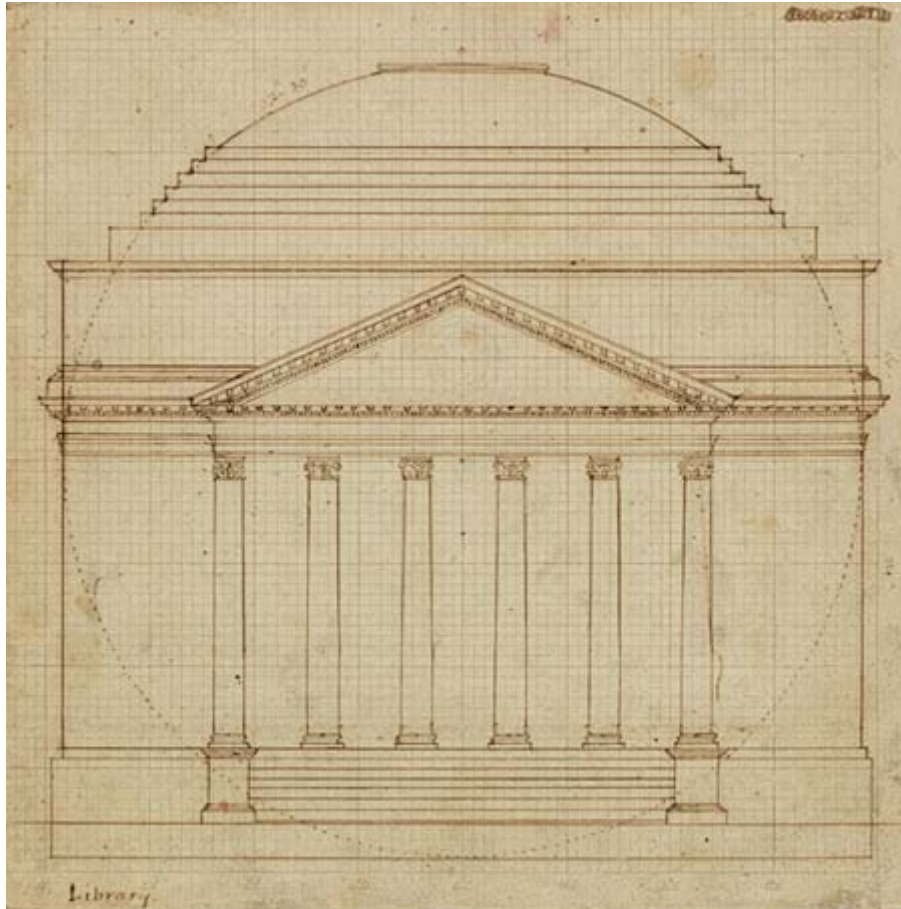


THE FOUNDERS ONLINE

OPEN ACCESS TO
THE PAPERS OF
AMERICA'S FOUNDING ERA



A REPORT TO CONGRESS



National Archives and Records Administration
April 2008

Cover Image: Thomas Jefferson's ink and pencil drawing of the South Elevation of the Rotunda of the University of Virginia Library, completed March 29, 1819.

Courtesy, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia.

The Honorable Robert Byrd
Chairman
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

I am enclosing with this letter *The Founders Online*, a report written at the request of the Committees on Appropriations, outlining a plan to provide online access, within a reasonable timeframe, to the complete papers of America's Founding Fathers.

This report discusses the history of the ongoing historical documentary editions of the papers of the Founding Era's preeminent statesmen—John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington. Under the dedicated guidance of a succession of project editors, some 217 volumes of annotated papers have been published to date, and efforts are currently underway to publish in print and in online editions the remaining volumes.

The report proposes a new system that combines the digitized versions of the printed editions along with the raw, unedited transcripts of the yet-to-be-published Founders' documents. In this way, all of these historical papers will be delivered to the American people more expeditiously. In building on the ongoing private investments of publishers and host organizations, this innovative approach can deliver the Founders Online in a single, unified, and sustainable Web site that will provide access to the written records of the Founders of our nation.

Sincerely,



ALLEN WEINSTEIN
Archivist of the United States

Copies provided to:
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Sam Brownback
Representative Jose Serrano
Representative Ralph Regula

The Founders Online

A Report to Congress

A Plan for Open Access to the Founding Era Papers

National Archives and Records Administration

April 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our Objectives

The papers of the Founding Fathers—John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington—are vital to our understanding of American democracy. However, making those writings available to the public has been the solitary work of scholars for the last 68 years. Today, in the age of information and a period of renewed interest in American history, many have questioned why those writings are not more readily accessible to the American public.

In accordance with Public Law 110-161 – *Division D – Financial Services and General Government and Appropriations Acts, 2008, Title V*, the Archivist of the United States has developed a plan for “online electronic publication, within a reasonable timeframe, of the papers of the Founding Fathers.”¹ Congressional concern arose because the completed volumes of the papers of the Founding Fathers have been slow to appear, and can be costly for the average citizen to access. Congress also is concerned that the availability of the papers of the Founding Fathers is being held up by the editing and publishing processes.

The plan discussed here would, over several years, help accelerate digitization and online access to 1) copies of all the available original source documents, 2) transcriptions of those documents as they become available, and 3) the existing print volumes that contain annotated and edited transcripts of the documents. In addition, as further volumes are completed, these authoritative editions would then replace the raw transcriptions. This collection would be a kind of work-in-progress that students, scholars, and the general public could use through the Internet.

This report responds to the concerns of Congress and presents a set of steps that could help achieve the goals set out by the Committees on Appropriations:

- To provide online open access to the existing publications of the papers of the Founding Fathers;

¹ The report accompanying the Acts stated: “The Appropriations Committees are concerned about the lengthy amount of time currently required to complete the publication of the Founding Fathers historical papers projects. These projects began in the 1960s and are expected to continue two or more decades until completion. Mindful of the technologies and tools currently available, the Committees believe the Archivist should accelerate the process for delivering the papers of the Founding Fathers to the American people. Therefore, the Archivist is directed, as Chairman of the NHPRC, to develop a comprehensive plan for the online electronic publication, within a reasonable timeframe, of the papers of the Founding Fathers and to submit this plan to the Committees on Appropriations no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act.”

- To provide online open access to the transcripts of papers that will be the basis of future volumes;
- To develop a proposal for how the future volumes can be made available to the American public on an accelerated time schedule.

Our Plan for Providing Online Access

The Founding Fathers' papers are in various stages of publication. The completed volumes can be digitized and placed online relatively quickly. However, the unpublished documents will be most useable if they are transcribed, digitized and generally put into an accessible format when they are placed online.

To undertake this challenge, the National Archives studied two options to publish the volumes online.

Option 1: The Government Scans Completed Volumes as They Become Available

The Government could undertake the task of scanning and posting online the published volumes, as they are finished. The scanning process would be relatively quick. However, the volumes would not be electronically marked or indexed, making them difficult to search, and such an effort by a Federal agency would provide an inferior duplication of online publication efforts already taking place outside of Government. Also, the timeline for the online publication of the work would still be dependent upon the editing and transcription work being undertaken by the Founding Fathers' grantees.

Option 2 (Recommended): Accelerate Existing Online Publication Efforts

There are ongoing efforts outside of Government to publish the Founding Fathers' papers online. For example, The University of Virginia Press has spent 7 years in research and development and established a product called Rotunda to provide online access to the papers of America's Founding Era. Their product provides robust searching capabilities that are superior to a collection of digitized copies, as described in Option 1.

Rotunda is in the process of negotiating licensing agreements with the publishers of the Founding Fathers' papers and making the collection available through a subscription fee—currently ranging from \$393 for libraries serving fewer than 100,000 people to \$6,630 for research libraries. Rotunda has indicated its willingness to alter its business model, and foundations and others have indicated support for the goal of providing open access to the Founders' documents.

However, online publication of the completed volumes does not provide access to the unedited papers. To take advantage of existing online publication efforts of completed volumes and to accelerate the online publication of unfinished volumes, we propose to

engage a sole service provider to undertake transcription and document encoding for all Founding Father papers that have not yet been edited. This would prepare these documents for access on the Web. A sole service provider will allow for greater efficiencies, which will drive down costs.

