

*Annotation*  
National Historical Publications and Records Commission

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11

NHPRC  
DOCUMENTING DEMOCRACY

*Cover portraits:* George Washington by Gilbert Stuart;  
John Adams by Gilbert Stuart;  
Benjamin Franklin by Joseph-Siffrède Duplessis;  
James Madison by Gilbert Stuart;  
Alexander Hamilton by John Trumbull;  
Thomas Jefferson by Gilbert Stuart.  
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# CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



One of the great privileges of serving as the Archivist of the United States is the opportunity to chair the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Congress, in a moment of great wisdom and prescience, constructed the act in 1934 that simultaneously created the National Archives and the Commission, knowing that while it was vital for the nation to preserve its most important records, it is equally important to provide the means by which the people might have access to those historical records.

In those days, of course, the primary means was through publishing collections of documents in print editions. Today the very definition of publishing has broadened to include the Internet, which makes available millions upon millions of historical documents and has changed the fundamental ways in which people find pieces of the past. The Commission plays a small, but catalytic, role in this enterprise. Federal grants spur investment from state legislatures, city and county governments, colleges and universities, and most importantly, the private sector. The NHPRC has also provided seed money for basic research in electronic records (the first Federal agency to do so), assisted the states in creating comprehensive natural disaster preparedness plans for their archives in

the aftermath of hurricanes, and provided training in best practices for hundreds of archivists and editors over the past 50 years.

The impact has been profound. Writers and scholars have taken this raw material, the primary and original documents of the past, to write new histories of the birth of American democracy, the lives of American Presidents and statesmen, the most complete account of Emancipation, and the achievements and struggles of the American Century.

One of the more exciting projects in which we can all take pride is the NHPRC's role in creating a new archive of America's Founding Era. This project will revolutionize our understanding of the past by creating for the first time a free and fully searchable collection of the Founders' own words in the context of their time. As scholars and statesmen debate the meaning of documents such as the Constitution and Bill of Rights, they can turn to the originals and the wit and wisdom of the Founders' own debates. And we can only express our gratitude for the efforts of dedicated editors and scholars to create this work, a national monument to the founding of our nation.

I look forward to the launch of the Founders' Online initiative and to being a part of the continuing work of the NHPRC, to give all Americans the tools to access important historical records—not just those held by the National Archives, but in archives and repositories across the nation.



David S. Ferriero

ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

# INTRODUCTION

The history of the United States of America is found in the stories of its people. Their stories are embedded in the millions of documents and records that established the nation and marked our progress over the centuries. From the early colonists to the trailblazers of the American West, from emancipation to women's suffrage, from the words of Washington, Jefferson, and Adams to the documents of Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Eleanor Roosevelt. These historical records exist not only in the collections of the Federal Government at the National Archives, but are also cared for in repositories and archives all across the country.

The role of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) is to help those archives in basic preservation work, including the conservation of original records, their storage, arrangement, description, and cataloging. We also fund projects to develop tools and techniques for the historical publishing and archives professions through projects designed to address professional development.

But the primary reason for the NHPRC is to help the American people discover and tell their own stories. Our grants program exists so that the people can access historical records by visiting collections at institutions around the country and by using collections published in print and online.

Since 1964, the NHPRC has funded nearly 5,000 projects at local government archives, colleges and universities, and other nonprofit institutions to facilitate use of public records and other collections by scholars, family and local historians, journalists, documentary filmmakers, and many others.



It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for FY 2010 and FY 2011 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The past two years have been a time of challenge and opportunity for the agency as we serve the American people by providing access to their historical records.

One of the great success stories of the past two years has been the development of the Founders Online initiative, a project created in cooperation with the University of Virginia Press's electronic imprint Rotunda. We were asked to create a new way for people to access the documents and archives of the statesmen who founded our nation, using the power of the Internet to help citizens wherever located to be able to read and better understand the story of America's beginning. That project is well on its way.

We are also helping archives across the country provide greater access to the American story through digitizing historical collections, uncovering records that have long gone undescribed in archives, and working with nonprofit organizations and local and state governments to assist in records preservation and publication. Over the past two years, we have awarded 209 grants and cooperative agreements totaling \$22.4 million on behalf of the American people. (See the Financial Summary tables at the end of this report.)

This report tells but a dozen of those American stories, but there are many more to tell in the future. It is broken down into four major sections: *America's Founding Era*; *Creation of New Archives and Collections*; *Publishing Historical Records*; and *Partners in Access*. These broad categories represent the breadth of the work of the NHPRC, but we also share our grantees' successes online at [www.archives.gov/nhprc/newsletter/](http://www.archives.gov/nhprc/newsletter/) and every day on facebook at [www.facebook.com/nhprc](http://www.facebook.com/nhprc).

