

Papers of the War Department, 1784-1800

PROJECT NARRATIVE

I. Purpose and Long-term goals:

On the night of November 8, 1800, fire devastated the War Office, consuming the papers, records, and books stored there. Two weeks later, Secretary of War Samuel Dexter lamented in a letter that “All the papers in my office [have] been destroyed.” For the past two centuries, the official records of the War Department effectively began with Dexter’s letter.

The loss was monumental. The Papers recorded far more than the era’s military history: between 1784 and 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 (excluding debt service). The War Office conducted 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. Scholars attempting to “follow the money” in the early years of the Republic soon discover that the money trail usually led to the War Office. 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. Any contact that an American citizen had with the new federal government in the first years of the Republic was almost exclusively with the War Department or the Post Office.

In many respects, then, the records lost in the War Office fire of 1800 constituted the “national archives” of their time. For two hundred years, these critical papers have been lost to scholars, and their absence is one of the key reasons why so little serious military history has been written about this period. *The Papers of the War Department, 1784-1800* is an ongoing digital editorial project that seeks to restore this lost archive and make the entire collection available online to a wide audience of scholars, students, teachers, and the general public in a highly accessible and fully-searchable database.

This ambitious project has already achieved a number of notable goals. From 1993 to 2002, funding from NHPRC, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Department of Defense Legacy Project allowed project founder Ted Crackel and a staff of researchers at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania to consult more than 3,000 collections and visit more than 200 repositories in search of copies of the documents that were destroyed in the 1800 fire. Crackel envisioned creating a digital database on CD-Rom that would contain the directory, digitized document images, and key words and phrases from the documents: the persons, places, things, ideas, and issues mentioned in the documents themselves. Such a format would allow near-full-text searching in the reconstituted archive, an enormous advantage over traditional microfilm. Hundreds of visits over nearly a decade yielded tens of thousands of documents, all copies of items that resided in the War Office the night of the fire. Digital images of those documents became the project’s first database. In addition to the copying, scanning, and image processing involved in reconstituting the archive, Crackel and the staff began entering basic finding data for many of the documents, a process they termed “Data Entry I.” Before that process could be completed, however, the project encountered serious funding obstacles, and in 2004, Crackel left the project to accept a position as editor of the George Washington Papers.

The Center for History and New Media (CHNM) at George Mason University applied for funding to take over the project in 2005 with the intention of moving the database from CD-Rom to a free, online website. The Center's national reputation for innovative work in digital history made it a natural fit for a project that had been conceived from the start as an electronic project, and in the spring of 2006 staff from the Center began the process of moving the database to Mason. That transition occurred simultaneously in two areas. On the technical side, the staff at the Center began the process of migrating the data from its old Access database to a new, open-source MySQL database and commenced work on a new search engine that would allow researchers to perform detailed searches and to sort their findings based on a number of user-defined parameters. On the editorial side, a team of Assistant Editors led by Mason's new military historian Christopher Hamner began the process of entering more detailed information about the documents into the database, a process known as "Data Entry II." Working with one document at a time, Assistant Editors read over the documents, extracting the key information—names, dates, places, objects, and ideas—and entering that data into separate fields in the database along with a brief abstract of the document to aid researchers in scanning long lists of search results. As we discovered over the course of that first year, there are simply no shortcuts in a complex intellectual process like Data Entry II.

In the spring of 2007, members of the Mason staff met with Max Evans of NHPRC to discuss the overall direction of the project. Evans suggested that we adjust our priorities, expressing a desire to make the entire collection available online as early as possible. That reprioritization necessarily meant that the amount of finding data available would be correspondingly limited. Following that discussion, the Mason team devised a new workplan in June 2007. In order to make the entire collection available as quickly as possible, we

elected to focus on the basic finding data (author, recipient, and date, the process known as “Data Entry I”) and to suspend temporarily the more time-consuming process of entering the more sophisticated data (the names, places, events, things, and concepts that comprise “Data Entry II”).