Our plan is to issue a competitive request for proposals, as a test of concept, in 2008 to undertake work that will help put the unpublished papers in a usable format for online publication services, such as Rotunda. By doing this, we will be able to accelerate online publications and broaden future opportunities for Founding Era research. This proof of concept plan also has the advantage of working with existing efforts outside of the Government, instead of duplicating them, to help achieve our shared goals of public access, online publication, and high-quality research.

We also concluded that a single, unified, and sustainable Web site would better provide open access to all of the papers of all of the Founders.

The work to complete the remaining 125 volumes that place each document in context is difficult and time-consuming work. However, the current pace is frustratingly slow. A content management system will ease, in the long run, some publication production issues, thus speeding up the delivery of the finished annotated editions. To encourage more efficient output, the Archivist will strengthen independent review processes to ensure that performance measures are rigorous, production goals are accomplished on time, and performance information is used in grant decisions. The National Archives will also continue to investigate other ways to improve production through the grant-making and selection process.

The Founders Online

A Plan for Open Access to the Founding Era Papers

Introduction

The Founding Fathers—John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington—made a lasting imprint upon the history of American democracy. Calling for publication of the Founding Fathers papers in documentary editions, President Truman said, “I am convinced that the better we understand the history of our democracy, the better we shall appreciate our rights as free men and the more determined we shall be to keep our ideals alive.” With the ability of the World Wide Web to reach hundreds of millions of people around the world, these records of the Founding Era of our democracy can be made available to all.

As Archivist of the United States, and Chair of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), I share the goal of providing expeditious online access for the American people to the papers of the Founding Fathers. In December 2007, the Congress asked me “to develop a comprehensive plan for the online electronic publication, within a reasonable timeframe, of the papers of the Founding Fathers and to submit this plan to the Committees on Appropriations.”

Historian David McCullough has said, “The value of the Papers of Founding Fathers goes far beyond their scholarly importance, immense as that is. These papers are American scripture. They are our political faith, the free and open exchange of ideas, the often brilliant expressions of some of the most fertile minds, the greatest statesmen, patriots, and seers in our history.”

The challenge is to determine the best way to make these papers accessible to people throughout the world without losing the rigor of the historical research process.

The National Archives has been investigating for some time the issue of open access to the Founding Era papers. Beginning in January 2008, the National Archives held discussions with the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Humanities, private foundations, the project directors of the five ongoing documentary editions, representatives of the University of Virginia Press's Rotunda online publishing project, and others. The Senate Committee on the Judiciary held a hearing in February to discuss the Founding Era papers, the length of time of the effort, and the question of access.² In addition, NHPRC staff investigated ongoing concerns from academic and nonprofit publishers about providing open access to scholarly publications. This report provides a brief history of the scholarship that has gone into producing the documentary editions of the papers of the Founding Fathers, outlines the challenges we face in making the transition to the Internet age of the 21st century, and proposes options for achieving the shared goal of world-wide access to the political thought that produced the creation of the United States of America.

² "In the Course of Human Events, Still Unpublished; Congress Pressed on Founders' Papers," a front page article in the December 15 issue of the *Washington Post*, decried the lack of access to the Founders Papers. The article caught the attention of Senator Patrick Leahy who convened a Senate Committee on the Judiciary hearing on the Founding Fathers Papers on February 7, 2008. Six witnesses were called: historian David McCullough; Deanna B. Marcum, Assistant Librarian of Congress; Rebecca W. Rimel, President, The Pew Charitable Trusts; Stanley N. Katz, chairman, Papers of the Founding Fathers Inc. and Professor, the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University; Syracuse University historian and retired historical documentary editor Ralph Ketcham; and Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States.

A Brief History of Historical Documentary Editing

Unlike contemporary archival practices where the papers of statesmen, particularly those of Presidents, are managed in a systematic way, the Founders' records were not kept in a centralized repository. There was no George Washington Presidential Library in 1797 when our first President retired.³ Before the advent of the Presidential Library system, Presidents or their heirs often dispersed Presidential papers at the end of an Administration. Though many pre-Hoover collections now reside in the Library of Congress, others are split among other libraries, historical societies, and private collections. Sadly, many materials have been lost or deliberately destroyed.

In the case of the Founding Fathers, several early attempts were made to collect and publish the papers, but these contained only 'outgoing' letters and documents written by the statesmen and provided little or no annotation to explain their texts. They contained roughly 15 to 20 percent of the documents, and their texts were marred by inaccuracies in transcription.

Modern historical documentary editing—based on the precepts and more rigorous standards of scientific history—began in the 1940s with work by Julian Boyd of Princeton on the Thomas Jefferson papers, financed by a major gift from *The New York Times*. In 1950, Boyd presented the first volume to President Truman, who responded by asking the National Historical Publications Commission⁴ to plan a national program for

³ The entire notion of Presidential Libraries and, indeed, a National Archives, is a fairly recent development. Urged by the calls of American historians and the example of foreign governments, the National Archives was founded in 1934. The Presidential Library system formally began in 1939, when President Franklin Roosevelt donated his personal and Presidential papers and Library in Hyde Park to the Federal Government. Congress passed the Presidential Libraries Act in 1955 to provide a mechanism that allowed Presidents to donate their papers to the Government and the Presidential Records Act in 1978 which abolished the 200-year-old concept that a President's official papers were private property.

⁴ In 1974, Congress redesignated the NHPC as the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), reflecting the increased scope of the Commission's mission to include grants to State and local agencies and nonprofit organizations for the preservation of historical records.

publication of the papers of other public figures important to understanding American history. Congress passed the Federal Records Act of 1950 on September 5, which increased the membership of the Commission from 7 to 11 members and charged the NHPC to “cooperate with and encourage appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and nongovernmental institutions, societies, and individuals in collecting and preserving and, when it deems such action to be desirable, in editing and publishing the papers of outstanding citizens of the United States and such other documents as may be important for an understanding and appreciation of the history of the United States.” In 1954 the Commission submitted a report entitled **A National Program for the Publication of Historical Documents**, which recommended publishing selected editions of 355 Americans and comprehensive editions of the Founding Fathers.

Dr. Boyd set the standards for accuracy and inclusion in historical documentary editing. Not only did the Jefferson project include detailed transcription of the letters and documents written by Jefferson, it also contains letters he received, and all of the obscure references were explained through annotations. The resulting documentary edition gives users a full picture of the correspondence and provides the context for understanding its significance.

Spurred by the example of the Jefferson Papers project, four additional “Founding Fathers” projects – John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison – were begun in the 1950s through private funds and the substantial support of their parent institutions (see Appendix A). Based on the initial success of these projects, Congress approved funding through Public Law 88-383 for the NHPC beginning in FY 1965. The Ford Foundation followed suit by awarding \$2 million to the Commission in support of the Founding Fathers projects.

While Congressional appropriations continued – at \$350,000 annually for the next seven years – private sector funding shifted from the NHPC to the projects directly. Those funding sources included the Pew Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the Packard

Humanities Institute, and others, particularly from the universities and institutions that house the projects.

The NHPRC has funded comprehensive editions of the papers of the Founders since 1965. Additionally, it regularly includes the following projects as part of the “Founding Era” historical documentary editions:

- First Federal Congress Project
A comprehensive documentary edition of the First Federal Congress, 1789-1791, edited at George Washington University.
- Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution
A comprehensive documentary edition of the states' ratification of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights; the project is headquartered at the Wisconsin Historical Society.
- Documentary History of the Early Supreme Court
A project of the Supreme Court Historical Association.

The Research Process

As of the date of this report, 217 volumes from six projects—Adams, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, and Washington—have been published, and the projects estimate that another 125 remain. Appendix A shows details for each of the projects, including estimates, based on current production rates, for when the entire annotated historical documentary edition will be complete. Current estimates for completion range from 8 to 35 years.

