

**National Historical Publications and Records Commission**  
**Executive Summary Minutes**  
**of May 22, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by David S. Ferriero, chairman, at 9:00 am in the Archivist's Board Room of the National Archives in Washington, DC.

*Commission Members present:*

David S. Ferriero, Chairperson  
W. Eric Emerson  
Erin Mahan  
George Miles  
Kaye Lanning Minchew  
Naomi Nelson  
Stephen P. Randolph  
Nicole Saylor  
William G. Thomas, III

*NHPRC staff present:*

Kathleen Williams, Executive Director  
Lucy Barber  
Jeff de la Concepcion  
Keith Donohue  
Christine Dunham  
Alexander Lorch  
Darrell Meadows  
Nancy Melley  
Daniel A. Stokes

*Guests and Attendees*

Danielle Dulken, National History Coalition  
Sarah Koonts, Council of State Archivists  
Robyn Engibous (for Senator Daniel Sullivan)

**I: Welcome, Announcements, Agenda**

Mr. Ferriero opened the meeting and greeted the Members, staff, and guests. He thanked the Commission for its work on the Strategic Plan. He welcomed the guests and announced the appointment of Senator Dan Sullivan of Alaska as its representative. He shared news of Founders Online, its one million visitors, national awards, and use in the classroom in high schools and colleges.

**II: Minutes of the Last Meeting**

*Mr. Ferriero called for adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the January 2015 meetings. Mr. Miles noted a correction to the minutes, whereby he had recused himself from the vote on the Franklin Papers in January. With this correction noted, both motions were passed by unanimous consent.*

### **III. Executive Director's Report**

In addition to her remarks, Ms. Williams thanked the Commission for its work on the Strategic Planning retreat. She provided an overview of the available funds and requests for grants, noting that we have limited resources for grants. The FY 2016 budget is projected at \$5 million, though no action has been taken by the Congress. She detailed staff plans for travel over the summer, including sessions to talk with the boards of various professional organizations about the Strategic Planning framework.

She asked the staff and members to join her in thanking departing staff member Christine Dunham for her service as office coordinator since Fall 2009. Many members got to know Christine through her work on arranging for travel as well as general meeting logistics. Williams noted that she handled a host of other duties as well over the past five years including implementing the NARA records schedule, managing the office credit card, and managing time and attendance. And she has played a critical role in grants workflow processes, especially the steps taken to convert applications into official grants. Dunham's last day will be June 26. Williams noted that she will begin the recruitment and hire process immediately after the May meeting.

### **IV. Strategic Planning Continued**

The Commission took up issues remaining from the prior day's Strategic Planning session (see separate Minutes).

### **V. Grant Announcement Approval**

For the Literacy and Engagement with Historical Records announcement, Ms. Barber outlined changes in the proposal description.

Mr. Miles wondered if this was an appropriate place to push the envelope on re-use of collections via open access. Ms. Williams said that it might be more appropriate in Digitization and Publishing opportunities. Ms. Melley said most applications in Digitization are moving to make sure that whatever they are publishing are available through DPLA. Mr. Miles said that DPLA is still sending users back to individual repositories in order to reuse or repurpose the materials.

There was a general discussion about the term "mobile apps," and it was agreed to change the language to "online tools."

For the Digital Dissemination announcement, Mr. Miles asked if an applicant had digital materials that are not accessible, where should they apply? Mr. Lorch said under the "Access" category. It was agreed to add language that states "Applications that do not include digitization of analogue records, go to the Access to Historical Records announcement."

*The Commission approved the following announcements, as amended:*

- *Literacy and Engagement with Historical Records*
- *State Government Electronic Records*
- *Digital Dissemination of Archival Collections*

## VII: Proposal Review

The following individuals recused themselves from voting on the noted applications:

DH50015, University of Virginia—Erin Mahan

RD10180, College of Charleston – Eric Emerson

PE50008, University of Virginia—Erin Mahan

PE50010, University of Iowa—Will Thomas

*During deliberations, it was recommended that the projects from the Virginia Tech University and the Huntington Library make a joint presentation to the Commission at a future meeting.*

**The following projects were recommended for funding.**

### **ACCESS TO HISTORICAL RECORDS**

New York Public Library

New York, NY \$121,410

To support a two-year project to digitize, preserve, and make available U-matic videotapes of original dance documentation from nearly every major American choreographer, company, and style from the 1960s to the present in the Jerome Robbins Dance Division's Archive of the Recording Moving Image.