*Kathleen Williams*  
Executive Director



Martin Luther King, Jr., championed nonviolence as leader of the modern American civil rights movement. *Courtesy Library of Congress.*

Eleanor Roosevelt addresses the Knesset in Israel in 1952. *Courtesy the Franklin Roosevelt Presidential Library.*

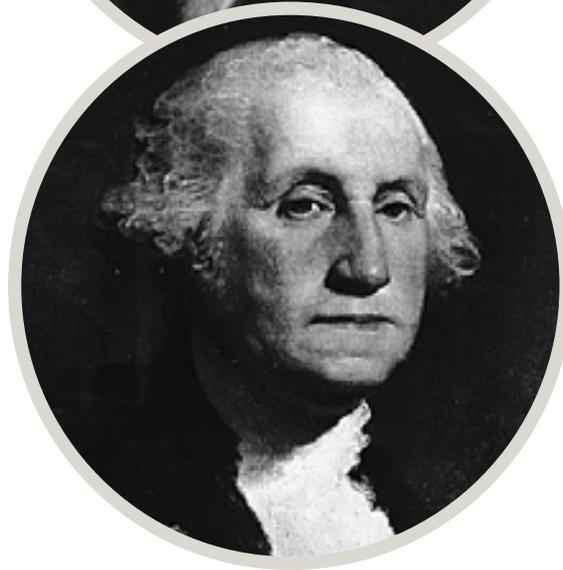
President Abraham Lincoln. *U.S. National Archives.*

## AMERICA'S FOUNDING ERA

Over the past two years, the NHPRC has created a landmark partnership to provide online access to the works of America's Founders, including George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin and other prominent historical figures.

A \$2 million cooperative agreement with the University of Virginia and its electronic imprint, Rotunda, will publish a new digital version of the printed volumes of the documentary editions. A separate \$2.5 million cooperative agreement with the University of Virginia and its Virginia Foundation for the Humanities will provide pre-publication access to an additional 68,000 documents. Over the next three years, that portion of the work will be carried out by Documents Compass, a program specializing in documentary editing in the electronic age.

Unlike the stone memorials anchoring the National Mall in Washington, DC, this new monument is made of words—the collective wisdom of a truly remarkable generation of statesmen—transcribed from the 18th-century documents and thoroughly annotated and explained with notes. Through this web resource, users will be able to read, browse, and search tens of thousands of documents from the Founding Era. Rotunda is creating an initial version of the web site drawn from print editions of the papers of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Hamilton, and Madison that will be available in mid 2012, and we hope to include Franklin by 2013. Documents Compass will provide access to the yet-to-be published documents, giving scholars and the general public access to these primary source materials before they appear in the official print editions. All told, the new resources will include the complete contents



of 242 printed volumes, including all of the existing annotations, as well as the unannotated transcriptions of the remaining documents.

The University of Virginia President Teresa Sullivan said, “For ten years, the Press has built on the pioneering vision of UVA faculty to harness digital technology in the service of scholarship and education through the Rotunda imprint. As a public university, we applaud the leadership of the National Archives in bringing this important archive to life. Making these materials available to the public for free reflects the core values of the University and indeed of our nation’s founding generation, whose words will now be readily available to teachers, students, and citizens.”

Historian Ron Chernow, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *Washington: A Life*, said, “Unfortunately, the Founders have become remote and abstract, when in fact they are rich, full-blooded, and fiery characters. This new site will not only help students learn more deeply and develop a visceral love and respect for this era, but it will stimulate interest in history for teachers, too, and will reconnect them to primary sources.”

# CREATION OF NEW ARCHIVES AND COLLECTIONS

The new conceptualization of an online and expandable archive for America's Founding Era is a dramatic example of the kind of work that the NHPRC continues to do year in and year out. Over the past two fiscal years, several institutions have started new programs or processed collections from their backlogs, introducing users to untold stories. All across America, organizations are documenting democracy through their archival projects.

## Norwegian American History

In Decorah, Iowa, for example, Luther College and Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum are cooperating on "Journeys to America: Illuminating Hidden Collections," which will include the completion of a shelf survey of the collections, assessment of basic conservation needs, and the migration of existing descriptions into a searchable online database.

Creating a searchable, online catalog where researchers from around the world have access to the Norwegian American collections will add to the breadth of scholarship in the field of emigration studies as a whole. The project will set the stage for building an online consortium of institutions in the United States and Norway, providing one-stop digital access to materials related to the study of Norwegian emigration.

Norwegian Crown Prince Olav and Princess Märtha exit Luther College's C. K. Preus Gymnasium during their 1939 visit to Decorah, Iowa. *Courtesy Luther College.*



Court house  
front view.



32 feet high  
36 feet wide  
65 " Deep  
4 10 " "  
12 " "

## Idaho Territory

The Idaho State Historical Society was created in 1881 as the Society of Idaho Pioneers. In 1907, it became a state agency, and since 1947, it has been responsible for the state archives.

Among the collections at the Historical Society are the records of the Territorial Period—from 1863 to 1890. While the records provide a wealth of valuable information, there is no single point of access to locate information across the collections. The Public Archives and Research Libraries (PARL) includes an estimated 65,000 cubic feet of manuscript and archival materials, 30,000 rolls of microfilm, 500,000 photographic images, 32,000 maps, and more. Additional collections are located in repositories across the state.