Leadership for these projects has been carried out by a succession of editors. Their initial task was to scour hundreds of repositories and private collections across America and

abroad to copy the known original documents, numbering in the hundreds of thousands of pages. This work was assisted by the NHPC's own survey of American records repositories in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the National Archives, the Library of Congress, academic institutions, historical societies, and others.⁵

Once copies were assembled and arranged in some chronological order, editorial teams began the task of deciphering, interpreting, and transcribing handwritten documents. Every transcription is verified against the original, in the words of one editor, "line by line, word by word, letter by letter." The first step is to transcribe the original cursive to key-stroked text. That transcription is then reviewed separately by two editors. Finally, a third edit is performed where one editor reads the transcript aloud while the other compares the oral presentation to the written words. This attention to accuracy ensures that final transcriptions reflect the most trustworthy versions of the originals. The next stage in the process is annotation—identifying the significant correspondents, the subjects and events under discussion, and other references. Annotation is frequently the most time-consuming part of the process, and it plays an essential role in placing the documents and their contents in context. Specialized knowledge about the historical period is necessary to illuminate these details, and editors provide further context through introductory materials.

All of the historical documentary editions are arranged chronologically, and a typical volume of material may cover several months of the Founder's career. Once the editorial work on a volume is completed, the publisher undertakes its own procedures, including layout and proofing. The galleys go back to the editor for final corrections, and then the final version is printed, bound, and ready for distribution.

Progress for all of the Founders' editions was slow in the initial developmental stages, but, at least in some cases, the pace has quickened. At present, the average productivity

⁵ While the first Jefferson volume appeared in 1950, the other projects began publishing several years later—Adams in 1961; Franklin in 1959; Hamilton in 1961; Madison in 1962; and Washington in 1976.

rate for the projects is one volume per year, though some projects with larger staffs such as the *Washington Papers*, produce two volumes annually. The *Jefferson Papers* (see Appendix A) secured support from the Jefferson Foundation to create a separate team to work on the statesman's retirement period, which allowed the project to increase production.

Delivering the Papers to the American People

Much public discussion of these projects has concerned frustration at the length of time necessary to complete the fully annotated volumes of the Founding Era Papers, as well as the limited accessibility of the published volumes. Although University Presses have a strong commitment to quickly distributing knowledge, they still must recover the costs associated with publication to remain viable.⁶ Currently, the complete editions are priced to approximately cover these costs, which makes the volumes relatively expensive. However, some 1,400 libraries across the country have acquired partial or entire sets. The Internet provides the potential for open access, but University Presses are still struggling to find stable nonprofit businesses models that take advantage of the Internet and recover costs.

Beginning in the late 1980s, with assistance from the Packard Humanities Institute, the Founders' projects began to search for ways to make digital versions of their documents available. Each of the continuing projects⁷ currently provides online access to certain featured documents, indexes to recent volumes, bibliographical and biographical information, and digital images of select original documents.

⁶ See the Association of American University Press's "Statement on Open Access" at <http://aaupnet.org/aboutup/issues/oa/statement.pdf>. See also "Open Access Publishing and the Emerging Infrastructure for 21st-Century Scholarship," Donald Waters, *Journal of Electronic Publishing*, Winter 2008, at <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.3336451.0011.106> for more details on the question.

- The Jefferson Papers www.princeton.edu/~tjpapers/ offers images and transcriptions of key American documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Kentucky Resolutions, and Jefferson's first Inaugural Address. The Jefferson *Retirement Series* at www.monticello.org/papers/index.html launched the Family Letters Web site which provides access to transcriptions of a growing collection.
- Franklin: in 2003, the first test version of the Franklin Papers CD-ROM was issued and free electronic access to the entire collection was made available to users on computers at Yale University and the American Philosophical Society. In 2006, the Packard Humanities Institute mounted the Electronic Franklin Papers database onto a freely-accessible Web site www.franklinpapers.org which provides both verified and unverified transcriptions, but no annotations are included. The Electronic Franklin Papers are accessed 13,000 times per month. In ongoing collaboration with the Packard Humanities Institute, the project replaces unverified texts with authoritative ones as each successive print volume is published.
- Adams: in July 2008, the Massachusetts Historical Society plans on providing, through foundation support, free access to all volumes published through 2006. On the current site (www.masshist.org/adams_editorial/), original documents and transcriptions are provided to select documents; however, no annotations are included.
- Washington and Madison: both projects offer access to select documents through their project sites. In 2001, the University of Virginia Press established an electronic imprint, Rotunda (rotunda.upress.virginia.edu), with assistance from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The first project, the George Washington Digital Edition, provides access for paid subscribers to the volumes that have

⁷ The Alexander Hamilton Papers, completed in 1987, are not available online. The Rotunda Project at the University of Virginia Press is negotiating to include a digital edition on its site.

been printed to date and is already online. An open-access edition, which has been prepared especially for the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Learning Center at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center at Mount Vernon, offers the complete *Papers* to date in a single, searchable online publication, made possible through a grant from The Founders, Washington Committee for Historic Mount Vernon.

The Rotunda electronic imprint is developing an American Founding Era collection (see Appendix C) of digital editions that includes Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Madison, Hamilton, and other key texts⁸ to provide a single access point to documents from the era of the founding fathers. Costs associated with digitizing the existing print volumes are borne by Rotunda, which relies upon support from the Mellon Foundation, the President's Office of the University of Virginia, and subscription fees.

Currently, access to Rotunda is available on a sliding scale subscription basis to each of the separate editions. For example, subscribers pay a one-time fee for the *Papers of George Washington Digital Edition*, ranging from \$393 for libraries serving fewer than 100,000 people to \$6,630 for research universities with very high research activities. Each of the other Founding Father series will be similarly priced. An annual maintenance fee (ranging from \$135 for a high school library to \$1,350 for a top research library) from subscribers is also required. As of February 27, 2008, forty institutions are listed as Rotunda customers. At present, Rotunda only plans to include the fully annotated editions, already published in printed volumes, and it does not provide open access, except for limited-time trial basis.

⁸Rotunda is set to begin negotiating with the *Franklin Papers* for inclusion.

Options for Open Access to the Fully Annotated Founding Era Papers

In the course of preparing this plan, we focused on two options for providing online access to the complete Papers of the Founders in a timely fashion. The first option would have the Government scan the completed volumes and publish them online directly. The second option, which we recommend, is to help accelerate existing online publication efforts. The National Archives would fund a pilot project that would use a single service provider to transcribe and encode unpublished materials to test how quickly new materials could be added to existing online publication efforts in development outside of Government.

Option 1: The Government Scans Completed Volumes as They Become Available

The quickest and most obvious solution was for a Federal agency to scan the existing volumes and publish them on a Web site. However, scanning and publishing online the individual print volumes would simply replicate the existing hard copy volumes in an online form. For example, a historian interested in the economic theories of the age could not search a single Web site by this topic and easily compare the views of Madison and Jefferson. This is in contrast to systems in development outside of government, which would allow a citizen to easily search, browse, sort, and investigate all of the documents of all of the collections.

Furthermore, the timeline for online publication would still depend upon the editing and transcription work of the remaining papers in the documentary editions. Also, perhaps most importantly, the Federal Government would be duplicating the online publication efforts already taking place through the universities and historical societies, sponsored by foundations.

Option 2 (Recommended): Accelerate Existing Online Publication Efforts

A second option, which we plan to pursue, is to focus on accelerating the preparation of the currently unpublished documents to make them ready for online publication. One example of the online publications efforts taking place outside of government is the Rotunda project of the University of Virginia Press. Through seven years of research and development, the Rotunda project has already begun the work of publishing electronic versions of the print volumes of the Founding Era documentary editions, after negotiating licenses with the print publishers. Under a different business model supported by foundations, Rotunda could provide open access to the digital versions of the print volumes and to the unannotated papers, and it could replace the unannotated versions with the full, authoritative versions as they become available. The Government could designate a familiar Federal Web site, such as the Library of Congress, as the public's entry point for open access, while the exacting work necessary to produce the online materials would be carried out by Rotunda.

The Rotunda site plans to create an XML-based archive that allows users to search the full text by date, author, or recipient across all volumes. The exceptional indexing of the individual print volumes would be combined into a single master index, and all internal document cross-references would be linked. An easy set of "compasses" will allow users to navigate the contents across the entire collection. The Rotunda imprint plans on completing its electronic publication of all existing print editions by 2011.