We are in the midst of a three-year funding commitment from NHPRC to provide the most basic finding data for each document in the collection and to replace low-resolution image files with much more readable high-resolution files. (Our goals under that three-year NHPRC grant are to enter basic finding data for one-third of the documents in the collection each year, a target we have met in each of the first two years of the grant.) The project passed an important milestone in June 2008, when its website wardepartmentpapers.org debuted online. Though a full dissemination campaign for the site is not planned to begin until the summer of 2009, the site has already garnered substantial interest from scholars and from amateur researchers through word-of-mouth advertising and from its visibility in popular web search engines. Six months after its launch, the site was receiving more than 4,000 unique visitors per month. That degree of early interest even without wide advertising suggests that the site will ultimately generate considerably more traffic as the collection grows larger and a formal dissemination campaign begins to raise awareness among scholars, teachers and researchers about the documents in the database.

While the 2007 revised workplan had a significant advantage, in that it allowed us to successfully place three-fifths of the documents online and thus to make the entire collection available to the public by June 2010, it also had a substantial liability that the work proposed in this grant application will correct. Because the finding data entered in the Data Entry I

process is extremely limited, complex textual searches are impossible. That limitation severely hampers the audience for the site and the way that the documents in the collection can be utilized by scholars, researchers, and teachers. Rather than take full advantage of the power of textual search algorithms in the digital medium, the incarnation of *Papers of the War Department* funded under our current grants will provide researchers only with simple name and date searches.

This is a missed opportunity. The site funded by NHPRC already contains all the infrastructure necessary to make sophisticated mining of the collection possible for researchers and teachers at all levels: both the database architecture and the search engine have already been completed. All that is required to take full advantage of the enormous power of this digital archival system is to complete the process of entering detailed finding data for the documents in the collection. This proposal seeks funding to begin completing Data Entry II work for the archive, processing roughly 24,000 documents (half of the collection) over the course of the next three years.

Ultimately, *The Papers of the War Department, 1784-1800* aims to present the collection of nearly 45,000 documents in a free, online format with extensible, searchable metadata linked to high-resolution digital images of each document, thereby becoming one of the first scholarly papers projects embracing online publication and insuring free access for a wide range of users. Scholars will find new evidence on many subjects in the history of the Early Republic, from the handling of Indian affairs, pensions, and procurement, to the nature of the first American citizens' relationship with their new Federal government through the response to events like the Whiskey Rebellion and the Quasi-War with France. *The Papers of the War Department, 1784-1800* offers a window into a time when there was no law beyond

the Constitution and when the administration first worked out its understanding and interpretation of that new document.

Though the work is far from finished, the completion of the project will finally make the record of this wide-reaching government activity available to a full audience of academics and interested members of the general public, bringing together a set of documents that remained scattered for nearly two centuries and stimulating new scholarship on all aspects of the Early Republic far beyond just its military history. The addition of Data Entry II information for documents will provide a capacity for complex textual searching of the digital archive that will open these documents for historical investigation in a way possible with few other collections.

II. Documents to be Edited

This grant seeks funding to renew the process of fully indexing all the documents in the collection: the letters, reports, logbooks, memos, and receipts that the War Office generated during its first sixteen years of operation. Indexing the documents in this fashion is consistent with the original vision for the project: providing the detailed finding data to render the documents visible to a computerized search engine formed a critical part of founder Ted Crackel's original intention for the project when he conceived it in the early 1990s. Much of the work done during the first decade of the project's existence was undertaken with this important and necessary step of the process in mind.

Currently, the project is completing the process of entering the basic finding data—author, recipient, and date—that allows the search engine to locate documents that users request with that information. Limiting the data entry process to these three fields is the most efficient way to get the entire collection online and available to the public in the

shortest possible time. Eliminating the much more complex process of Data Entry II—entering the names, places, things, and ideas mentioned in each of the documents, as well as crafting a brief synopsis that helps researchers sort and organize their searches—streamlines the data entry process enormously. Because our Assistant Editors need only extract three pieces of information from each document, they are able to move quickly, in most case without reading the entire document. This truncated procedure of data entry will allow us to present all the documents online by June 2010.

The absence of that more elaborate finding data, however, also obscures many of the documents that non-specialists will find most interesting. For example, our Assistant Editors have located a group of documents from the mid-1780s that describe a counterfeiting ring in the army: a group of disgruntled soldiers, angry at the sluggishness the War Department had exhibited in issuing their pay certificates, took matters into their own hands and began to forge and circulate their own paper notes. The story of the discovery, investigation, and subsequent discussion regarding the appropriate punishment, is both an intriguing story in itself and a historical case study of interest to social, cultural, and military historians. In the current version of the metadata processing, however, that story is nearly invisible, since only researchers with a great deal of diligence and time will be able to locate the documents. Author, date, and recipient searches will turn up the documents, but those searches will also turn up thousands of unrelated documents that were written by the same authors or that were dated during the same period. Only researchers who know precisely what to look for, or are willing to sift through the hundreds and hundreds of unrelated hits that are also generated by wide searches, will be able to locate them.