Scholars of Idaho history and the American West have long sought access to these important records. Now the Idaho State Historical Society will undertake a massive effort to identify those Territorial records, complete basic-level arrangement and descriptions, and add up to 500 new or updated collection-level descriptions to a national library catalog, the Northwest Digital Archives, and PARL's in-house collection database.

Plans for the Alturas County Courthouse, façade view, in the late 19th century. Now part of Blaine County. *Courtesy Idaho State Historical Society.*



Siege of Vicksburg, 13, 15, and 17 corps. Kurz & Allison lithograph, 1888. *Courtesy Library of Congress.*

## Digitizing Texas Civil War Records

During the Civil War, more than 70,000 Texans served in the Confederate Army and 2,000 joined the Union Army. At the University of North Texas Libraries' Digital Projects Unit, an NHPRC-supported project is underway to help tell their story.

The Library will digitize and place eight archival collections on the Portal to Texas History (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/>), which offers more than 250,000 pages of material from archives, historical societies, small and large libraries, museums, and private collections from all areas of Texas. Collections that will be digitized include the A.C. Lenert Memorandum Book from 1862 to 1865, a daily log of the shelling, artillery attacks, and the intensity of fighting at the Battle of Vicksburg from a member of the

Texas Legion. Other collections, most with a Texas connection, include

- The military orders and diaries of a Union officer who led a company in the U.S. Colored Cavalry—the Buffalo Soldiers—during Reconstruction
- Memoirs from a woman who experienced the Civil War in Kansas when she was a child
- Papers documenting the activities of a Texas sheriff and tax collector in Montague County, Texas, that illustrate the difficulty of collecting taxes and the increase in criminal activity after the Civil War, and
- Letters between a soldier serving in the Confederate Army in Galveston County and his father.

All researchers with a wide range of interests in the Civil War will find something

among these easily accessible materials to enrich their understanding of this seminal event in American history.

## The Dayton Daily News

The *Dayton Daily News* archive consists of over 3,000 cubic feet of records presently stored on the Main Campus of Wright State University and includes the combined materials from the *Journal-Herald* and *Dayton Daily News*. The types of materials in the collection include newspaper clippings, both black-and-white and color photographs, AP wire photograph proofs, color slides, negatives of various sizes, documents, microfilm and microfiche, maps, and bound volumes of newspapers.

From the paper's inception in 1898 until the donation of the collection in 2008, the archive had been used solely by internal newspaper staff with very limited access to historians, students, and the general public. Under the care of Wright State University's Special Collections and Archives, it will be opened to public researchers for the first time.

The significance of the *Dayton Daily News* Archive lies in the thousands of stories it has record-

ed about the individuals, companies, organizations, and groups who have shaped and guided the course of the city through the 20th century. Scholars of Ohio and Midwestern history, urban life, and 20th-century America will find a treasure trove of material.

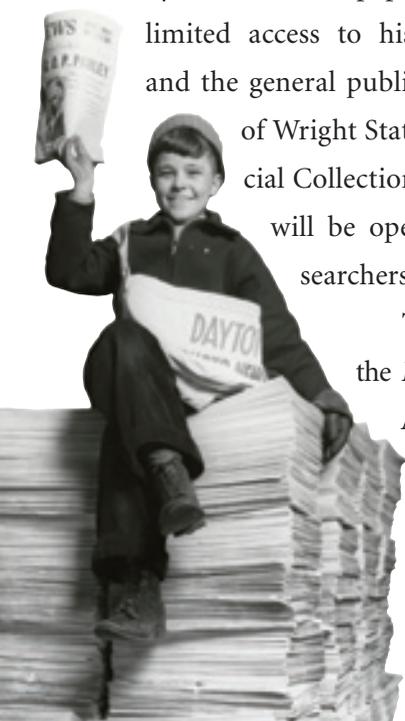
Through a grant from the NHPRC, Wright State University is proud to support this project to process and make available the records of the *Dayton Daily News*, from 1902 to 1990. The Special Collections department of the library has created a special web site devoted to the *Dayton Daily News* project at [http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/ddn\\_archive/](http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/ddn_archive/).

## Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

The records of cultural organizations play a vital role not only in understanding the evolution of the arts in America, but also as bellwethers of community life and history. One of the country's first museum archives is the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Established in 1984 with a grant from the NHPRC, the MFAH Archives is now entering a new and important stage in its development.

In January 2010, the MFAH received a two-year NHPRC grant to plan the

*Dayton Daily News* newsboy, ca. 1936.  
Courtesy Wright State University.





William Ward Watkins. Preliminary rendering of The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, exterior, south façade, ca. 1922. *Architectural Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Archives.*

implementation of an electronic records archive (ERA) for preserving the museum’s permanent born-digital records. Under the grant, the MFAH Archives and Information Technology departments are collaboratively exploring emerging technologies in pursuit of a sustainable ERA system that will allow museums and similar-sized institutions to ensure the authenticity and ongoing accessibility of their electronic records. The ERA is seen as a crucial step in fulfilling the museum’s continuing aim to achieve excellence in the care, documentation, and management of its institutional history and collections.