Brooklyn Historical Society

Brooklyn, NY \$106,186

To support "Voices of Generations: Investigating Brooklyn's Cultural Identity," an 18-month project to process and digitize 525 oral histories from 10 collections that document different ethnic and cultural groups in the borough of Brooklyn.

### **ARCHIVES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

Berea College

Berea, KY \$243,954

To support for three years, the Archives Leadership Institute at Berea College, an intensive one-week training program for leadership development for 25 archivists each year. In addition, an independent evaluator will assess the effect of the Archives Leadership Institutes since 2008.

### **DIGITAL DISSEMINATION OF HISTORICAL RECORDS**

Georgia State University

Atlanta, GA \$121,418

To support the "Uprising of '34 Oral History Digitization Project," an 18-month project at the Southern Labor Archives to digitize 292 hours of audio and video oral history interviews documenting the textile mill strikes of 1934, one of the largest labor strikes in U.S. History.

College of Charleston

Charleston, SC \$81,725

To support the "Digitizing 20<sup>th</sup> Century Civil Rights Collections Project" from the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, an 18-month project to digitize approximately 93,600 pages from 16 collections documenting the history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century civil rights activism in Charleston and the surrounding Lowcountry region.

Washington University  
St. Louis, MO

\$150,000

To support the “*Eyes on the Prize* Interview Digitization and Reassembly Project,” to make available approximately 95 hours of previously inaccessible interview footage created for the award-winning documentary series on America’s Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965.

### **LITERACY AND ENGAGEMENT WITH HISTORICAL RECORDS**

Connecticut Radio Information Systems, Inc.  
Windsor, CT

\$67,047

To support an 18-month project, in partnership with the IDEAL Group and the Connecticut State Library, to improve access to selected World War I documents for those with print disabilities. Podcasts of narrations will be created and a suite of tools designed to convert source materials into Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant formats and improve accessibility through knowledge mining.

Keene State College  
Keene, NH

\$44,601

To support a Citizen Archivist Initiative, in collaboration with the Historical Society of Cheshire County and Keene High School, a two-year project to place 300-500 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century documents online and teach students and the public to read, interpret, and transcribe them.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Blacksburg, VA

\$74,224

To support “Mapping the Fourth of July in the American Civil War Era: A Crowdsourced Digital Archive,” a project to use a variety of primary sources to build a website through which college and high school students, Civil War enthusiasts, and the general public can analyze and discuss how different regions celebrated the Fourth of July during the Civil War.

Henry E. Huntington Library & Art Gallery  
San Marino, CA

\$107,982

To support in partnership with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, North Carolina State University, and Zooniverse, “Decoding the Civil War: Engaging the Public with 19<sup>th</sup> Century Technology and Cryptology through Crowdsourcing,” a two-year project to transcribe and decode Civil War military telegrams through crowdsourcing for online access and develop lesson plans for high school students to learn about primary sources from the telegrams.

### **PUBLISHING HISTORICAL RECORDS IN DOCUMENTARY EDITIONS**

Ulysses S. Grant Association  
Starkville, MS

\$43,490

To support a project to prepare a scholarly edition of Grant’s *Memoirs* and complete the comprehensive edition of the *Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*.

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
Springfield, IL

\$96,830

To support a project to edit and publish an electronic edition of the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln*. The focus of this grant is on Lincoln’s pre-Presidential papers.

Indiana University-Purdue University  
Indianapolis, IN

\$62,546

To support a project to edit the *Frederick Douglass Papers* and provide digital access to out-of-print volumes online.

