

## **Biographies of Contributing Writers**

### *A Space for Faith – The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England*

#### **Brent D. Glass – Author of the Foreword:**

Ph.D. in History, University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill, 1980

M.A. New York University, 1971

B.A. Lafayette College, 1969

Brent Glass joined the Smithsonian Institution as director of the National Museum of American History in December, 2002.

A leading public historian, Dr. Glass is a member of the Flight 93 Memorial Commission. He served as executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (1987-2002), the largest public history program in the nation. He has served on the U.S. National Historical Publications and Records Commission and on the council of the American Association for State and Local History. Dr. Glass became interested in oral history as a graduate student in North Carolina, and later served as executive director (1983-1987) of the North Carolina Humanities Council. His research interests include architectural and urban history; the history of industry and technology; and the history of memorials, museums, and historic sites.

#### **Peter Benes – Author of the Principal Essay**

Peter Benes is co-founder and director of the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, a series of conferences, exhibitions, and publications founded in 1976 which is published by Boston University. He is a graduate of Harvard College; he has earned additional degrees at Harvard University's School of Education and Boston University's Program in American and New England Studies. He is the author of numerous books, exhibition catalogues, and articles on New England subjects including meetinghouses, American painting, musical theater, and early maps. A scholar of eclectic interests, he has also written on environmental and animal-rights issues, slavery, and decorated family registers. His volume on eighteenth-century Plymouth County, Massachusetts, gravestone carvers, *The Masks of Orthodoxy*, won the Chicago Folklore Prize in 1977.

Mr. Benes has served as a secondary school teacher, director of education for the Concord Museum, and guest curator for the Historical Society of Old Newbury.

### **William Earle Williams – Author of the Preface**

William Williams is the Audrey A. and John L. Dusseau Professor in the Humanities and Curator of Photography at Haverford College in Haverford, Pennsylvania

Haverford's curator of photography and chair of the fine arts department, William Williams, has been awarded a Guggenheim fellowship to complete his photographic record of Civil War battlefields and historic sites where African Americans played an important role. Williams is one of only four photographers among the 184 artists, scholars and scientists selected from over 3,200 applications for this year's fellowships.

Williams' interest in creating a photographic documentation of the contributions of black soldiers during the Civil War stemmed from his photography project of Gettysburg's memorial park. Begun in 1986 and completed in 1996, this series of photographs taken with large-format cameras was later published in a book titled, *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time*. (Thomas Publications, 1996).