While a system like Rotunda provides online access to completed volumes, it does not currently provide or accelerate online access to the approximately 90,000 documents that have not been published. These documents are in various states—from copies of handwritten letters and papers to transcribed, but unverified, versions. Only a very small percentage has been transcribed and verified to produce a final version of the original document. None have been annotated. Simply scanning and publishing these raw materials would be insufficient in terms of basic utility of the documents. To create a complete version of the Founding Era papers in a compressed timeframe, roughly

270,000 pages of material (at an estimated 3 pages per document) remain to be prepared for publication on the Web. At an April 2008 meeting at the National Archives, the five project directors of the Founders Papers endorsed the notion of digitizing the remaining documents and publishing unannotated versions online as a way to expedite public access to the original materials. As previously noted, the Rotunda project is technically able to maintain the unannotated versions online—to be replaced as authoritative versions are completed. One approach would be for the projects themselves to expand and find new resources to undertake transcription at an expedited pace.

A more cost effective solution may be to combine all of the material across all five projects that must be prepared for publication on the Web and rely on a single content management system to work exclusively on the task. To take advantage of already existing online publication efforts and accelerate the online publication of unfinished documents, the National Archives has investigated the option of a single service provider to undertake the preparation of all of the remaining documents. This approach would require base-level transcription and encoding for the Web along with a secondary level of markup language and verification. Using one provider to undertake this work is expected to have distinct advantages over five editorial projects independently attempting to digitize their collections of unannotated documents while continuing the significant editorial work that remains. It would allow for a level of standardization in processes across projects, provide electronic access to their documents, ensure that the final documents are interoperable and searchable across all five projects, and prepare the materials for ingest into a single Web site.

All of the transcribed and encoded documents would be added to a Web site as they are completed and designated as “draft” or “verified but unannotated” and clearly distinguished from the authoritative versions drawn from the annotated print editions. This process would allow scholars and other users to readily understand which work has been thoroughly processed and which exists in a “raw” state. Appendix B provides samples of a typical document through its various stages—from the original handwritten document to initial transcription through verified transcription and final, annotated form.

Our understanding is that that it would take approximately three years to complete the initial preparation of the raw materials for publication on the Internet.

Based on this information, the National Archives, with the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, plans to undertake a pilot demonstration project through a competitive grant of \$250,000 to test the validity of the concept described above. The pilot would convert a portion of the remaining pre-published papers into transcribed and encoded electronic records using a single service provider, in cooperation with one or more of the Founding Era projects. These documents would then be posted on an open access platform in conjunction with previously published material to demonstrate how expeditiously new content might be added to the Internet. Through this pilot program, the National Archives hopes to attract private investment in all phases of this plan. Open access to the unannotated transcripts might also lead to contributions from independent scholars, along with the discovery of documents “hidden” in private collections.

Ensuring the Completion of the Annotation

All contemporary historical writing on the Founding Era of the United States depends directly or indirectly on the primary source materials, transcription, and annotation found in these projects, and they have been praised as “masterpieces of close scholarship.” Hundreds of articles and scores of histories and biographies have been created on the back of this scholarship, including at least four Pulitzer Prize recipients and one National Book Award for works that have used these sources.⁹ They have been instrumental in shaping the contemporary understanding of the leaders who created our nation.

⁹ Pulitzers were awarded to David Hackett Fischer for *Washington’s Crossing* (2005), David McCullough for *John Adams* (2002), Joseph Ellis for *Founding Brothers* (2001), and Jack Rakove for *Original Meanings* (1997). Joseph Ellis also received a National Book Award in 1997 for *American Sphinx*, his biography of Jefferson.

Annotation and other editorial steps for the final authoritative versions of documents are time-consuming processes. (See Appendix A for completion dates.) Improved content management and work flows through the digitization process, as described in the section above, are likely to have a positive impact upon those timeframes. Additional steps could increase the pace of production.

The Archivist of the United States is enhancing project accountability by creating an independent review oversight process to ensure that projects continue to meet rigorous production benchmarks. Projects would be reviewed to ensure that best practices are in place, production goals are ambitious, attainable, and achieved, and that information regarding the overall goals for the Founders Online is shared among all the projects. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) would strengthen the existing standardized performance measures that are included in grant awards to encourage efficient production and use prior years' performance information to judge future grant awards. Also, NARA will study the grant solicitation process to ensure that the right incentives are communicated through grant awards. As part of the milestones included in grant awards, we anticipate encouraging the adoption of a single service provider content management system for all of the Founding Era documentary editions so that projects could use electronic files to prepare for print editions and share resources more readily. Along with these steps, NARA will continue to investigate ways to increase production, while maintaining quality and without additional costs.

Conclusion

In order to meet the Committees' challenge, the organizations involved in the Founding Era projects—the editors, the publishers, and the funders—have met and discussed viable options and approaches. Our mutual goal is to deliver the papers of the Founding Fathers to the American people through open access electronic publication within a reasonable timeframe. Such an approach requires new ways of thinking about the nature of these projects. By harnessing the existing energy and work done by the projects and

publishers, we envision an electronic version of the Founding Era papers now in print to be complete within three years. To address the backlog of unpublished materials, we propose testing the concept of accelerating the transcription and encoding of those remaining documents and posting them alongside the completed materials. With this new system, all of the papers will be delivered to the American people in a more expeditious timeframe. Finally, we will work with the projects and others to encourage the adoption of a single content management system and put in place an independent oversight process to ensure the use of best practices and measurable project benchmarks. We believe these measures can deliver the Founders Online—a single, unified, and sustainable Web site that will best provide open access to the written records of the Founders of our nation.

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APPENDIX A

A Synopsis of the Founders' Papers

JOHN ADAMS

John Adams (October 30, 1735 – July 4, 1826) was the second President of the United States (1797–1801). His papers include his years as a lawyer, as a driving force for independence in 1776, as representative from the Continental Congress in Europe, and peace negotiations with Great Britain. He also served as America's first Vice President (1789–1797). Founder of an important family of politicians, diplomats and historians, he left behind a wealth of historical documentation.

Edited at the Massachusetts Historical Society

Published by the Harvard University Press/Belknap Press

30 of 67 volumes have been published.

of documents: 30,000

pages to date: 13,897

Year Begun: 1954

Est. Completion: 2043

In its 1954 report to the President, the Commission described these papers as “a single body of basic source materials for the study of American history that probably, so far as personal papers are concerned, is without equal in the world.”

Selected Works that cite these papers:

David McCullough, *John Adams*, Pulitzer Prize 2002, HBO mini-series, 2008

Joseph Ellis, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*, Pulitzer Prize 2001
and *Passionate Sage*

James Grant, *John Adams: Party of One*

John Ferling, *John Adams: A Life*.

Volumes 5 and 6 of the *Adams Family Correspondence* won the American Historical Association's J. Franklin Jameson Award. The project also assisted David Donald with a forthcoming book about John Quincy Adams, and aided the producers of the *American Experience* program, “John and Abigail Adams.”

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Benjamin Franklin (January 17, 1706 – April 17, 1790) was a leading author and printer, satirist, political theorist, politician, scientist, inventor, civic activist, statesman and diplomat. As a scientist he was a major figure in the Enlightenment and the history of physics for his discoveries and theories regarding electricity. He invented the lightning rod, bifocals, the Franklin stove, a carriage odometer, and a musical instrument. He formed both the first public lending library in America and first fire department in Pennsylvania. An early proponent of colonial unity, he left behind a wealth of political writings, and as a diplomat during the American Revolution, he secured the French alliance that helped to make independence possible.

Edited at the Yale University and the American Philosophical Society
Published by Yale University Press

39 volumes published of a planned 47 volume edition

of documents: 30,000

pages to date: 23,216

Year Begun: 1954

Est. Completion: 2016

Selected Works that cite these papers:

H. W. Brand, *The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*

Edmund Morgan, *Benjamin Franklin*

Walter Isaacson, *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*

Stacy Schiff, *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America*

Gordon Wood, *The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin*

The project provided important assistance to the organizers of traveling Franklin Tercentenary exhibition that toured the United States and France to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birth. Volume 39, submitted to the press during the last grant period, drew praise from the press's outside reader, who pronounced the manuscript "superlative," and added, "I will teach my . . . classes differently because of this volume."

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Alexander Hamilton (November 20, 1755 or 1757 - July 12, 1804) was George Washington's aide-de-camp, a battlefield hero, a member of the Constitutional Convention, one of two chief authors of the *Federalist Papers*, and head of the Federalist party. As the first Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, he forged America's tax and budget systems, Customs Service, Coast Guard, and central bank. His career was cut short by death in a duel with Aaron Burr in July 1804. His collected papers number fewer than the other Founders, though he was no less instrumental as a principal designer of the Federal Government.