Lorraine Stuart, Archives Director, blogged about the prospect of e-records preservation:

“I could give a host of professional reasons for initiating the project—that electronic versions, and not hardcopies, are the original records; that the historic record is at risk; that emerging solutions should be scalable to cultural institutions—but the personal truth is a fascination with the possibilities the virtual realm has to offer. As a layman, it will always seem a little like magic.”

# PUBLISHING HISTORICAL RECORDS

Another key aspect of our mission is to help organizations publish collections so that the American people have ready access to their historical records. Since 1964, the NHPRC has invested in publishing the best primary source materials in order to make historical documents more widely accessible. Over the course of a generation, the Commission has supported a remarkable body of work that documents the American Story.

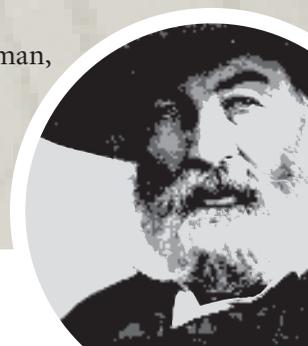
Historical documentary editions provide a transcribed copy of the original materials in book form—usually a series of volumes, the number of which depends upon the breadth of documents. The advantage of a book is its portability, and many libraries at colleges, universities, and historical societies purchased individual series to provide their patrons with ready access to the primary sources. A second characteristic of documentary editions is their methodology. In addition to providing easily readable versions of the source materials, the papers are annotated by editors, explaining through a series of footnotes the significance of particular persons, events, and other details of the documents that may be obscure to contemporary users.

Publishing has taken a great leap forward in the Internet Age, and digital editions and collections are another tool for both preserving and making accessible primary source materials. In addition to the projects involved with Rotunda, many projects funded by the NHPRC are taking full advantage of the publishing and dissemination power of the World Wide Web. Other institutions are making available online digital collections, and the NHPRC has recently begun to fund those projects. Together these projects help people discover historical records by making them publicly available—the very definition of publishing.

## Walt Whitman, Government Clerk

“The United States themselves are essentially the greatest poem,” wrote Walt Whitman,

Walt Whitman, detail of portrait by Mathew Brady. *U.S. National Archives.*



one of America's great poets, a figure from the 19th century whose work endures and is read in classrooms and libraries and homes across the country. The NHPRC is currently funding a project at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to create a comprehensive digital edition of Walt Whitman's correspondence during the Reconstruction era, as part of the Walt Whitman Archive.

After stints as a teacher and journalist in Brooklyn, Whitman left for Washington, DC, in late 1862 to tend to his injured brother and found part-time work in the army paymaster's office, leaving time for him to volunteer as a nurse in the army hospitals to tend to Union soldiers wounded in the Civil War. Three years later, he began work as a Federal Government clerk, a position he would hold until suffering a stroke in 1873. During his years inside the Government, Whitman had a firsthand view of the legal, cultural, and ideological challenges facing the nation during Reconstruction.

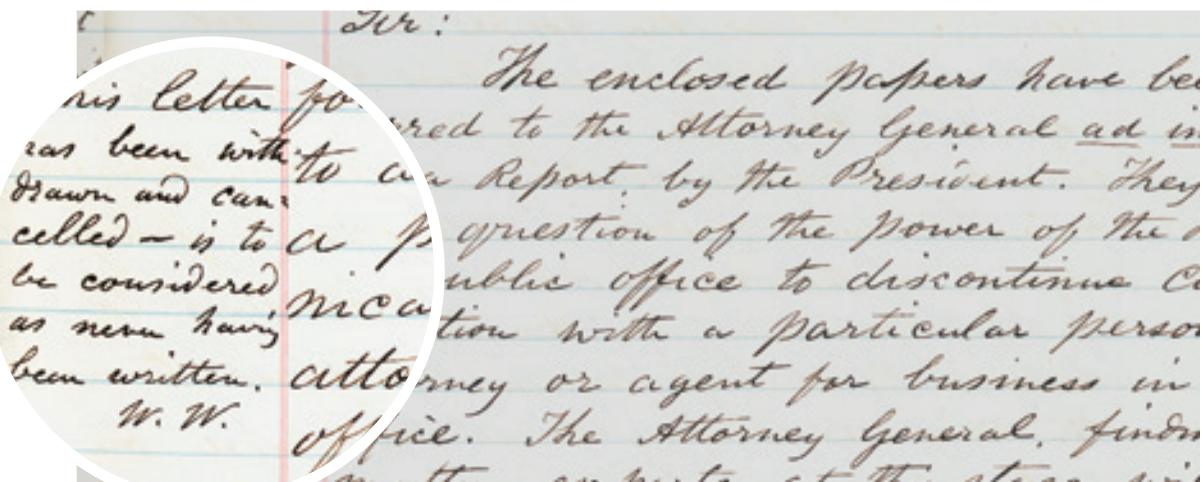
Whitman's experiences as a Fed-

eral employee have been little explored, until University of Nebraska-Lincoln scholar Kenneth Price began hunting through the National Archives. For more than two years, Price pored over a range of documents, including large, bound 900-page letter books in the Archives, discovering thousands of official Federal letters that were written in Whitman's hand.

