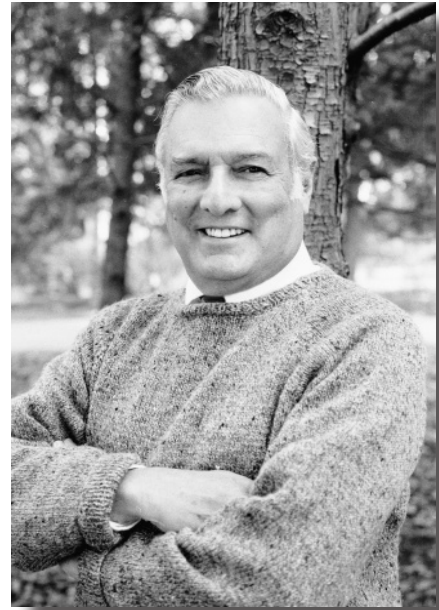


Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. (1915-2005)

An independent scholar renowned for his studies on Native Americans, Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. served as the 33rd president of the Western History Association, 1993-1994. He grew up in and about New York City. There he attended local public schools and the Horace Mann School for Boys. He matriculated at Harvard, 1932-1934, but Depression-era hard times cut short his education there.

Thanks to his uncles Alfred A. Knopf, proprietor of the publishing firm of the same name, and Edwin H. Knopf, a Hollywood director and producer, early in his life Mr. Josephy mingled with some of America's best-known actors and leading literary figures, including H.L. Mencken. Such contacts nurtured his interests in writing, leading him eventually into radio journalism and broadcasting in New York City. During World War II he worked for the Office of War Information and then joined the Marines and served as a combat correspondent in the Pacific. He earned the Bronze Star for "heroic achievement" for his sound recording of the Battle of Guam for the Library of Congress.



After the war Mr. Josephy worked for Time, eventually becoming director and editor-in-chief of American Heritage. Long interested in social justice, while traveling extensively for American Heritage in the 1950s, Mr. Josephy became familiar with the Nez Perce tribe and the problems it confronted. He began researching and publishing on them and other Indians. His study *Patriot Chiefs*, which provides biographies of various historic Indian leaders, was published in 1961; it became known among the more activist minded of the 60s as an "anti-establishment" book. This was followed by his award-winning and massive study *The Nez Perce Indians and the Opening of the Northwest* (1965). A Guggenheim fellowship allowed him to write *The Indian Heritage of America* (1968); it was a finalist for the National Book Award. Among his other books are *Red Power* (1971), *Now that the Buffalo's Gone* (1982), *500 Nations* (1994), and (as editor) *America in 1492* (1992). His knowledge and advocacy for Indian affairs led him to work with the National Congress of American Indians and the Indian Arts and Crafts Board with the Department of Interior and to help found the National Museum of the American Indian. On Native American matters, he consulted for various US. House and Senate Committees, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and television and film producers. In 1969, at the request of the White House, Mr. Josephy prepared an influential study and recommendations on Indian Affairs for President Richard M. Nixon.

Mr. Josephy was married twice and had four children.

Sources:

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