Edited at Columbia University
Published by Columbia University Press

Complete in 27 volumes

of documents: appx. 17,000
total pages: 16,933

Year Begun: 1954
Completion: 1987

Selected Works that cite these papers:

Ron Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*
Douglas Ambrose and Robert Martin, *The Many Faces of Alexander Hamilton: The Life and Legacy of America's Most Elusive Founding Father*
Joseph Ellis, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*, Pulitzer Prize 2001

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Thomas Jefferson (April 13, 1743 – July 4, 1826) was the third President of the United States (1801–1809), the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, and one of the most influential Founding Fathers for his promotion of the ideals of republicanism in the United States. Major events during his presidency include the Louisiana Purchase (1803) and the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804–1806). Jefferson supported the separation of church and state and was the author of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom (1779, 1786). He was the co-founder and leader of the Democratic-Republican Party, which dominated American politics for a quarter-century. Jefferson served as the wartime Governor of Virginia (1779–1781), first United States Secretary of State (1789–1793) and second Vice President (1797–1801). A polymath and inventor, he also left behind extensive writings from his many enterprises vital to understanding early American life.

Edited at Princeton University
Published by Princeton University Press

34 volumes of a planned 52 volume edition

In 1997, the Jefferson Retirement Series (1809-1826) was founded as a separate project, edited and published by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello. Four volumes have been printed, covering up to 1812, with 19 additional volumes planned. The cumulative totals for both projects are 38 volumes completed of a planned 65.

of documents: 70,000

pages to date: 26,454

Year Begun: 1943

Est. Completion: 2026

Selected Works that cite these papers:

Joseph Ellis, *American Sphinx*, National Book Award 1997

Stephen Ambrose, *Undaunted Courage*

Christopher Hitchens, *Thomas Jefferson: Author of America*

Steven Waldman, *Founding Faith: Providence, Politics, and the Birth of Religious Freedom in America*

JAMES MADISON

James Madison (March 16, 1751 – June 28, 1836) was the fourth President of the United States (1809–1817), and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. In 1788, he wrote over a third of the *Federalist Papers*. As a leader in the first Congress, he drafted many basic laws and was responsible for the first ten amendments to the Constitution encompassed in the Bill of Rights. He served as Secretary of State from March 1801 to May 1803.

Edited at University of Chicago/University of Virginia
Published by University of Chicago Press – Volumes 1-10
University of Virginia Press – Volumes 11-

31 volumes of a planned 48 volume edition

of documents: 40,000

pages to date: 17,393

Year Begun: 1956

Est. Completion: 2026

Selected Works that cite these papers:

Richard Bauman and Tsvi Tahana, editors, *The Least Examined Branch: The Role of the Legislatures in the Constitutional State*

Todd Estes, *The Jay Treaty Debate: Public Opinion and the Evolution of Early American Political Culture*

Richard Labunski, *James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights*

A. J. Langguth, *Union 1812: The Americans Who Fought the Second War of Independence*

Cassandra Pybus, *Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and Their Global Quest for Liberty*

Norman Shofield, *Architects of Political Change*

Michael McDonnell, *The Politics of War: Race, Class, and Conflict in Revolutionary Virginia*

Dwight Merriam, *Eminent Domain Use and Abuse*

Jack Rakove, *Original Meanings*, Pulitzer Prize, 1997

GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington (February 22, 1732 – December 14, 1799) was the first President of the United States, (1789–1797), after leading the Continental Army to victory over the Kingdom of Great Britain in the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783). Following the end of the war in 1783, Washington retired to his plantation on Mount Vernon. After being alarmed in the late 1780s at the many weaknesses of the infant nation under the Articles of Confederation, he presided over the Philadelphia Convention that drafted the United States Constitution in 1787. Washington became President of the United States in 1789 and established many of the customs and usages of the new Government's executive department. He sought to create a great nation capable of surviving in a world torn asunder by war between Britain and France. His unilateral Proclamation of Neutrality of 1793. He supported plans to build a strong central Government by funding the national debt, implementing an effective tax system, and creating a national bank.

Edited at University of Virginia
Published by University of Virginia Press

60 volumes of a planned 90 volume edition

of documents: 135,000
pages to date: 27,347

Year Begun: 1968
Est. Completion: 2023

Selected Works that cite these papers:

John Ferling, *The First of Men: A Life of George Washington*
Joseph Ellis, *His Excellency, George Washington* and
Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation, Pulitzer Prize, 2001
Harlow Giles Unger, *The Unexpected George Washington: His Private Life*
Peter R. Henriques, *Realistic Visionary: A Portrait of George Washington*
David McCullough, *1776*
John Ferling, *Almost A Miracle: The American Victory in the War for Independence*
David Hackett Fischer, *Washington's Crossing*, Pulitzer Prize, 2005
Henry Wiencek, *An Imperfect God*

APPENDIX B

The process of preparing a document for publication in an historical documentary edition begins with locating the originals, which may be located in any number of repositories, and making a duplicate copy. Each document is transcribed—either by a staff member or through a subcontractor—and then additional transcriptions are attempted by someone expert in handwriting to decipher any unclear handwriting. Once all of the issues in transcribing are met, the document is then checked and verified against the original—usually by a team of two or more editors—to ensure its accuracy.

The verified transcriptions are then passed along to an editor with subject matter expertise to review its contents and write annotations—notes that explain references in the original material to provide the historical context necessary for understanding the underlying subjects and significance of the document. The annotated versions of all documents are arranged chronologically in a volume, typically covering several months in the subject's life.

The following documents show the progress of a single document, a letter from William Duane to Thomas Jefferson (14, February 1813) through the process from original>transcription>verification>annotation.

APPENDIX B

COPY OF ORIGINAL LETTER – William Duane to Thomas Jefferson, 14 Feb. 1813

C1813, Feb 14]

Phis^{ca}. Feb 14. 1813

Respected Sir,

I could not before this day find an opportunity undisturbed to answer yours of the 22^d ult. I have having been much of a secondary calculator, it is absolutely out of my power to say how my account with the Reviewers of Montesquieu's stands. When first published last year by the combination of one set of old friends and the abolition of the rest, I found in the sacrifice of a considerable number of the review, for the price of print and paper some little aid in saving me when I did not want the dollar, I have received some gratification in that respect, that even my wants contributed to utility; and in fact I feel perfectly satisfied, beside that I have some copies remaining which I sell now and then at 2/3 allowing the bookseller who sends my share, the usual discount. I have made various efforts to have the book reviewed in Boston N. York, and here without success, and even a copy which Mr. Ronaldson deposited in the hands of the Edinburgh Reviewers Editor, has had no better success; besides the conspiracy against virtuous men among those who profess themselves the lovers of light & literature. I had once an intention to send a copy to W. G. Smith of Charleston in return for an anecdote of Dr. Franklin which he volunteered to me; but on Tues about 6th dispatched it, I would he took himself off. I shall send you the original French Map by mail as soon as the weather clears so as to secure it from danger of wet on the road; and I shall be grateful for the copy of Tracy's work, which I shall be able to go through as a change of exercise during the summer.

I should not have ventured to touch upon political affairs, and even not mentioned the subject, having considered a former letter as in some measure indicating an opinion on that topic - and while I attempt of now I feel little but my ideas should give you pain; and am only

only

APPENDIX B

Duane to Jefferson Original, page 2

only justified to my self by the intention, which is not to give harm but to give
the sentiments of a feeling and sensitive observer.

