

Papers of the War Department 1784-1800

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PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Purpose And Goals Of Project. Theodore Crackel launched *the Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* at East Stroudsburg State University (ESU) in the fall of 1994; the project moved to the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University in the spring of 2006. The purpose and goal is to make widely available some 60,000 War Department documents recovered through a multi-year search of hundreds of repositories. The documents in the collection detail much of our nation's formative decades in a way that has never before been possible; but for a fire in November 1800, these documents would have resided at the National Archives all along. The project is now poised to present to scholars, students, and citizens this valuable and heretofore inaccessible archive of early American history, and to do it online and for free.

2. Significance and Relationship to NHPRC Goals and Objectives. "Follow the money," it is said, if you want to understand events, and in the early days of the Republic that money trail usually passed through the War Office. During the 1790s seven of every ten dollars of the federal budget (debt service excepted) passed through the hands of the Secretary of War. The War Department did business with commercial firms all across the nation; it was the country's largest single consumer of fabric, clothing, shoes, food, medicine, and weapons. The War Department also operated the nation's only social welfare program, providing benefits to thousands of veterans, widows, and orphans.

The Papers of the War Department 1784-1800 is, therefore, much more than a mere military record of the period. In the first decades of the nation's history, the American people and their new federal government interacted primarily through the War Department. For that reason, a wide spectrum of researchers—historians, political and social scientists, authors, genealogists, and museum curators—will use the documents being gathered by the project. The collection also opens a window onto a time when there was no law beyond the Constitution and the administration first worked out its understanding and interpretation of that new document.

Papers of the War Department 1784-1800 contributes to accomplishing the NHPRC goals of "protect[ing], publish[ing], and otherwise mak[ing] accessible historically significant records, and improv[ing] the methods, tools, and training of professionals engaged in such documentary work." The project also supports the Commission's goal of "enabl[ing] the nation's archivists, records managers, and documentary editors to overcome obstacles and take advantage of the opportunities posed by electronic technologies." Specifically, *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* is a groundbreaking effort to exploit the potential of the electronic delivery of documents and to provide free and open access to our documentary heritage. It will demonstrate what can be done with today's technology to make documentary editions easier to use and, at the same time, more cost-effective and comprehensive. Equally important, we will be pioneers in promoting "open access" to the nation's documentary heritage—permanently offering this historically important collection for free to scholars, students, and the general public.

3. Plan of Work for Grant Period. In the spring of 2006, *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* moved from its longtime home at ESU to CHNM). NHPRC provided the project with funding through June 2007. Under that grant, the project will complete the work of transferring the digital and hard copies of the project's files to Mason's Fairfax campus and will complete the design and testing of the project's electronic architecture. The process of entering detailed finding data on the collection's documents will be well underway by the end of the current grant period, as well, with an estimated 3,200 documents processed by July 2007 (in addition to the 6,000 already processed by ESU).

Our major goals for the three years covered by this proposal are to: (1) complete the digitization of approximately 6,000 remaining documents; (2) enter basic metadata for those 6,000 remaining documents and link individual image files to these new records; (3) provide detailed finding information (including document abstracts) for some 16,000 documents in the collection; (4) prepare a set of electronic auxiliary materials that will help extend the collection's utility, including two digital tutorials that will help users understand and use the late-eighteenth century documents that comprise the collection and two digital documents packets to help teachers at the K-12 and college levels present the collection to their students. (We are submitting a parallel funding application to NEH and, if that is successful, NEH funds will cover approximately half of the work plan outlined here.)

4. Products and Publications to be Completed During the Grant Period. By the end of 2010 (assuming parallel funding from NEH), *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* will be ready to present online some 25,000 documents, more than four-fifths of a projected total collection of 60,000 documents. By the end of the grant period, then, the project will publish the first of an envisioned three-part series, this one covering the years 1784-1790. Two multimedia tutorials on interpreting the letter books, and pension applications—two of the key types of documents in the collection—and two digital document packs presenting parts of the collection for history teachers at the K-12 and college levels will join these documents online at the end of the grant period.