Price discovered nearly 3,000 Walt Whitman documents written during Whitman's service as a Federal Government employee. "Whitman was there in the thick of it. He was not a passive observer; he was participating, on a daily basis, in issues that were shaping what the nation would be like after the war," Dr. Price said.

In his clerical work, Whitman hand-copied letters and papers authored by Federal officials on issues ranging from Reconstruction to the enforcement of new civil rights amendments to the myriad consequences of westward expansion. Kept in massive letter books, this record of official correspondence is part of the National Archives.

Walt Whitman initialed this entry (inset) in the Records of the Attorney General, July 13, 1868. U.S. National Archives.



Philadelphia July 1800

Enclosed you have a memorandum received this morning from Captain Smith. I think in your haste given in your papers for the Mediterranean Pirates it may be useful. Captain Smith is afraid the Deu, will rage when he sees

Letter from Samuel Hodgdon, Superintendent of Military Stores on the trouble with Mediterranean pirates, July 1800. From the *Papers of the War Department*.

Whitman's work no doubt shaped *Democratic Vistas*, his seminal 1871 analysis of American democracy. Casting a cold eye on the nation at that time, while sharing a vision for an ideal democratic society, it remains one of the most penetrating examinations of American society ever written.

The letters will be published in the online Walt Whitman Archive, a long-term effort to edit Whitman's work on the Web. Dr. Price said he anticipates that 2,000 of the documents will be made available to the public in 2011, with the remainder released the next year.

## Reconstructing the War Department

On the night of November 8, 1800, fire raced through the offices of the War Department on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, destroying the office and all of its files. For nearly two centuries, historians believed that the collec-

tion, and the window it provided into the workings of the early Federal Government, was lost forever.

More than a dozen years ago, historian Ted Crackel began an effort to reconstitute the War Department Papers, and it has involved years of painstaking work, including visits to more than 200 repositories and consultation with more than 3,000 collections in the United States, Canada, England, France, and Scotland. In early 2006, the project was transferred to the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, which is working to realize Crackel's original vision. Indeed, perhaps uniquely among U.S. institutions, Mason combines the scholarly, technical, and institutional qualities (including substantial staff with credentials in military history, the history of the early republic, historical editing, and especially digital history) necessary to complete the project in a professional and timely manner.

These Papers record 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 7 of every 10 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 that time.

An initial pass through the entire archive shows that the total collection

numbers over 45,000 documents. In June 2008, a web site was launched at [www.wardepartmentpapers.org](http://www.wardepartmentpapers.org) that allows visitors access to digital images of documents, and generates feedback from scholars, teachers, and others, offering copies of documents they know to be missing.

In the spring of 2010, the NHPRC awarded the project a new grant to continue adding much more detailed data to the index for the collection. One of the more interesting aspects of this work is the Center for History and New Media's approach to data entry and indexing, harnessing the power of individual users and enabling them to upload transcriptions to the site through "crowdsourcing." Over 200 members of the public have signed up to complete preliminary transcriptions (See <http://wardepartmentpapers.org/blog/?p=374>).

## **Women's Right To Vote**

*"We appear before you this morning . . . to ask that you will, at your earliest convenience, report to the House in favor of the submission of a Sixteenth Amendment to the Legislatures of the several States, that shall prohibit the disfranchisement of citizens of the United States on account of sex."*



In March 1884, Susan B. Anthony addressed the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, arguing for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to grant women the right to vote. Thirty-six years later, on August 18, 1920, what became the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

The NHPRC is proud to support the *Selected Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*, a project devoted to locating and publishing the papers of these two 19th-century American reformers. Originally begun as a microfilm project, the documentary edition has gone on to publish five volumes to date, and the sixth and final volume—spanning the years 1895 through 1906—will be published in 2012. As the preface to the *Selected Papers* states, the project “focuses on the public careers of two co-workers in the cause of woman suffrage, beginning with the start of their activism in the 1840s and pursuing the story of their ideas, tactics, reputations, and impact until the end of their lives in the 20th century.”

Suffragist Florence Jaffray “Daisy” Harriman (1870–1967) holding a banner with the words “Failure Is Impossible. Susan B. Anthony. Votes for Women.”