SUNY College at Old Westbury  
Old Westbury, NY \$52,030

To support a project to edit volumes 5-7 of the *Papers of Clarence Mitchell, Jr.* Mitchell served as the NAACP's chief congressional lobbyist from 1950 to 1978.

Ramapo College of New Jersey  
Mahwah, NJ \$80,382

To support a newly reconstituted project to edit the *Papers of Jane Addams*, which aims to provide both print and digital access to the post-1901 papers of this leading social reformer and activist.

University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN \$105,000

To support a project to edit two volumes of the *Papers of Andrew Jackson*, which will document Jackson's presidency in 1832 and 1833.

Kentucky Historical Society Foundation  
Frankfort, KY \$62,400

To support a project to edit the *Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition*.

University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, VA \$87,750

To support a project to edit the Presidential Recordings from the Oval Office, with a focus on selected recordings from the Johnson and Nixon tapes.

University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN \$47,440

To support a project to edit and digitally publish the final volume of the *Correspondence of James K. Polk*.

University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA \$58,070

To support a project to prepare "Walt Whitman and Post-Reconstruction America" as part of the online *Walt Whitman Archive*.

Stanford University  
Stanford, CA \$81,110

To support a project to edit two volumes of the *Martin Luther King, Jr., Papers*, documenting the period from September 1962 through 1964.

University of Maryland  
College Park, MD \$118,700

To support a project to edit two volumes of the *Freedmen and Southern Society* papers, focusing respectively on law and justice and family and kinship.

New York University  
New York, NY \$52,368

To support a project to complete the final volume of the *Selected Papers of Margaret Sanger* and to continue preparation of the *Speeches and Articles of Margaret Sanger* digital edition.

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Brunswick, NJ \$90,320  
To support a project to edit the *Papers of Thomas A. Edison*, including work on the project's online image edition, and volume 9 of the print edition, covering the years 1920-1931.

George Washington University  
Washington, DC \$182,813  
To support a project to edit volumes 3-5 of the *Eleanor Roosevelt Papers* print edition, and to prepare an electronic edition focused on Eleanor Roosevelt's career in broadcast journalism.

University Auxiliary & Research Services Corporation  
San Marcos, CA \$54,669  
To support a project to edit the *Ab Quin Diary*, the earliest known English-language manuscript written by a Chinese immigrant to the United States.

### **STATE BOARD PROGRAMS**

Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Jackson, MS \$35,282  
To support workshops, an award program, History Day and Archives Month, Civil Rights programming, the creation of a portal for accessing online collections, and the development of a directory of cultural institutions.

Indiana Commission on Public Records  
Indianapolis, IN \$28,400  
To support a personal digital archives workshop, an Electronic Records Day event, a statewide roundtable on digital government, and a regrant program for digitizing records and making them available online.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment  
Lansing, MI \$10,000  
To support a demonstration regrant program focusing on increasing the level of online descriptive information available for the state's records.

### **STATE GOVERNMENT ELECTRONIC RECORDS**

State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
Madison, WI \$166,667  
To support Wisconsin State Preservation of Electronic Records, a project to implement a sustainable electronic records workflow and transfer management system in select state agencies.

Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board  
Frankfort, KY \$200,000  
To support the Kentucky State Archives Digital Repository: Leadership in Preservation, Access, and Training, a project to make electronic records accessible online; improve workflows for the ingest of born-digital records; improve video/audio preservation and access; provide training for Kentucky government officials and repository users; and provide training to archives and records management programs in other states and territories.

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
Raleigh, NC \$199,999

To support TOMES (Transforming Online Mail with Embedded Semantics), in partnership with the state archives in Kansas and Utah, a project at the State Archives of North Carolina to develop tools for preservation and processing of email, including transformation from native formats to XML and appraisal using natural language processing.

Missouri Office of the Secretary of State  
Jefferson City, MO \$31,690

To support a two-year project to test a mechanism for transferring electronic records to the Missouri State Archives from select partner agencies.

*[The Commission went into Executive Session at 2:20 PM and adjourned at 2:50 PM]*