I believe it is unnecessary to repeat how fatally realized my predictions have
been in our military affairs—the sacrifice in the west almost at an end,
and I shall be very well content if Harrison after spending a million of
dollars in his erratic course, returns with the western youth to his
native homes. The sacrifice on the Pacific side is only a second edition of
Apperance—Detroit—Lancaster, and Buffalo, are all the fruit of the
shocking disregard of common sense in the choice of unfit, incapable, and
prejudiced men, raised by the vilest intrigues to stations in which the sacrifice
of virtuous men was to be the fruit of their elevation. The solitary instance
of gallantry in the rebellions of soldiers, reflects back and renders more
conspicuous the inability of those who were the leaders! I could go into a
history of various actions on this subject that would shock you—I forbear—but
it will be history. What caused our defeat but reverses, when our general
was appointed but a year only to prevent his being a rival candidate
to a member of Congress from the same district. Another because the
indecisive at War declared "he would not have conducted the business against
Washington, had it not been for his aid." If I could believe that Providence
never interfered in human affairs or considered the innocent to suffer at the
hands of the guilty who were spared, I should consider our sufferings in the
last campaign a punishment for the shocking base action of the man of all
others best adapted to save the country from such disasters as ignorance
and conceit have brought upon us. How could we expect any thing but
reverses—when I am well as I should be to say, that the very first news
of the war, given to the enemy, by which Macbride's march was taken
and Hull's baggage intercepted, was communicated from Washington!
I have experienced your repugnance to believe any thing sinister of backslider
men—I therefore forbear to name the person under whose torch that news
passed to the North West company agent. Whenever Hull's trial comes on
the next will appear. I do not choose to place myself again in that
point of public view, which may expose me to reproach, my
fidelity to reputation, and the cruel abandonment of those who owe
me nothing but gratitude, and to whom I owe nothing but the thanks
which

APPENDIX B

Duane to Jefferson, page 3

C1813, Feb 147

which the recollection of her conduct always produces.

The policy which has been pursued towards British agents in admitting papers notoriously contrary to established law, has had a fatal effect on the minds of the men most devoted to the republic - a change in that course of policy and the influence which directs, is the death of thousands, and it cannot be long before it cannot be avoided it exists like an incubus on the executive power and burdens the whole government.

I have had repeated applications made to me to make a public exposition of numerous facts - I determined when the war was declared that I would not countenance any impositions which were not of vital importance to the State, and I have adhered to it; where I could not abstain I have been silent, and I have endeavored by private communications to render every person in my power.

I should write more frequently to you, if I did not apprehend, it would be disagreeable; I have written now only in consequence of your touching the subject.

I shall be glad to receive Tracy's work whenever you may think proper to send it. Have you seen Garrison's book on Political Economy - I find it translated into English published at N York is worthy of your perusal. Adieu me ever affectionately yours
Wm Duane

This letter has been delayed till this date (9 March) by a rumor that you were unwell; Col. Coles who called here removed my fears for that head - but the letter has lain over until taken up among the last months most fallacious business. Mr. Madison, in spite of all the licenses and his speech on his reelection have given more hopes to the republicans - but the failure of the laws in the Senate has had equal effect. Mr. A. shole the greater evils and got rid of the paper two years ago.

35119

APPENDIX B

INITIAL TRANSCRIPTION OF Duane Letter to Jefferson

\$\$\$WORD\$\$ indicates places where the first transcriber could not decipher the handwriting.

Phila
Feb 14. 1813

Respected Sir

I would not define this day find an opportunity under \$\$\$WORD\$\$ to \$\$\$WORD\$\$ your of the 22 \$\$\$WORD\$\$, \$\$\$WORD\$\$ having been much of a \$\$\$WORD\$\$ any calculator \$\$\$WORD\$\$ is absolutely and of my \$\$\$WORD\$\$ to say how my \$\$\$WORD\$\$ with the Review of \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ hands. When \$\$\$WORD\$\$ hand last year by the \$\$\$WORD\$\$ of one \$\$\$WORD\$\$ of \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ and the \$\$\$WORD\$\$ of the next, I found in this sacrifice of a \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ of \$\$\$WORD\$\$ review \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ him of \$\$\$WORD\$\$ and \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ With aid in \$\$\$WORD\$\$ me \$\$\$WORD\$\$ week; and as \$\$\$WORD\$\$ and their was in \$\$\$WORD\$\$ as good as a \$\$\$WORD\$\$ when i did not went the doctor, I have \$\$\$WORD\$\$ him gratification in that respect, that \$\$\$WORD\$\$ my wealth \$\$\$WORD\$\$ to lately; and in \$\$\$WORD\$\$ I \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ satisfied, believe that \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ which I \$\$\$WORD\$\$ now and \$\$\$WORD\$\$ at 2 & allowing the bookseller when \$\$\$WORD\$\$ my \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ meant \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ made \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ hand book reviewed in \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$, and \$\$\$WORD\$\$ hands \$\$\$WORD\$\$ Edinburg Reviewing \$\$\$WORD\$\$, has had no better \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$; \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ afraid \$\$\$WORD\$\$ many book who handbook thoughts \$\$\$WORD\$\$ of light \$\$\$WORD\$\$ I had \$\$\$WORD\$\$ are \$\$\$WORD\$\$ to had \$\$\$WORD\$\$ to W. L. Smith of \$\$\$WORD\$\$ in \$\$\$WORD\$\$ are \$\$\$WORD\$\$ of \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ which he voluntered \$\$\$WORD\$\$; \$\$\$WORD\$\$ as \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ it, named he \$\$\$WORD\$\$ himself \$\$\$WORD\$\$ I shall \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ by \$\$\$WORD\$\$ as \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ weather \$\$\$WORD\$\$ so as he secure it him danger of wet on the read; and I shall he \$\$\$WORD\$\$ for the \$\$\$WORD\$\$ of \$\$\$WORD\$\$, work, which I shall he able to go through as a \$\$\$WORD\$\$ of exercise during the summer.

I should not have \$\$\$WORD\$\$ to touch when \$\$\$WORD\$\$ affairs, and you not \$\$\$WORD\$\$ the \$\$\$WORD\$\$, having \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ better as in \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ me \$\$\$WORD\$\$ that their and which I \$\$\$WORD\$\$ i now. you to the by my \$\$\$WORD\$\$ should give you again; and are only justified to my self by the intention, which is not to give harm but to give the \$\$\$WORD\$\$ of a feeling and \$\$\$WORD\$\$ observer.

I believe it is \$\$\$WORD\$\$ to repeat how \$\$\$WORD\$\$ realised my predictions have \$\$\$WORD\$\$ on our military affairs-the sacrifices in the West are not \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ and I shall be very much content \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ after spending a million of Dollars in his \$\$\$WORD\$\$ course, returns with the western youth safe to their houses. The sacrifice on the \$\$\$WORD\$\$ river is only a \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ of Jeffersons-\$\$\$WORD\$\$-\$\$\$WORD\$\$, and \$\$\$WORD\$\$, are \$\$\$WORD\$\$ the \$\$\$WORD\$\$ of the \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ of \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ in the observing \$\$\$WORD\$\$, incapable, and \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$, \$\$\$WORD\$\$ by the \$\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$\$WORD\$\$ to \$\$\$WORD\$\$ in which the

of was to the fruit if their. The influence of gallantry in the &, reflects back and render more the who the! I could go into a history of on this subject that would shock you I had it be history. What could be history. What could only to prevent this being a rival candidate to a member of, the same, another human, the at he would not have conducted the, how it not his aid.” If I could believe that in human affairs or murdered the innocent to the of the guilty who were spared, I should consider our suffering, in the a punishment for the if the man of an but adopted to from the country as ignorance and have brought upon us. How could we suspect any but - When I am to day, that the very first news of the war, given to the enemy, by which was taken and, baggage was communicated from Washington than your to which any thing of I therefore to name the person under whose that to the North West, agent whenever the I do not choose to place myself again in that point if public view, which may me to, my to, and the cruel abandonment of those who owed me nothing has gratitude, and to whom I owe nothing but the which the recollection of their conduct always produces-

The policy which has been proposed towards, British agents in admitting notoriously contrary to law, has had a false effect on the union of the men most devoted to republic - a change in that course of policy and the which directs in the of, and it cannot be long where if criminal be advised it squarts like an on the however and the whole Government.

I have had repeated applications made to me to make a public exposition of numerous facts - I determined when the war was declared that I would not any in which were not of vital importance to the state and shame adhered to it: where I would not applaud I now been, and I have endeavoured by private communications to render every service in my house.

I should write more frequently to you, if I did not apprehend, it would be disagreeable; I have written now only in consequences of your touching the highest.