*Courtesy Library of Congress.*

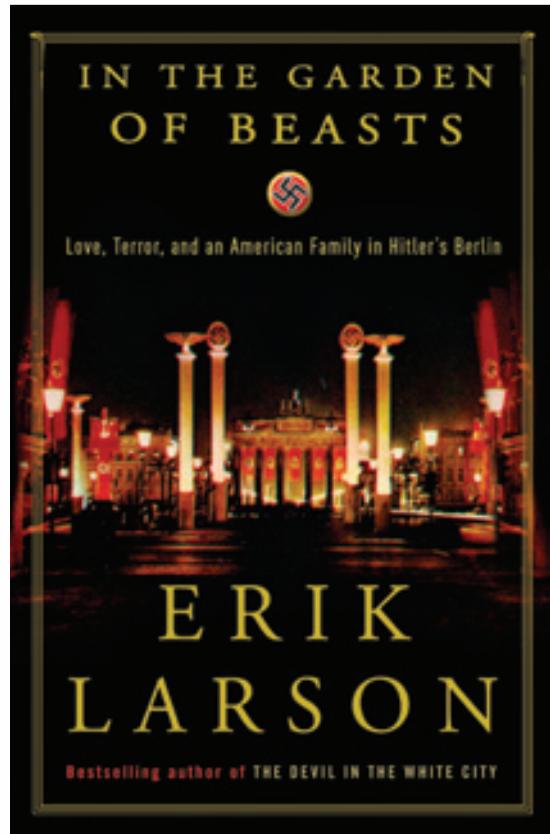
## Diplomat of Democracy

The papers of 20th-century American diplomat George S. Messersmith—known as a Diplomat of Democracy—have been digitized and are now available online at the University of Delaware Library, making them accessible to researchers around the world. The George S. Messersmith Papers collection draws scholars from throughout the world researching political and economic matters in Europe in the 1930s and Latin America in the 1940s and 1950s.

George Messersmith (1883–1960) helped shape American identity and policy through 10 diplomatic posts on three continents between 1914 and 1947. As consul general of Berlin in the 1930s, Messersmith warned of the threat of Adolf Hitler and his circle in a series of “peppery” dispatches, and he features prominently in Erik Larson’s new book *In the Garden of the Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler’s Berlin*. In his book, Larson calls the Messersmith Papers “one of the most beautifully archived collections I’ve ever come across.”

Drawing of George S. Messersmith, 1940s, unknown artist. *Courtesy University of Delaware Archives.*

Messersmith would later serve as U.S. ambassador in Cuba, Mexico, and Argentina, where he advocated the Good Neighbor Policy of the United States. Information from those periods is critical to understanding America’s national policies on international engagement in modern times. For more information on the project, go to <http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2011/jun/George-Messersmith-062011.html>.



Erik Larson’s bestseller *In the Garden of the Beasts* relied on the Messersmith archives at the University of Delaware. *Courtesy Crown Publishers.*

## PARTNERS IN ACCESS

A third way that the NHPRC makes the nation's archives accessible is through our partnerships with state historical records advisory boards, state and local archives, and educational programs that run professional development programs for historians, documentary editors, archivists, and records managers.

### Archives and Preservation Digital Curriculum Lab

Through funding from the NHPRC, the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College in Boston is building a digital curriculum laboratory to enhance archives and preservation education. The lab will enable students, educators, and researchers to learn, instruct, and experiment with digital materials in a digital environment. Goals built into this grant include building the infrastructure of the lab and producing learning modules.

The Simmons Archives and Preservation Digital Curriculum Lab will be a controlled digital space providing integrated access to digital content, content tools, curriculum-based scenarios, and workspace. Students (working singly or in groups) will be able to experiment



Students at Simmons College, ca. 1906.  
*Courtesy Simmons College Archives.*

with and to implement a range of digital archival and preservation procedures following a continuum from record creation through arrangement, description, and delivery. The lab will allow educators and students to evaluate and gain practical experience with current software and standards and a variety of open-source content-management systems. Partnering with GSLIS in this grant are New York University and the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

## **Maine and the Civil War**

The partnership between the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board and the NHPRC has taken an added dimension the past several years as grant funds have gone to statewide archival workshops, strategic planning, a regrant program, and commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

This latter project highlights Mainers who played a part in the Civil War. Maine sent more than 70,000 men to serve in the Union Army and Navy.

Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard, Civil War general from Maine, later directed the Freedmen's Bureau and helped found Howard University in Washington, DC. *Courtesy Library of Congress*

The stories draw on primary sources from the Maine State Archives and other historical societies and libraries around the state to document Maine's experiences during the period from November 1860 through 1865. Dozens of stories have been re-told, including this poignant tale of sacrifice from the Battle of Seven Pines during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign:



*On the night of May 31, 1862, there was rain, and mud, and two armies of more than 40,000 men within speaking distance of each other in the Virginia lowlands near the Chicahominy River.*

*Maine's Oliver O. Howard was on the scene, his brigade sent by Union General George McClellan as reinforcements following a day when the Confederate Army under the command of Joseph E. Johnston had attacked the Northern troops at Fair Oaks Station, and stopped their march toward Richmond.*

*As they lay in the mud that night, both armies knew what June 1 would bring—more fighting, more dying. With its reinforcements in position, the Union army withstood the Confederate assault in what was—up to that time—the largest battle in the war.*

*Afterwards, neither side could claim victory, although both did.*

*Each army sustained heavy losses.*

*The Confederate army suffered more than 6,000 casualties, including nearly 1,000 soldiers killed. The Union army lost an eighth of its size—more than 5,000 men killed, wounded, captured, or missing.*

*One of the Union casualties was Howard.*

*In leading his men in a counterattack, Howard was struck twice by bullets in his right arm. The wounds were so severe that surgeons had to amputate the arm. It would be years later (1893) that Howard would be formally recognized for his heroism in the battle. He was awarded the Medal of Honor, and after the war, he led the Freedmen's Bureau.*

For more on Maine's role in the Civil War, go to <http://www.maine.gov/sos/arc/sesquicent/civilwarwk.shtml>.