Other fascinating groups of documents are similarly invisible to simple searches. Another group of documents we have unearthed during the process of performing initial

Data Entry I focus on the embryonic American navy. Until the establishment of a separate Department of the Navy in 1798, the War Department administered the naval affairs of the Early Republic. Numerous documents that describe the debates over the character, expense, and mission of the navy appear among the correspondence of the War Department, offering an invaluable window into the debates surrounding the young nation's understanding of its seagoing power, the role of the navy in conducting international affairs, and early attempts to combat piracy on the oceans. Practical discussions over the design and cost of the nation's first frigates appear among the collection's documents as well. Given the limitations of the metadata that will appear online in 2010, however, these documents too will be virtually invisible to all but the most dedicated and patient scholars, since they are buried among thousands of hits that the search engine must deliver given the crude finding data currently available.

The addition of more detailed finding data through the Data Entry II process funded by this grant will allow researchers to access all the documents in the collection in a variety of different ways. Searches for any of the terms “pay,” “counterfeit,” “forgery,” “notes,” or for any of the locations or participants mentioned in the correspondence will open up a large vein of documents related to the counterfeiting scandal. (*See Appendix C for a sample document and Data Entry II metadata from this correspondence.*) The powerful faceted search engine developed by the technical staff at CHNM allows researchers to organize their search results in scores of user-defined ways, and the brief synopsis provided by our Assistant Editors allows researchers to quickly survey a list of search results to determine which documents are most pertinent to a given research question. Likewise, searches for terms like “navy” and “frigate” reveal documents relevant to the young nation's emerging sea power. Even documents that may appear at first glance to be somewhat pedestrian (the receipts, logbooks,

and acknowledgements that are commonly mistaken for administrative minutia, for example) have much to tell us about life in the Early Republic. Taken together, for example, a group of receipts detailing the outfitting of an expedition to the western territories can tell economic historians much about how the early government procured a variety of supplies, from food to munitions, uniforms, blankets, and other goods. Tool lists reveal a good deal about the kind of work an individual or organization was expected to do and the equipment they used to do it. And even somewhat obscure documents provide unexpected insights into other elements of life during the Early Republic. One memorandum detailing the boarding of an Indian delegation, for example, included detailed charges for stocks of liquor and an order specifying that the ration include a certain measure for children. Together, even these seemingly mundane documents promise numerous new insights to scholars of material culture and to social historians. The information contained in the collection is useful to a broad range of scholars, not just to historians of the early American military. But until the documents in the collection are indexed completely, however, they will be all but invisible to researchers whose work would benefit from them immensely—hidden, in effect, in plain sight.

Those documents have significance beyond just the specialized scholarly community that works on this period of early American history. Since the documents contained in the papers of the War Department constitute, in a very real way, the original national archives of the young nation, they are of enormous interest to teachers and students as well: a unique window into a fascinating and important chapter of American history. Current funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities will allow us to offer digital teaching modules—individual, self-contained collections of documents built around a specific historical event, with interpretive materials and teaching suggestions that encourage students

and their teachers to explore a particular episode using primary sources—in June of 2010. Our experiences at CHNM suggest that these aids are an invaluable way to build historical thinking skills and to encourage sophisticated, authentic engagement with the past. The detailed finding data afforded by this grant will further expand the reach of these aids. By rendering the database fully searchable, this new finding data will allow students and researchers to follow their own interests both flexibly and thoroughly, in a way not currently possible with simple name and date searches. By allowing visitors to act as “historical detectives,” the fully-searchable database will encourage more curiosity and engagement with this important, yet under researched, chapter in American history.