5. Key Personnel:

Principal Investigator: Roy Rosenzweig, Mark and Barbara Fried Professor of History and New Media, Department of History, George Mason University, MS 3G1, Fairfax, VA 22030; (703)-993-4532

Editor-in-Chief: Christopher Hamner, Assistant Professor of History, Department of History, George Mason University (703)-993-8467

Consulting Editor: Jane Turner Censer, Professor of History, George Mason University; (703)- 993-2146

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

- (1) Complete the digitization and image processing of 6,000 documents left over from ESU's tenure with the project;
- (2) Enter basic metadata for those 6,000 remaining documents;
- (3) Provide detailed finding information (including document abstracts) for 16,000 additional documents;
- (4) Publish online the first of a three parts of the project, *Papers of the War Department 1784-1790*;
- (5) Publish online two multimedia tutorials on analyzing and interpreting the documents in the collection, and two digital document packets to aid teachers in presenting the collection to students.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

1. Purpose and Goals of Project

The Center for History and New Media (CHNM) at George Mason University proposes to develop further and ultimately complete the ambitious project that has been launched and carried forward with great energy and success at East Stroudsburg University (ESU) under the leadership of Theodore Crackel and with support from NHPRC and other funders. The broad purpose remains the same as before: to make some 60,000 documents of the early War Department, many long thought irretrievable, available to scholars, students, and the general public. These documents will allow scholars to reassess and examine in new detail many events of the nation's early decades. Our major goals for the three years covered by this proposal are to: (1) complete the digitization of approximately 6,000 remaining documents; (2) enter basic metadata for those 6,000 documents; (3) provide detailed finding information (including document abstracts) for some 16,000 documents in the collection; (4) prepare a set of electronic auxiliary materials that will help extend the collection's utility, including two digital tutorials that will help users understand and use the late-eighteenth century documents that comprise the collection and two digital documents packets to help teachers at the K-12 and college levels present the collection to their students.

Purpose. We are working to provide scholars, students, and the general public with a uniquely valuable and heretofore inaccessible archive—the *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800*. Of all the federal departments created under the Constitution, the War Department had the broadest reach, and its records should have provided valuable insights into the history of the early years of the new republic. In November 1800, however, a fire devastated the War Office and consumed those records; two weeks later, Secretary of War Samuel Dexter lamented in a

letter, “All the papers in my office [have] been destroyed.” In the two centuries since the fire, the record of the War Department effectively began with Dexter’s letter. Now there is to be a new chapter. These important records will be reconstituted by bringing together some 60,000 documents (copies and originals) found through more than seven researcher-years of labor across the nation and overseas. (Of the projected 60,000 documents, 54,000 are currently in hand; we are not applying for funds at this time for further document search because we regard the processing of the materials in hand as the top priority.)

Work is now moving forward rapidly to prepare this unique and valuable archive for free, public access via the Internet. *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* will restore this important missing segment of the nation’s documentary heritage, and a new generation of scholars, using this resource, will be able to reassess earlier interpretations of the era in light of a vast new store of material. With no official War Department records available, historians up to now have had only that small portion of the record that is available in the American State Papers, the Territorial Papers, the Papers of the Continental Congress, the published papers of a few of the nation’s founding fathers, and a limited number of important manuscript collections. *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* has cast a much wider net, examining more than 3,000 collections in more than 200 repositories in 31 states and 4 foreign countries. More than 700 other repositories were contacted by mail or e-mail.

Goals. Our goals are to offer unprecedented access to the documents we have found and to do so as expeditiously as possible. Initially, the project had planned to make the papers available on CD or DVD, but the spread of ubiquitous Internet access makes the World Wide Web the logical distribution medium for the papers. The low cost of bandwidth and storage means, moreover, that we will be able to offer the *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* free

of charge to anyone with Internet access. We believe that this is the future of documentary editions, and we see this project as blazing a trail toward open access to the nation's documentary heritage—one of the first documentary edition projects to publish solely on the web and to adopt a model of free public access to all of its products. Cost considerations make it impossible to offer fully transcribed versions of the documents. But keywords and phrases drawn from the text will allow a near-full-text search of the documents. Every person, organization, place, item, idea, issue, or action mentioned in the text will be entered in the content database. Researchers will be able to access digital images of the documents through keyword searches of both bibliographic entries (date, author, recipient, source, etc) and the documents' content.