## **Regrants in Alabama**

One of the keystone programs at the NHPRC is the regrants made available through the State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP). Over the past two years, 18 states have run regrant competitions, which provide small grants to local archives to ensure access to these records. In FY 2010, Alabama's Historical Records Advisory Board awarded \$53,000 in grant funds to 29 local government agencies or historical repositories for records preservation projects.



German prisoners of war at the Aliceville POW Museum in Aliceville, Alabama, ca. 1944. *Courtesy Aliceville Museum.*

Communities large and small were supported with these funds. Among the many noteworthy projects were the DeKalb County Genealogical Society's rescue of 8,000 historical circuit court files and the Fairhope Museum's processing of the papers of Marietta Johnson, an internationally known educator from Baldwin County. The City of Leeds received funds to inventory and rehouse records at its newly renovated records center, and the Mildred Harrison Regional Library is now able to undertake a records inventory of the 13 public libraries in Shelby County. In Red Bay, the city will be able to purchase archival storage cabinets for 130 municipal maps and drawings that date back to 1907, and the South Central Alabama Development Commission received funds to microfilm historical Lowndes County records, and purchase a microfilm reader-printer to be placed at the Hayneville Public Library.

The Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center will now be able to improve storage for documents, photographs, audiovisual materials, and artifacts pertaining to the history of Macon County and the East Alabama Black Belt, ca. 1900–1970. The Tutwiler Library at the University of West Alabama received a grant to

preserve, scan, and place online historical records from 10 Sumter County churches. This is the first stage in a long-term project to collect church records from west Alabama's Black Belt.

And in Aliceville, efforts continue to document the story of one of the 700 World War II prisoner-of-war camps in the United States. One of the largest camps was tucked away in this corner of Alabama with a capacity for 6,000 prisoners. The camp employed more than 1,000 American military and civilian personnel. The SNAP grant will help the Aliceville Museum inventory, rehouse, and catalog historical documents and artifacts from the German POW camp.

## **Court Records in Vermont**

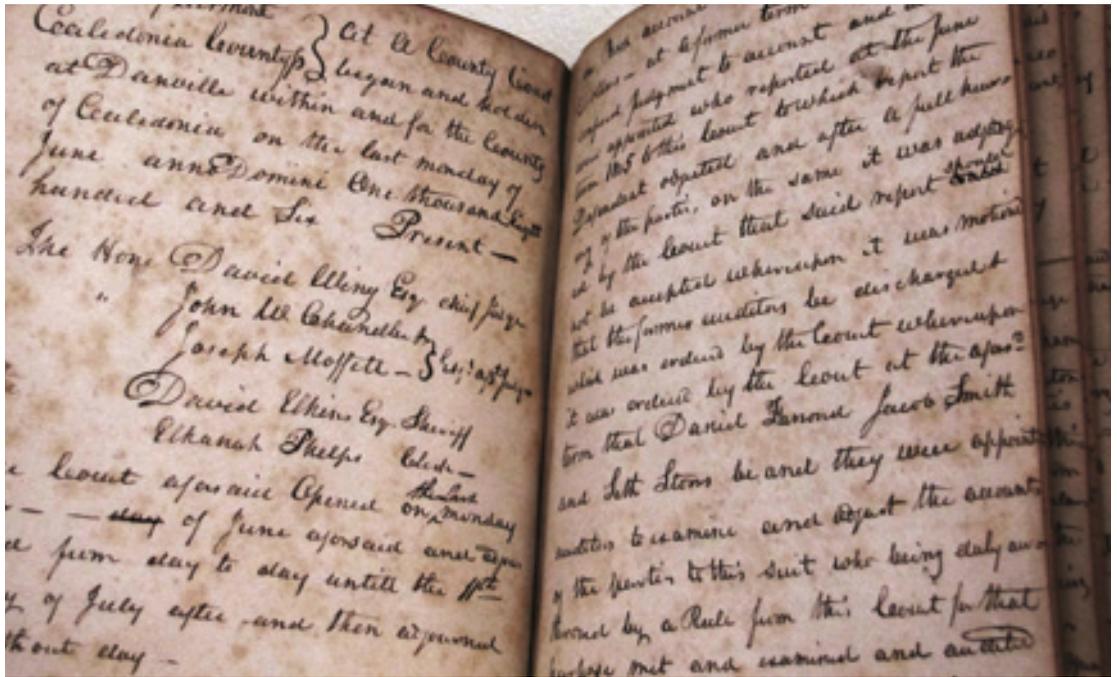
In 1978, the Vermont Supreme Court received a grant from the NHPRC to identify, describe, and reformat approximately 41 cubic feet of court records created prior to 1825, but little has been done since that project to improve the preservation of and access to court records in the state. The Vermont legislature recently reorganized the state's court system and one agency, the Office of Court Administrator, has administrative authority over all courts.