III. Editorial Procedures

The staff of the *Papers of the War Department* project will continue with the editorial procedures it established during the 2006-2007 grant year, before the project’s priorities were readjusted to make the documents available in some format as quickly as possible. The process of entering the advanced finding data proceeds one document at a time, as an Assistant Editor reads over the document, determines the exact nature of the document (a letter to the Secretary of war, a receipt from a contractor, or a report from one of the Indian agents who circulated on the western frontier, for example), and extracts the names, places, objects, and ideas that are mentioned within. The Assistant Editor also formulates a brief synopsis of the document to help researchers determine the precise nature of the document and the type of information it contains. Where appropriate, Assistant Editors use modern nomenclature to describe certain ideas and events—documents concerning the 1794 uprising in western Pennsylvania, for example, are indexed with the term “Whiskey Rebellion,” even though that name was not used by eighteenth-century Americans—in order to make the

database accessible to modern researchers. The digital archival system that CHNM designed in 2005 features an interface that allows Assistant Editors to further accelerate their data entry, providing drop-down menus for common names and places that both speed the process of data entry considerably and help normalize spellings.

There is a terrific opportunity here. The digital infrastructure necessary to deliver flexible, advanced searches online is already in place. Moreover, NHPRC's initial commitment to funding the process of Data Entry I for the collection creates a number of prospects for efficiency in the process of Data Entry II. We have already assessed three-fifths of the documents in the collection; by June 2010 our Assistant Editors will have completed entering the basic finding data for every document in the collection. Ultimately, we hope to provide complex metadata for the entire 45,000-document collection, as even some of the most innocuous-seeming documents, like the vast books of receipts generated by the War Office's vast demand for goods and supplies, represent a vast trove of data and source materials for scholars who have not traditionally been attracted to the Early Republic. (Those documents have already yielded interesting insights into new parts of the American past: records of the orders the War Office placed for shoes to outfit the new army, for example, indicated that standardized molds for shoes, called lasts, were already in use in America in the late-eighteenth century—several decades earlier than material culture scholars had previously believed.) The terms of this grant will allow us to complete the first half of this data entry over a three-year period, given our established pace of two documents per hour and with five Assistant Editors working on the project. We will begin this first phase of the data entry by focusing on documents produced by three dozen of the most important figures in the War Office during this period: the Secretaries of War who served during this period, their deputies, the clerks and associated functionaries who produced some of the

correspondence researchers will find most interesting. At that level of funding, the entire database will be fully indexed and searchable by 2016.

The project utilizes standard technical practices to ensure the long-term preservation and durability of the digital archival material. To guarantee future orderly migration of the project files (image and text) to new storage mediums, to new platforms, and even to new applications, we employ widely accepted file formats: TIFF and JPEG for images and ASCII for text. (We are aware of the TEI standard for scholarly editions and the advantages it offers for marking up scholarly editions; however, since these War Department documents have little internal structure—such as chapter and section headings—more basic and less expensive, but fully searchable ASCII text is better suited to our goals.) We initially present images online in the standard format of JPEGs, which load much more quickly than TIFFs. Yet, we are also providing access to the TIFF files for closer reading should users desire a higher resolution image.

CHNM has extensive experience building and maintaining well-designed, robust, accessible, Section 508-compliant history websites and has drawn on that experience in designing and building the *Papers of the War Department* website. The infrastructure uses open source tools and platforms, in particular Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP. One reason for using these technologies stems from CHNM's decade of experience with them. More important, open source technologies guarantee the sustainability of the website over the long term. Using widely employed, tested, open source technologies means that the site will not be locked into proprietary products that could disappear or increase drastically in cost. In addition, it insures a large and diverse community of developers who can work with the website.

CHNM possesses the equipment and infrastructure to make the *Papers of the War*

Department website available to a national audience for the foreseeable future. CHNM has received an Academic Excellence Equipment Award from Sun Microsystems, which it has used to build a robust state-of-the-art server. Housed in Mason's secure data facility, this configuration will meet CHNM's server technology needs for a number of years. Both Mason and CHNM monitor the site for outages as well as any security breaches. They make multiple and redundant backups of all data. The server easily accommodates current traffic of 400 million annual hits, and could handle double that amount without major upgrades. Additionally, we have arranged to deposit a copy of the *Papers of the War Department* in Mason's institutional dSpace repository, known as MARS. (See Appendix F for letter of commitment from Mason's MARS representative.) That will be an additional fail-safe guarantee of the permanent availability of the collection we will be assembling and editing under this grant. Taken together, then, CHNM's solid technology, its substantial endowment and strong institutional support, its track record of sustaining projects, and its alliance with the Mason library allow us to guarantee that the *Papers of the War Department* will be a permanent resource for researchers, students, and the general public.