2. Significance and Relationship to NHPRC Goals and Objectives

Significance. The significance of the *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800*, which reconstitutes the lost records of the early War Office, will be obvious for scholars of early national military history. But the *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* provide much more than the military record of the period. These documents will likely prove at least as valuable to students of economics, politics, and ethnic, gender, and family studies as they will to military historians. Military documents are rich in information with relevance far beyond the confines of military history. The changing ration and clothing allowances reveal much about the life of the common men in these years. The documents relating to the government contracts that furnish thousands of uniforms, shoes, weapons and other items shed new light on business organization and on the various associated trades. The commercial transport of supplies (and the recorded cost of such movements) yields a vast amount of unexploited economic data relative to the infrastructure of the new nation. The detailed record of the Army's contacts along the nation's borders illustrates many aspects of American foreign relations, and the chronicle of the War

Department's day-to-day dealings with the Indians illuminates both the formation and execution of policy towards Native Americans. The documentary record of all this will be available in the *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800*, thus filling one of the great gaps in the record of the early republic.

In the period 1784-1800, the War Department was responsible for Indian affairs, veteran affairs, naval affairs (until 1798), as well as militia and army matters. During the 1790s, the Secretary of War spent seven of every ten dollars of the federal budget (debt service excepted). The War Office did business with commercial firms and merchants all across the nation; it was the nation's largest single consumer of fabric, clothing, shoes, food, medicine, building materials, and weapons of all kinds. "Follow the money," it is said, if you want to learn what really happened, and in the early days of the Republic that money trail usually led to the War Office. For example, the War Department operated the nation's only federal social welfare program, providing veterans' benefits (including payments to widows and orphans) to more than 4,000 persons. It also provided internal security, governance, and diplomacy on the vast frontier, and it was the instrument that shaped relations with Native Americans. In many respects, the papers lost in the War Office fire of 1800 constituted the "national archives" of their time.

With the continued support of the NHPRC and other agencies (especially the NEH), George Mason University and the Center for History and New Media will make the recovered *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* available to scholars, teachers, genealogists, and the general public—and in an electronic format that combines digital images with a powerful search tool that will provide unprecedented intellectual access. In addition to the usual bibliographical entries such as date, author, recipient, and source, we will record for each document all names, places and things, ideas and events mentioned in the text. Researchers will be able to establish

complex search criteria; one might, for example, ask to find all documents written in June 1797 by Secretary of War James McHenry to General James Wilkinson that mention either horses or rations or both horses and rations. To ensure future orderly migration of the project files (image and text) to new storage mediums, to new platforms, and even to new applications, we will employ widely accepted, non-proprietary file formats: TIFF and JPEG for images and ASCII for text. The database architecture for the project will similarly use open standards and open source software—in particular, MySQL and PHP—and present the images online as JPEGs, which load much more quickly than TIFFs. And the entire collection will be served for free to a nation-wide audience via the World Wide Web.

For more than two hundred years the documents of the first sixteen years of the War Department have been lost to scholars, students, and the general public. The completion of the *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* will finally make the record of this wide-reaching government activity available.

Relationship to NHPRC Goals and Objectives. The *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* contributes to achieving NHPRC goals and objectives—most particularly its mission “to protect, publish, and otherwise make accessible historically significant records, and to improve the methods, tools, and training of professionals engaged in such documentary work.” As a project that was born digital, it also contributes to the Commission’s specific goal of “enabl[ing] the nation’s archivists, records managers, and documentary editors to overcome the obstacles and take advantage of the opportunities posed by electronic technologies by continuing to provide leadership in funding research and development on appraising, preserving, disseminating, and providing access to important documentary sources in electronic form.”

In digitally reconstituting the destroyed early records of the War Office, *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* will restore a critical segment of the nation's lost documentary heritage. The *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* is a ground-breaking effort to exploit the potential of the electronic delivery of documents and to provide free and open access to our documentary heritage. It will be a model of what can be done with today's technology to make documentary editions easier to use and, at the same time, more cost-effective and comprehensive. The project, thus, accords strongly NHPRC's goal of insuring "online access to...vital documentary sources" and "mak[ing] the best of the materials of these modern editions available to the widest possible audience." And providing electronic tutorials and tools for teachers on the website alongside the document collection furthers the NHPRC goal of "promot[ing] the use of records by teachers, students, and the public."