I shall be glad to receive work whenever you may think proper to it. Have you Garnish; both on - I find it translated into English at is worthy of your persual. ever affectionately yours
WORD\$

This letter has been delayed take this date (of March) by a rumor that you were; Col. Coles who called here removed my fears head - but the letter has over which taken up away the cool months. Mr about the likeness and his on have purer now

to he republicans - that the failure of the laws in the senate has \$\$WORD\$\$ equal original. Mr.
\$\$WORD\$\$ \$\$WORD\$\$ the greater \$\$WORD\$\$ and got rid of the \$\$WORD\$\$ two years ago.

APPENDIX B

Verified Transcription of Duane letter to Jefferson

From William Duane

RESPECTED SIR, Phila Feb 14. 1813

I could not before this day find an opportunity undisturbed to answer yours of the 22d ult. Never having been much of a pecuniary calculator, it is absolutely out of my power to say how my account with the Review of Montesquieu stands. When pressed hard last year by the combination of one set of old friends and the desertion of the rest, I found in the sacrifice of a considerable number of the review, for the price of print and paper were little aid in saving me from wreck; and as every cent then was in effect as good as a dollar when I did not want the dollar, I have derived some gratification in that respect, that even my wants contributed to utility; and in fact

I feel perfectly satisfied, beside that I have some copies remaining which I sell now and then at 2\$ allowing the bookseller who rents my store, the usual discount. I have made various efforts to have the book reviewed in Boston, N. York, and here without success; and even a copy which Mr Ronaldson deposited in the hands of the Edinburg Reviewers Editor, has had no better success; such is the conspiracy against virtue even among those who profess themselves the lovers of light & literature. I had once an inclination to send a copy to W. L. Smith of Charleston in return for an anecdote of Dr Franklin which he volunteered to me; but as I was about to dispatch it, I found he took himself off. I shall send you the original French Mss. by mail as soon as the weather clears so as to secure it from danger of wet on the road; and I shall be grateful for the Copy of Tracys work, which I shall be able to go through as a change of exercise during the Summer.

I should not have ventured to touch upon political affairs, had you not mentioned the subject, having considered a former letter as in some measure interdicting me on that topic—and while I attempt it now I feel loth lest my ideas should give you pain; and am only justified to myself by the intention, which is not to give harm but to give the sentiments of a feeling and minute observer.

I believe it is unnecessary¹ to repeat how fatally realized my predictions have been on our military affairs—the sacrifices in the west are not at an end, and I shall be very well content if Harrison after spending a million of dollars in his erratic course, returns with the western youth safe to their houses. The sacrifice on the Raisin river is only a second edition of Tippecanoe—Detroit—Queenstown, and Buffaloe, are all the fruit of the shocking disregard of common sense in the choice of unfit, incapable, and profligate men, raised by the vilest intrigues to stations in which the sacrifice of virtuous men was to be the fruit of their elevation. The solitary influence of gallantry in the subalterns & soldiers, reflects back and renders more conspicuous the imbecility of those who were the leaders! I could go into a history of transactions on this subject that would shock you—I forbear—but it will be history. What could we expect but reverses, when one general was appointed full of years only to prevent his being a rival candidate to a member of Congress from the same district. Another became tho the Secretary at War declared “he would not have conducted the business against Wilkinson, had it not been for his aid.” If I could believe that providence

APPENDIX B

Verified Transcription of Duane letter, page 2

ever interfered in human affairs or murdered the innocent to expiate the sins of the guilty who were spared, I should consider our sufferings in the last campaign a punishment for the shocking persecution of the man of all others but adopted to save the country from such disasters as ignorance and imbecillity have brought upon us. How could we expect any thing but reverses— When I am well authorised to say, that the very first news of the war, given to the enemy, by which Machilimackimac was taken and Hull's baggage intercepted, was communicated from Washington! I have experienced your repugnance to believe any thing sinister of particular men—I therefore forbear to name the person under whose frank that news passed to the North West companys agent. Whenever Hull's trial comes on the fact will appear. I do not choose to place myself again in that point of public view, which may expose me to persecution, my family to destruction, and the cruel abandonment of those who owed me nothing but gratitude, and to whom I owe nothing but the blushes which the recollection of their conduct always produces—

The policy which has been pursued towards British agents in admitting cargoes notoriously contrary to established law, has had a fatal effect on the minds of the men most devoted to the republic—a change in that course of policy and the influence which directs, is the work of thousands, and it cannot be long before it cannot be avoided it squats like an incubus on the executive power and benumbs the whole Government.

I have had repeated applications made to me to make a public exposition of numerous facts—I determined when the war was declared that I would not countenance any expositions which were not of vital importance to the state, and I have adhered to it; where I could not applaud I have been silent, and I have endeavoured by private communications to render every service in my power.

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I shall be glad to receive Tracys work whenever you may think proper to send it. Have you seen Ganilh's book on Political Economy—I find it translated into English published at N. York is worthy of your persual.

Believe me ever affectionately Yours
WM DUANE

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RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 20 Mar. 1813 and so recorded in SJL.

¹Manuscript: “unnecessary.”

APPENDIX B

Annotated/Fact-Checked Letter from Duane to Jefferson

From William Duane

RESPECTED SIR, Phil^a Feb 14. 1813

I could not before this day find an opportunity undisturbed to answer [yours of the 22^d ult.](#) Never having been much of a pecuniary calculator, it is absolutely out of my power to say how my account with the [Review of Montesquieu](#) stands. When pressed hard last year by the combination of one set of old friends and the desertion of the rest, I found in the sacrifice of a considerable number of the review, for the price of print and paper some little aid in saving me from wreck; and as every [cent](#) then was in effect as good as a dollar when I did not want the dollar, I have derived some gratification in that respect, that even my wants contributed to utility; and in fact I feel perfectly satisfied, beside that I have some copies remaining which I sell now and then at 2\$ allowing the bookseller who rents my store, the usual discount. I have made various efforts to have the book reviewed in Boston, N. York, and here without success; and even a copy which [M^f Ronaldson](#) deposited in the hands of the Edinburg Reviewers Editor, has had no better success; such is the conspiracy against virtue even among those who profess themselves the lovers of light & literature. I had once an inclination to send a copy to W. L. Smith of Charleston in return for an anecdote of D^r Franklin which he volunteered to me; but as I was about to dispatch it, I found he took himself off. I shall send you the original French Mss. by mail as soon as the weather clears so as to secure it from danger of wet on the road; and I shall be grateful for the Copy of [Tracys](#) work, which I shall be able to go through as a change of exercise during the Summer.

I should not have ventured to touch upon political affairs, had you not mentioned the subject, having considered a [former letter](#) as in some measure interdicting me on that topic—and while I attempt it now I feel loth lest my ideas should give you pain; and am only justified to myself by the intention, which is not to give pain but to give the sentiments of a feeling and minute observer.

I believe it is unnecessary⁺ to repeat how fatally realized my predictions have been on our military affairs—the sacrifices in the west are not at an end, and I shall be very well content if Harrison after spending a million of dollars in his erratic course, returns with the western youth safe to their homes. The sacrifice on the Raisin river is only a second edition of Tippecanoe—Detroit—Queenstown, and Buffaloe, are all the fruit of the shocking disregard of common sense in the choice of unfit, incapable, and profligate men, raised by the vilest intrigues to stations in which the sacrifice of virtuous men was to be the fruit of their elevation. The solitary influence of gallantry in the subalterns & soldiers, reflects back and renders more conspicuous the imbecility of those who were the leaders! I could go into a history of transactions on this subject that would shock you—I forbear—but it will be [history](#). What could we expect but reverses, when one general was appointed full of years only to prevent his being a rival candidate to a member of Congress from the same district.

APPENDIX B

Annotated/Fact-Checked Letter from Duane to Jefferson, page 2

Another because ~~he~~^{the} Secretary at War declared “he could not have conducted the business against Wilkinson, had it not been for his aid.” If I could believe that providence ever interfered in human affairs or murdered the innocent to expiate the sins of the guilty who were spared, I should consider our sufferings in the last campaign a punishment for the shocking persecution of the man of all others best adapted to save the country from such disasters as ignorance and imbecillity have brought upon us. How could we expect any thing but reverses— When I am well authorised to say, that the very first news of the war, given to the enemy, by which Machilimackinac was taken and baggage intercepted, was communicated from Washington! I have experienced your repugnance to believe any thing sinister of particular men—I therefore forbear to name the person under whose frank that news passed to the North West companys agent. Whenever Hull’s trial comes on the fact will appear. I do not choose to place myself again in that point of public view, which may expose me to persecution, my family to destruction, and the cruel abandonment of those who owed me nothing but gratitude, and to whom I owe nothing but the blushes which the recollection of their conduct always produces—

I have had repeated applications made to me to make a public exposition of numerous facts—I determined when the war was declared that I would not countenance any expositions which were not of vital importance to the state, and I have adhered to it; where I could not applaud I have been silent, and I have endeavored by private communications to render every service in my power.