IV. Volumes to be produced

The Papers of the War Department, 1784-1800 exists as a large online database, collecting more than 45,000 documents from the files of the War Office and presenting them at the website wardepartmentpapers.org. Nearly two-thirds of the documents can be accessed and viewed on the site already; the entire collection will be available online by June 2010. Our objectives under the auspices of this grant is to continue building the metadata for the archive by including more detailed finding data for documents in the collection at a rate of approximately 8,000 per year.

Our experience conducting Data Entry II during the first year of the grant has indicated that, on average our Assistant Editors can read and process one document through Data Entry II every 30 minutes. (That rough figure is an average; many of the documents require significantly less time, particularly short documents like receipts and bills. A number of documents, however, require considerably more time than 30 minutes; some lengthy and complex documents—a 40-page compilation of six Indian Agents’ annual reports, for example—demand considerably more attention in order to extract the relevant data for the search engine. Because the database considers both a half-page receipt and a 40-page report to be each a single document, the time our editors spend on any given document varies widely. Our eighteen months of experience performing this more advanced data entry suggests that, on average, 30 minutes per document is a realistic estimate.) Our budget provides for five Assistant Editors working half time: each Assistant Editor can review 35 documents per week, allowing our staff of five to complete Data Entry II for some 8,000 documents per year.

The online nature of the edition allows us to make updates to the database in real time. Each day, as the Assistant Editors finish their work, the new finding data will be immediately incorporated into the database. Over the three years of the grant, the project will enter advanced finding data for 24,000 documents, roughly half of the entire collection. Real-time updates means that the collection will continue to grow, and to become more useful to scholars, researchers, teachers and students, each day.

Having processed close to 60% of the documents in the collection, the project staff is now preparing to begin advertising the site in earnest, to ensure that the documents in the collection reach the largest possible audience. That dissemination campaign, to begin this summer, will include advertisements in a variety of relevant scholarly journals (including

the Society for the History of the Early American Republic's *Journal of the Early Republic*, the *Journal of Military History*, the *American Historical Review*, the *Journal of American History*, along with the National Archives journal *Prologue* and the Association for Documentary Editing's *Documentary Editing*). We will also use CHNM's connection to major history news and educational websites as a way to reach other scholars, teachers, and researchers, like the History News Network <hnn.us> and *History Matters* <historymatters.gmu.edu>, which reached over 3.4 million and 1.5 million unique visitors in 2008, respectively. Finally, as Editor-in-Chief, Christopher Hamner will make a number of conference presentations to share the substantive historical and methodological issues raised by this unique digital archive. For example, October 2009 Hamner will join Ted Crackel (the project's founder and head of the Papers of George Washington) and Dan Stowell (of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln) on a panel discussing "Documentary Editing in the Digital Age: New Challenges, New Opportunities" at the Association for Documentary Editing's Annual Meeting. Such a broad dissemination plan is the best way to assure that the collection reaches the enormous audience of researchers, teachers, and scholars in different disciplines whose work the database will enrich.

V. Qualifications

One of the reasons to continue the project at CHNM is that we have assembled a uniquely capable staff to work on this collection. Editor-in-Chief Christopher Hamner has overseen the project since its arrival at Mason in the spring of 2006. Hamner is supported by an experienced team of technical support staff at CHNM. The historians and technical staff at the Center have a national reputation for web design and cutting edge digital archiving projects such as the *September 11 Digital Archive* <911digitalarchive.org>, the *Hurricane Digital*

Memory Bank <hurricanearchive.org>, and the *Bracero History Archive* <braceroarchive.org>.

Tom Scheinfeldt (Managing Director, CHNM) has overseen work on numerous digital archival and cultural heritage projects with budgets totaling over \$20 million. The Public Projects Division at CHNM is engaged in all of the contemporary conversations about the development and maintenance of critical digital infrastructure and digital archival practices. This experience and engagement with building digital archives has resulted in the creation a data model and information architecture for the *Papers of the War Department* site that meets rigorous accessibility and interoperability standards.