3. Plan of Work

Work Plan. The project will build on a strong base established by ESU. Ted Crackel's staff has already completed a great deal over the past decade, most notably the remarkable effort to locate the lost papers of the War Department in dozens of collections across the country. Of the approximately 54,000 documents already located, approximately 43,000 have been both scanned into digital form and have had basic bibliographic metadata (Data Entry I) created within the database. Much more extensive descriptive metadata (Data Entry II) has been added for approximately more than one-tenth of the collection (6,000 documents). In the spring of 2006, CHNM staff completed the movement of the project's physical files and computers from ESU to a new home at George Mason's Fairfax campus. NHPRC has already provided the project with funding through June of 2007. Under that grant, the project will complete the work of transferring the digital hard copies of the project's files, building a new electronic architecture,

establishing editorial and intellectual control over the project, and continuing the editorial work begun at ESU.

The technical work on the project has started with building a new database architecture for the project. The project files previously resided in a Microsoft Access database; that database served the project well initially, but is not robust enough to provide public access over the web. CHNM has considerable experience with online databases and is building an infrastructure using the open source MySQL database. Thus, we are transferring the records from the existing database to the new one. Because the original structure was a “flat” database, this process requires extensive reworking of the tables to create a fully relational database and extensive “normalization” of the data. In effect, we need to create an entirely new database structure so as to make the documents available on line and to finish the editorial work on the project. There are significant legacy problems in the Access database that are requiring a substantial investment of time to migrate the data successfully. Finally, we are writing the middleware (using the open source programming language, PHP) focusing initially on creating an administrative and editorial interface to allow editors to work on the documents directly online. When that is completed, we will shift to creating the interface and programming for serving the papers to the web. The goal would be to have a working beta of the site and the database infrastructure by the end of the current grant period in July 2007.

In this technical side of the project, we are starting from scratch since that phase of the project had not begun at ESU. In the editorial work, however, we are building directly on the work already accomplished there, following the template set out by them. During the current grant, we are focus on three main. First, we need to establish physical and editorial control over the project. We have already completed the shelving and organizing of the 200 linear feet of

project files in our new offices. Considerable work, naturally, must also go into re-establishing the administrative and editorial procedures for the project and assessing the quality of work completed by the ESU team. We are currently working on an internal report on the state of the collection. Crucial to the process of establishing standards and procedures in documentary editing for this and subsequent phases of the project is the work of Consulting Editor Jane Turner Censer, who has a decade of experience as a documentary editor. She will work closely with Editor-in-Chief Christopher Hamner, who will at the same time develop his own skills in this area—for example, by applying to (and hopefully attending) the summer Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents workshop sponsored by NHPRC in June 2007.

Second, we will undertake the digital scanning, image processing, and basic data entry for approximately 6,000 documents. These documents include many of the previously unreported documents from the National Archives. Of these 6,000 documents that need to be processed, approximately 3,500 have already been digitized but have not had basic metadata added; the rest need both image processing and basic data entry.

Third, (and most important and most time consuming) is the content data entry or what the project has called “Data Entry II.” This process entails creating an abstract or gist of the document, including drawing from each document the key words and phrases (especially names, groups, places, issues, and ideas) that will empower users with a near-full-text search capability. This is a labor-intensive task, and with documents written in so many (often difficult) hands there are no shortcuts. This is one of the project’s most critical efforts, for it is this that will allow the detailed user searches that make our product so unique. It is also a vital quality control step in the project. Undergraduate students did much of the initial basic data entry; not surprisingly, this data contains errors. The editors (and at Mason, the editors will be history doctoral students)

doing the content data entry will be responsible for checking the basic metadata that has already been completed as well as insuring that there are no multiple copies of the same document and that the data records and image files are correctly linked. The project's experience so far is that error correction is a very time-consuming process. Despite the substantial work in completing the scanning, and data entry for the remaining documents, the time involved in carefully assessing the work already complete and building and establishing a new office and staff, and the time-consuming nature of the content data entry, we estimate that we will still be able to complete Data Entry II for 3,200 documents by July 2007

Over the period of this grant (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010), the *Papers of the War Department 1784-1800* will continue the editorial work already underway at CHNM during 2006 to July 2007. There are three main tasks, to be carried out simultaneously.

