloom completed his best-known works as author and editor while at NARA, including the Wisconsin volumes of *The Territorial Papers of the United State*, also *The American Territorial System*. In 1999, he edited *The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo: Papers of the Sesquicentennial Symposium, 1848-1988* for the Doña Ana County Historical Society in New Mexico. Dr. Bloom is currently a member of the Historical Society of New Mexico's Speakers Bureau, and his lecture titles include "Johnny Gringo in New Mexico: Kearny, Doniphan, et al., 1846-1848," and "New Mexico and the Mexican War, 1846-1848."

Sources:

"John Porter Bloom," Historical Society of New Mexico, http://www.hsnm.org/Speakers%20Bureau/john_porter_bloom%20bio.htm; "Lansing B. Bloom," New Mexico Office of the State Historian, <http://www.newmexicohistory.org/file-details.php?fileID=21259>

"Our Past," National Council on Public History, <http://ncph.org/cms/about/our-past/>

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