Key Personnel:

Christopher Hamner (Principle Investigator and Editor-in-Chief) has been 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 for the past three years. He will continue in this capacity for the next stage of the project. Hamner earned his PhD in American military history from the University of North Carolina, where he studied with Richard Kohn. He is a member of the Association for Documentary Editing and attended NHPRC's 2007 Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents. 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, his work focuses on the interplay between technological innovation and the factors that drove 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.

Tom Scheinfeldt (Co-Primary Investigator and Project Director) will assist in supervising the project and will coordinate its technical aspects. Scheinfeldt is Research Assistant Professor of History at Mason and Managing Director of CHNM. He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard and his master's and doctoral degrees from Oxford, where his doctoral thesis examined the public role of science history and science museums in the inter-war period. Scheinfeldt has lectured and written extensively on the history of popular science, the history of museums, history and new media, and the changing role of history in society, and has worked on traditional exhibitions and digital projects at the Colorado Historical Society, the Museum of the History of Science in Oxford, the National Museum of American History, and the Library of Congress.

James Safley (Technical Director), the architect of the collection's database and the designer of its powerful and flexible search engine, has worked on the project since it first arrived at Mason and remains involved in the maintenance and improvement of the database. Safley received his undergraduate degree in history at GMU and began his archiving career in 1999 at the National Archives and Records Administration. Subsequently, Safley 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.

Most important for the day-to-day business of data entry is the staff of **Assistant Editors** who work with the documents themselves. *The Papers of the War Department* currently employs five part-time Assistant Editors who together handle the complex work of reading the documents and extracting the key terms and ideas, as well as formulating the brief synopses that explains in several sentences the nature of the document and its

significance. This is time-consuming and intellectually demanding work. Many of the documents are fairly lengthy, and the handwriting often requires significant effort to decipher; Secretary of War Henry Knox's nearly illegible scrawl is infamous at the project for its inscrutability. But more importantly, the documents themselves are often complex, referring obliquely to events and to people, and forming together in packets to tell multiple stories. Reading and processing the documents accurately and efficiently requires knowledge of the Early Republic, training in history, and sensitivity to the nuances of eighteenth-century language. The burgeoning new Ph.D. program at Mason has provided us with an exceptionally capable pool of graduate students from whom to select our Assistant Editors. The current staff of Assistant Editors includes a dedicated group of American history students who collectively boast nine years of experience working on the project.

The Primary Investigators and Assistant Editors are further aided in their efforts by a **Board of Advisors**, composed of some of the most distinguished scholars of the Early Republic era. Ted Crackel (University of Virginia) will chair the advisory board, which will provide regular and substantive feedback on the quality and progress of the project. The other members are: Richard H. Kohn (Department of History, University of North Carolina); Rosemarie Zagarri (Mason); Fred Anderson (University of Colorado); Jane Turner Censer (Mason); Daniel Cohen (Mason); Meredith Lair (Mason); and Randolph Scully (Mason). (*See Appendix B for Letters of Support from Board members.*)

VI. Objectives

First year (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011):

- December 2010, Complete processing and enter advanced finding data into the database for 4,000 documents;

- June 2011, Complete processing and enter advanced finding data into the database for 4,000 documents;

Second year (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012):

- December 2011, Complete processing and enter advanced finding data into the database for 4,000 documents;
- June 2012, Complete processing and enter advanced finding data into the database for 4,000 documents;

Third year (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013):

- December 2012, Complete processing and enter advanced finding data into the database for 4,000 documents;
- June 2013, Complete processing and enter advanced finding data into the database for 4,000 documents;

Impact:

Since the *Papers of the War Department* website has been in a provisional soft-launch mode for the last year, the server statistics on site traffic and usage point to future promise for the project. In 2008, the site had almost 432,000 hits from over 12,000 unique visitors who viewed 198,000 pages. The results for 2009 are even more promising. During the first six months of the year, the site garnered just over 700,000 hits from close to 25,000 unique visitors who viewed roughly 290,000 pages. This increase in traffic suggests that as we launch a full dissemination campaign to bring the site to the attention of Early Americanists, military historians, teachers and other researchers, we will see the documents from the *Papers of the War Department* begin to make a significant impact on the teaching and learning of history. We will continue to monitor site traffic, and to look for initial scholarly work that

employs the collection. As one of the only truly national archives from this period, our digital archive will provide users with the source material to derive new and important insights about the fledgling United States of America.