First is the completion of digital scanning and image processing for approximately 6,000 documents in the collection that were not processed at ESU. These documents include the rest of the previously unreported documents from the National Archives, a miscellaneous group of documents for which scanning and data entry was postponed for a variety of reasons, and the new documents that still need to be located and added to the collection. For example, ESU held off on digitizing materials from the Henry Knox Papers in the hope that a better quality microfilm would become available (or that they would get permission to scan the originals). Second, we need to do basic data entry on those 6,000 documents and link them to their associated image files.

Our third and most important task is the content data entry, process known as "Data Entry II," and described above. This is one of the project's most critical efforts, for it is this that will allow the detailed user searches that make our digital editions valuable. Provided that the project

receives parallel funding from the NEH as well, we will be able to publish online approximately 25,000 documents online—more than four-fifths of the projected total collection—at the end of the grant period.

A final area of editorial work (and one not yet begun) is the creation of supporting materials to aid scholars, students, and citizens in their use of the collection. We envision three sets of supplementary materials.

First, we will develop resources to *contextualize* the Papers of the War Department for both scholarly and non-scholarly audiences. Those resources will include:

- An extensive introduction to the War Department in this period written by editor Christopher Hamner;
- A biographical directory of key figures mentioned in the Papers and written by Hamner in collaboration with the Assistant Editors;
- A detailed time line of key events relevant to the history of the war department and the period covered.

Second, we will offer five packets of documents from the Papers and directed at using them in teaching at both K-12 and College levels. These will focus on such topics as the Whiskey Rebellion (and the effort to mobilize a inter-state military force); federal Indian policy in the early Republic; the War for Independence and its legacy (using pension records); Settlers, Indians, and Soldiers on the American “frontier;” and the problem of reconciling traditional American resistance to a standing army with the growing need for a permanent military establishment in the new nation. For the pre-college classes, we will also offer (in collaboration with experienced high school teachers) lesson plans incorporating the documents. CHNM has extensive experience developing such classroom materials in its online web resources and its

programs of working with schoolteachers. For examples, see the document packages and lesson plans in *Women and World History* <http://chnm.gmu.edu/wwh/modules.php> and *Historical Thinking Matters* <http://historicalthinkingmatters.org>.

Third, we want to provide assistance to both students and non-scholarly general readers on how to “make sense” of the sometimes puzzling primary sources that are in this collection. Non-scholars are often unfamiliar with the protocols and methods that professional historians use to analyze historical documents—for example, sourcing, contextualization, close reading, and corroboration. These “intermediate processes of cognition” are often invisible and mysterious, especially to students. We believe that we can use the electronic medium to make the thinking of historians visible to non-scholars. In fact, CHNM already has extensive experience in doing exactly that in its *History Matters*, *World History Matters*, and *Historical Thinking Matters* projects. On those websites, we provide multimedia case studies of historians “thinking aloud” and illustrating how they read historical evidence. For example, Gerald Danzer discusses the Mercator map projection, focusing on its history, how it represents the world, and how teachers can use it in the classroom.

(See: <http://chnm.gmu.edu/worldhistorysources/analyzing/maps/analyzingmapsintro.html>.) Similarly, T. Mills Kelly analyzes census records from the Hapsburg Monarchy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and shows how this data can be used to uncover insights about women’s daily lives—information that is usually difficult to uncover from other sources in this time and place. (See <http://chnm.gmu.edu/wwh/analyzing/data/dataintro.php>.)

We will produce five multimedia “Analyzing War Department Documents” case studies using editor Christopher Hamner and other military or Early American historians. These will focus on key categories of documents encountered in this collection—letters, letter books,

pension applications, procurement records, and reports of Indian agents. We see these case studies and the other auxiliary materials as part of our larger commitment to free, open access. It is a mistake, we believe, to define “access” narrowly as the ability to find the collection online; “access” also encompasses the ability to use historical sources in sophisticated and critical ways. We seek to use the electronic medium to foster both kinds of access for the widest possible audiences.

Because we are only going to provide a portion of the collection online under this grant (and associated funds from NEH), we cannot develop all of these auxiliary materials at this time. But we intend to offer at least two teaching document packets (focusing on the Whiskey Rebellion and the War for Independence and its legacy) and two multimedia case studies of analyzing letter books and pension applications.