I should write more frequently to you, if I did not apprehend, it would be disagreeable; I have written now only in consequence of your touching the subject.

I shall be glad to receive Tracys work whenever you may think proper to send it. Have you seen Ganilh’s book on Political Economy—I find it translated into English published at N. York is worthy of your perusal.

Believe me ever affectionately Yours

W^M DUANE

This letter has been delayed till this date (9 March) by a rumor that you were unwell; Col. Coles who called here removed my fears first on that head—but the letter has lain over until taken up among the last months miscellaneous business. M^f Madisons message about the licenses and his speech on his reelection have given new hopes to the republicans—But the failure of the laws in the Senate has excited equal disgust. M^r M. chose the Greater Evil and got rid of the lesser two years ago.

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 20 Mar. 1813 and so recorded in SJL.

TJ eventually attributed the failure of efforts to have Destutt de Tracy, *Commentary and Review of Montesquieu’s Spirit of Laws*, evaluated by the EDINBURG REVIEWERS EDITOR Francis Jeffrey to the latter’s bias against any American publication (TJ to Lafayette, 17 May 1816). William Loughton SMITH, a prominent Federalist

APPENDIX B

Annotated Letter, page 3

political leader and author, **TOOK HIMSELF OFF** by dying on 19 Dec. 1812 (*ANB*). In a letter dated [30 Apr. 1811](#), TJ counseled Duane to seek compromise and trust his fellow Republicans more on **POLITICAL AFFAIRS**.

Brigadier General William Henry **HARRISON** moved in January 1813 to the northwest theater of war with a force of Kentucky militiamen. He failed to unite his forces with those of Brigadier General James Winchester, who surrendered to the British at the **RAISIN RIVER** on 22 Jan. The following day Indian troops avenged themselves for earlier Kentuckian assaults on Indian captives by killing about sixty American prisoners of war (John C. A. Stagg, *Mr. Madison's War: Politics, Diplomacy, and Warfare in the Early American Republic, 1783–1830* [1983], 224–5). **FULL OF YEARS** at fifty-seven when commissioned a brigadier general in April 1812, Morgan Lewis had been tapped by the powerful DeWitt Clinton to win the New York governorship in 1804, but their subsequent feud polarized their party, and Clinton may have wanted to **PREVENT** Lewis from becoming a congressional **CANDIDATE** in 1812 (*ANB*). **SECRETARY AT WAR** William Eustis likely gained Wade Hampton's assistance in conducting the last court-martial against Brigadier General James **WILKINSON** (Donald E. Graves, "The Hard School of War: A Collective Biography of the General Officers of the United States Army in the War of 1812," *War of 1812 Magazine* [2006]: 7–8, 12). Duane regularly criticized what he regarded as the **SHOCKING PERSECUTION** of Wilkinson (*Philadelphia Weekly Aurora*, 7 Jan., 25 Feb., 10 Mar., 8 Sept., 6 Oct. 1812, 23 Feb. 1813).

Nearing Detroit late in June 1812 but not yet aware that war had been declared, Brigadier General William Hull hired the schooner *Cuyaboga* to carry his **BAGGAGE**, including official papers, which was quickly **INTERCEPTED** by the British who knew that war had commenced and welcomed the strategic advantage afforded them by the seized materials (Donald R. Hickey, *The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict* [1989], 81). The United States Government had turned a blind eye to American wartime trade with Canada, the Iberian peninsula, the West Indies, and British ships in American waters conducted under special licenses issued by **BRITISH AGENTS** (Hickey, "American Trade Restrictions during the War of 1812," *Journal of American History* 68 [1981]: 527–8).

Charles **GANILH'S** work on **POLITICAL ECONOMY**, *Des Systèmes d'Économie Politique, de leurs Inconvénients, de leurs Avantages, Et de la doctrine la plus favorable aux progrès de la richesse des nations*, 2 vols. (Paris, 1809), had been **TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH** as *An Inquiry into the Various Systems of Political Economy; Their Advantages and Disadvantages, and The Theory Most Favourable to the Increase of National Wealth*, trans. Daniel Boileau (New York, 1812).

In his 24 Feb. 1813 **MESSAGE ABOUT THE LICENSES**, President James Madison denounced especially the recent British policy of encouraging issuance of trade licenses in New England. He recommended an "effectual prohibition of any trade whatever, by citizens or inhabitants of the United States, under special licenses, whether relating to persons or ports; and in aid thereof a prohibition of all exportations from the United States in foreign bottoms" (*JHR*, 8:708; printed in Madison, *Papers, Pres. Ser.*, 6:PAGE NOS. TO COME). The following month the House of Representatives accordingly passed bills "to prohibit the use of licenses or passes issued under the authority of any foreign Government" and "to prohibit the exportation of certain articles ... in foreign ships and vessels," but these bills languished in the Senate (*JHR*, 8:708, 721, 730 [24 Feb., 1, 2 Mar. 1813]; *JS*, 5:295 [3 Mar. 1813]).

Madison's **SPEECH ON HIS REELECTION**, his 4 Mar. 1813 second inaugural address, justified the declaration of war against Great Britain, observed that nothing less than American sovereignty was at stake, reviewed British outrages including impressment of American seamen, denounced Great Britain for allying with Indians, accused the enemy of undermining political stability in the

APPENDIX C

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- *The Adams Paper Digital Edition*, 30 volumes published, ongoing edition from the Massachusetts Historical Society/Harvard University Press. Forthcoming 2008.
- *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson Digital Edition*, 34 volumes published in the main series, 4 in the retirement series, ongoing edition from the Princeton University Press. Forthcoming Summer 2008.
- *Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution Digital Edition*, 20 volumes published, ongoing edition of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Forthcoming Winter 2008.

Planned and Under Contract:

- *The Papers of James Madison Digital Edition*, 30 volumes published, ongoing edition of the University of Virginia Press, estimated Spring 2009.

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Possible additions:

The academic editors of the following editions have expressed interest in having their works included in Rotunda, and their publishers are willing to make arrangements:

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APPENDIX D

CURRENT ANNUAL COSTS FOR THE FOUNDING ERA PAPERS

PROJECT	Estimated Project Completion Year	Federal Support	Foundation and Host Institution Support	Total Annual Operating Costs
ADAMS PAPERS	2043	\$ 388,787	\$ 292,250	\$ 681,037
FRANKLIN PAPERS	2016	\$ 318,900	\$ 591,107	\$ 910,007
JEFFERSON PAPERS	2026	\$ 395,393	\$ 494,305	\$ 889,698
MADISON PAPERS	2026	\$ 180,000	\$ 275,376	\$ 455,376
WASHINGTON PAPERS	2023	\$ 259,000	\$ 578,000	\$ 837,000
TOTALS		\$1,542,080	\$2,231,038	\$3,773,118

FEDERAL GRANTS TO THE FOUNDING ERA PAPERS

PROJECT	NHPRC		NEH		Total Federal Grants
	<i>Earliest Year for NHPRC funding</i>	Total NHPRC Grants	<i>Earliest Year for NEH funding</i>	Total NEH Grants	
ADAMS PAPERS	1965	\$ 3,846,437	1975	\$ 1,698,453	\$5,544,890
FRANKLIN PAPERS	1968	\$ 4,110,929	1992	\$ 1,588,000	\$5,698,929
JEFFERSON PAPERS	1965	\$ 3,882,046	1985	\$ 2,278,000	\$6,160,046
MADISON PAPERS	1971	\$ 3,307,685	1993	\$ 1,135,000	\$4,442,685
WASHINGTON PAPERS	1968	\$ 2,079,663	1972	\$ 4,177,288	\$6,256,951
TOTALS		\$ 17,226,760		\$ 10,876,741	\$28,103,501