The result has been the development of a comprehensive records management program and an agreement with Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA) to accession all county court records created prior to 1945 into the State Archives.

In 2011, VSARA received a grant to preserve and make more accessible archival court records of the northern counties of Caledonia, Lamoille, and Orleans.

These records cover the period 1794–1945 and include 575 volumes of docket and record books and 330 cubic feet of case files, for a total of 446 cubic feet of records. Both criminal and civil cases are documented in the records. Because the Vermont Supreme Court rode circuit until 1906, that court’s files appear among these records, and they will be processed as well. The records not only document the judicial system over a period of 150 years, they also provide perspectives on crime and





punishment, economics, and all facets of social history.

Because the counties are near the Canadian border, the records document the immigrant experience and the interaction of different cultures in the borderlands. Evidence can also be found of the agricultural booms and busts taking place in the rural areas of the counties, as well as the expansion of railroads and industrial development in the more

populous areas. The project will arrange and describe these records in order to re-establish the intellectual connection between the docket books, record books, and case files so that researchers will have the necessary access points to identify relevant records.

Opposite and above: Supreme Court docket books. Courtesy Vermont State Archives and Records Administration.

## Financial Summary of NHPRC Awards

### FY 2010

<i>Archives and Historical Records</i>		\$4,340,473
Archives–Basic Projects	2,310,166	
Archives–Detailed Proccessing	1,149,634	
Digitizing Historical Records	439,774	
Electronic Records	440,899	
<i>Publishing Historical Records</i>		\$4,530,167
<i>State and National Archival Partnership</i>		\$526,188
<i>Preparing for the Future</i>		\$565,762
Professional Development	306,651	
Strategies and Tools	199,611	
Historical Editing Fellowships	59,500	
<b>TOTAL AWARDS</b>		<b>\$9,962,590</b>

### FY 2011

<i>Founders Online Initiative</i>		\$4,500,000
<i>Archives and Historical Records</i>		\$2,747,605
Archives–Basic Projects	1,189,692	
Archives–Detailed Proccessing	724,037	
Digitizing Historical Records	579,869	
Electronic Records	254,007	
<i>Publishing Historical Records</i>		\$3,691,959
<i>State and National Archival Partnership</i>		\$1,080,893
<i>Preparing for the Future</i>		\$400,578
Professional Development	251,796	
Strategies and Tools	148,782	
<b>TOTAL AWARDS</b>		<b>\$12,421,035</b>

# ABOUT THE NHPRC

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a statutory body affiliated with the National Archives and Records Administration, supports a wide range of activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources, created in every medium ranging from quill pen to computer, relating to the history of the United States.

The NHPRC was established by Congress in 1934 and began awarding grants in FY 1965. It is a 15-member body, chaired by the Archivist of the United States, and administered by an Executive Director and staff.

The Commission is composed of representatives of the three branches of the Federal Government, two Presidential appointees, and representatives from professional associations of archivists, historians, documentary editors, and records administrators. At the end of FY 2011, the NHPRC members are:



Members of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, June 2011.

Archivist of the United States, *Chair*

**David S. Ferriero**

Representing the United States Supreme Court

**Judge Barbara Jacobs Rothstein**

U.S. Senate

**Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)**

U.S. House of Representatives

**Vacant (since 1/2011)**

Presidential Appointee

**Nancy Davenport**, *President Nancy Davenport, LLC*

Presidential Appointee

**James W. Ceaser**, *Professor of Politics, University of Virginia*

Department of Defense

**Erin Mahan**, *Chief Historian*

Library of Congress

**Deanna Marcum**, *Assoc. Librarian of Library Services*

State Department

**Edward Brynn**, *Acting Director, Office of the Historian*

Association for Documentary Editing

**Raymond Smock**, *Director, Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, Shepherd University*

American Association for State and Local History

**Rodger E. Stroup**, *Curator, South Carolina Railroad Museum*

American Historical Association

**Stanley N. Katz**, *Director, Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies, Princeton University*

National Association of Government Archives and Records Administration

**H. Gerald Handfield**, *State Archivist, Washington State Archives*

Organization of American Historians

**Julie Saville**, *Assoc. Professor of History, University of Chicago*

Society of American Archivists

**Timothy L. Ericson**, *Senior Lecturer Emeritus, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee*

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*Back cover: Signature page, Treaty of Paris, September 3, 1783. U.S. National Archives*

without Difficulty and without requiring  
any Compensation

Article 10<sup>th</sup>

The solemn Ratifications of the  
present Treaty expressed in good & due  
Form shall be exchanged between the  
contracting Parties in the Space of  
Six Months or sooner if possible to be  
computed from the Day of the Signature  
of the present Treaty. In Witness  
whereof we the undersigned Plenipotentiaries  
have in their Names  
and in Virtue of our Full Powers signed  
with our Names the present Definitive  
Treaty, and caused the Seals of our Arms  
to be affix'd thereto.

Done at Paris, this third Day of September, 1763.

*In presence of our Lord and the said plenipotentiaries of the said King, -*

Stanley John Adams

D. Franklin

John Jay