Finally, because this project will extend beyond the proposed grant period and because we are planning on making this material permanently available for free, it is important to say something about plans for completing the project and its long-term sustainability. It is impossible at the moment to speak with full precision about the time line for fully completing the project because we are still in the process of assessing the status of the material inherited from ESU and assessing the quality of the work already completed. (And, in this context, we should acknowledge that our work plan estimates must remain tentative until we complete that assessment.) Nevertheless, our estimate is that if this three-year grant and a similar three-year grant from NEH is funded and we receive comparable funding for an additional six years after this grant period, we will be able to finish all aspects of the project by July 1, 2016. But our work plan insures that scholars, students, and interested citizens will not have to wait that long for

access; by the end of this grant period (July 1, 2010) fully two-fifths of the collection will be publicly available.

We are also confident about the project's future beyond 2016 because we have commitments of support from Mason, which is making a substantial cost-sharing commitment to the project both during and after the three-year funding period. That includes not only the formal cost sharing shown on the budget (e.g., staff time) but also office space, server space, website maintenance, and office and storage space for documents in the Mason's newest building, Research I. (Mason policy does not permit us to list these items under budgeted cost sharing because they are normally embraced under federally negotiated "indirect costs," a category not recognized by NHPRC.) Moreover, the Center for History and New Media is also committed to the project, and it has a \$2 million endowment that provides a long-term stable funding base for its operations. Even when the project is fully complete and there are no more grant funds, we are committed to keeping the website running. We estimate the long-term maintenance costs to be modest and well within our current funding from our endowment and the university.

As part of our long-term planning for the project, we will also begin addressing issues of digital preservation. Fortunately, CHNM's participation in the Library of Congress's NDIIP project puts in close touch with the latest developments in digital preservation. But in addition to working to insure the permanence of the digital files, we will consider creating a digital microfilm of all of the project files as a back-up copy.

4. Products/Publications

At the end of this grant period (and assuming parallel commitments from NEH), the project will present approximately 25,000 documents (more than two-fifths of the total collection) online, including full content searching. That initial series, the *Papers of the War*

Department 1784-1790, will be joined by two multimedia tutorials and two digital document packets.

5. Key Personnel

Roy Rosenzweig (Principal Investigator) will be responsible for overall supervision of the editorial and technical aspects of the project, will serve as the liaison to university administration, and will be in charge of fund-raising efforts. Rosenzweig is Mark and Barbara Fried Professor of History and New Media at GMU, where he also heads CHNM. He is the author, co-author, and co-editor of numerous books including *The Park and the People: A History of Central Park*; *The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life*; *Eight Hours for What We Will: Workers and Leisure in an Industrial City, 1870-1920*; *History Museums in the United States: A Critical Assessment* *Presenting the Past: Essays on History and the Public*, and *Digital History: A Guide to Gathering, Presenting, and Preserving the Past on the Web*. He was co-creator of the CD-ROM, *Who Built America?*, which won James Harvey Robinson Prize of American Historical Association for its “outstanding contribution to the teaching and learning of history,” as well as the website *History Matters*, which won the same prize. He recently served as Research Vice-President of the American Historical Association and, in 2003, won the Richard W. Lyman Award (awarded by the National Humanities Center and the Rockefeller Foundation) for “outstanding achievement in the use of information technology to advance scholarship and teaching in the humanities.”

Christopher Hamner (Editor-in-Chief) will be responsible for overall editorial content and intellectual direction of the project, supervising the Assistant Editors and overseeing the day-to-day editorial work of the project. Hamner earned his PhD in American military history from the University of North Carolina, where he studied with Richard Kohn. He has been a

dissertation fellow at Harvard's John M. Olin Center for Strategic Studies and the Center for Military History. An honors graduate of Dartmouth College, he focuses on the interplay between technological innovation and the factors that drive soldiers to perform in combat in different wars, including the American Revolution. He is completing a book that examines the ways that American infantry soldiers responded to the traumas of combat in the wars of two centuries, beginning with the War for Independence. He is a member of the Association for Documentary Editing.

Jane Turner Censer (Consulting Editor) will work with the Editor and Assistant Editors to insure that the project follows the highest standards of historical editing. Censer received her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1980; during her decade as a historical editor at the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers at American University, she oversaw the publication of volumes four and six of the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers, *Defending the Union: The Civil War and the U.S. Sanitary Commission, 1861-1863* and *The Years of Olmsted, Vaux & Company, 1865-1874*. She is also the author of *North Carolina Planters and their Children, 1800-1860*, and *The Reconstruction of White Southern Womanhood, 1865-1895*.

James Safley (Technical/Archival Coordinator) will be responsible for building the database infrastructure and programming the site to allow direct data entry by the editors and to allow public delivery of the documents. Safley received his undergraduate degree in history at GMU and began his archiving career in 1999 at the National Archives and Records Administration. Subsequently, Jim worked as records manager at Phi Beta Kappa national headquarters and archivist assistant at Mason's Special Collections and Archives. Coming to CHNM in 2002, Safley applied his traditional archiving experience to his work in digital archiving, web programming, and database administration.

Dick Harless and **Ben Huggins** (Assistant Editors) will work under the close supervision of the Editor-in-Chief and are responsible primarily for Data Entry I and II. Harless holds a B.A. in history from Vanderbilt University and an M.A. in political science from George Washington University. A second-year doctoral student, Harless focuses upon the Early Republic period. He has already done extensive research on Indian policy in the Washington administration, one of the key topics illuminated by the Papers of the War Department. Huggins graduated from The Citadel with a degree in computer science. He received his M.A. in U.S. History from George Mason University and entered the GMU doctoral program in 2003 and is currently completing dissertation research on the political ideology of the Old Republicans and Whigs in antebellum North Carolina.

Project Advisory Board. The advisory board, which will be chaired by Theodore Crackel (University of Virginia), will give advice to the Editor. The other members will be: Richard H. Kohn (Department of History, University of North Carolina); Rosemarie Zagarrri (GMU); Jane Turner Censer (GMU); Daniel Cohen (GMU); Meredith Lair (GMU); Randolph Scully (GMU); and Fred Anderson (University of Colorado). Because the Advisory Board (with the exception of Anderson and Kohn) is located within driving distance of GMU, we will be able to meet with only minimal travel costs—conferencing the distance editors in via video. (*See Appendix A for CVs.*) The advisory board will function both as a group and individually. The board will meet at least once a year to provide guidance on the project's overall direction and to assure the general quality of the work. The primary utility of the advisory board, however, lies in the ability of individual members to bring their specific areas of expertise to bear on issues relating to the project as concerns arise. We will be calling on them regularly for that advice; the fact that most of them are relatively nearby will facilitate that communication.

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The editorial and technical team at GMU and CHNM is excited about bringing this important project to a successful conclusion. The collection is one of great historical and national importance. Moreover, because it has been developed as a digital-only project it offers great opportunities for providing free and open access to this important collection. We believe that such open access will provide a model for other projects as well as serve broader NHPRC goals. Finally, we believe that GMU has unique strengths in precisely the areas—historical, editorial, and technical—vital to completing this project.

SUGGESTED REVIEWERS

Martha Benner
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
#1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701-1507
217-557-6897

Charlene Bickford
First Federal Congress Project
2120 L. St, NW
Washington, DC 20037
202-676-6777

Andrew Cayton
Professor of History
Miami University of Ohio
240 Upham Hall
Miami, Ohio
Oxford, Ohio 45056

William Skelton
Professor of History
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Stevens Point WI 54481-3897

Jennifer Stertzner
Papers of George Washington
PO Box 400117
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4117
434-924-3569

J. Jefferson Looney
Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Ret. Series
1712 Concord Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901
434-984-7526

Abby Smith
Council of Library & Information Resources
24 Beulah Street
San Francisco CA 94117

John Shy
Professor Emeritus of History
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003

Ira D. Gruber
Harris Masterson, Jr. Professor of History
Department of History-MS 42
5100 Pine Street
Rice University
Houston, Texas 77251-1892

Paul David Nelson
Julian-Van Dusen Chair in American
History
Berea College
Rice University
Berea, Kentucky 40404

R. Don Higginbotham
Dowd Professor
Department of History
University of North Carolina
CB #3195, Hamilton Hall
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3195

Wayne Lee
Department of History
University of North Carolina
CB #3195, Hamilton Hall
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3195