

National Historical Publications and Records Commission
Executive Summary Minutes
of May 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order by David S. Ferriero, chairman, at 9:08 am at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

Commission Members present:

David S. Ferriero, Chairman
W. Eric Emerson
Rebecca Hankins
Dennis Meissner
Karen F. Meyers
George Miles (*via telephone*)
Kaye Lanning Minchew
Naomi Nelson, Executive Committee Chair
Nicole Saylor
Michael Stevens
William G. Thomas, III

NHPRC staff

Christopher Eck, Executive Director
Lucy Barber
Jeff de la Concepcion
Keith Donohue
Darrell Meadows
Nancy Melley
Annette Paul
Daniel Stokes

Guests and Attendees

Robyn Engibous, Deputy Chief of Staff, Senator Daniel Sullivan
Joe Wicentowski, on behalf of Adam Howard

Mary Jo Binker, Association for Documentary Editing (ADE)
Jeff Looney, Papers of Thomas Jefferson Retirement Series and ADE Council
Barbara Teague, Council of State Archivists

I: Welcome, Announcements, Agenda

Mr. Ferriero opened the meeting and greeted the Members, staff, and guests. Mr. Ferriero spoke briefly about the effects of the Federal government shutdown from December 22, 2018 to January 25, 2019, noting its impact on the reduced number of applications for funding. He reported that the FY 2019 budget provided \$6 million for grants and professed hope of continued level funding for FY 2020. He confirmed that Ms. Nelson agreed to continue to serve as chair of the executive committee and that Mr. Miles agreed to another term on the executive committee. Mr. Ferriero noted that this July marks the 85th anniversary of the National Archives and the NHPRC. He then praised Ms. Saylor for the American Folklife Center's role, as described in a *New Yorker* article, in assisting the Passamaquoddy tribe in preserving songs on wax cylinder recordings produced in the 1890s that help the tribe preserve and transmit its cultural heritage in a digital age.

II: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Ferriero called for adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the November 2018 meetings, which were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Eck provided an overview of the applications and recommendations before the Commission. He also reported that the NHPRC met with the National Endowment for the Humanities to discuss mutual interests in supporting projects for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

Mr. Stevens inquired as to whether NEH expressed a genuine interest in the 250th anniversary. He observed that the NHPRC does not want to be dependent on external factors and not restrict ourselves to Federal partners. He asked that the 250th anniversary subcommittee reconvene to carry out its work and to set a goal for the November meeting with clear objectives for the NHPRC. Mr. Eck agreed to support the reconvening of the subcommittee.

On the partnership with the Mellon Foundation, Mr. Meadows reported that the Digital Edition Publishing Cooperatives planning teams have finished their work and eight teams submitted final reports in March. The implementation phase of the DEPC has an application deadline, and following some reconfiguration of some of the projects, 8-10 groups are expected to apply. Mellon plans to fund 3 cooperatives at \$1 million each. When asked for the key takeaways from this phase of the initiative, Mr. Meadows offered that some projects with university support are conceiving the DEPC as a long-lasting publishing enterprise, whereas others need institutional buy-in. Following the grant awards, the next phase will be how to promote the DEPCs as new publishing entities. Mr. Ferriero summarized by saying that Mellon is after sustainability and long-term return on its investment.

Mr. Eck reported on the success of the Commission's emphasis on "early legal records" in the Access to Historical Records grant offering, noting that 9 out of 25 of the applications dealt with such documents. Mr. Donohue reported on the completion of an online catalog of the nearly 300 NHPRC-supported publishing projects of the last 50 years. Mr. Eck encouraged the Commission—for those that may not have had the opportunity to reviewed the catalog—to do so, recognizing that this furthers its mission in making these materials better known and accessible to the public. Mr. Stokes reported on the Cooperative Agreements for two needs assessments for small and underrepresented communities that were approved by the Commission in November. Ms. Barber outlined the Financial Summary, noting that the carry-over amount has been greatly reduced.

IV. Executive Committee Report

Ms. Nelson reported on the previous day's executive committee meeting.

The Commission approved the following grant opportunity announcements, as amended:

- Access to Historical Records: Archives Projects
- Access to Historical Records: Major Initiatives (Preliminary and Full)
- Public Engagement with Historical Records
- Archives Collaborative Implementation

The executive committee also recommended funding a third year of the Founders Online Cooperative Agreement with FY 2019 funds. *This measure was approved unanimously.*

Several members of the Commission expressed their thanks to the staff for its forbearance during the shutdown and continued good work in preparing for the May meeting.

V. Public Comment

During the period of public comment, Jeff Looney spoke of ADE's continued support of the proposal to provide online access to all of the NHPRC-supported publications projects as a way to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

VI. Proposal Review

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

RJ102837 Council of State Archives—Eric Emerson
DP102795 University of Virginia—Naomi Nelson
DE102831 University of Virginia—Naomi Nelson, Michael Stevens
PE102746 University of South Carolina—Eric Emerson, Michael Stevens
PE102794 University of Virginia—Naomi Nelson
PE102789 University of Iowa—Will Thomas
RH102780 Charleston County Government—Eric Emerson
RH102791 Tulane University—Rebecca Hankins

One proposal from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (RH102747) *was deferred to November for consideration.*

The following projects were recommended for funding:

PUBLISHING HISTORICAL RECORDS

For projects that document major historical figures, and important eras and social movements in the history of the nation.

University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC

\$100,000

To support a project to publish the *Pinckney Statesmen of South Carolina* a four-volume digital edition related to the brothers Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Thomas Pinckney, and their cousin, Charles Pinckney, for the period 1769-1828. The Pinckneys are one of the most prominent southern families of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. All three fought in the Revolutionary War and were active in the political, military, and economic affairs that shaped the revolutionary era and early republic. The grant will allow the project to complete Volume 3 and select and advance editorial work on documents for Volume 4.

University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN

\$176,332

To support a project to edit the *Papers of Andrew Jackson*, the seventh President of the United States. During the grant period, the project will incorporate document image links for Volume 11 (1833) of its digital edition, and complete the bulk of work on Volume 12 (1834) of a projected 17-volume print edition. This volume brings together essential and new evidence related to Jackson's campaign against the banks, his renewed efforts to force the Cherokees into signing a removal treaty, and ongoing tensions with France over the latter's failure to pay American claims.

Indiana University-Purdue University
Indianapolis, IN

\$118,383

To support a project to edit the *Frederick Douglass Papers*, a documentary edition of the historical records of this 19th-century African American social reformer, orator, and statesman, with ongoing work focusing on the *Correspondence Series*; the *Journalism and Other Writings Series*; and the addition of 1,000 transcriptions to the *Frederick Douglass Papers Digital Edition*.

Ramapo College of New Jersey
Mahwah, NJ

\$124,238

To support the *Jane Addams Papers Project* to digitize, transcribe and publish online Jane Addams' correspondence and writings (articles, diaries, speeches). During the grant period, the project will advance editorial work on documents covering the period 1921-1924 for the digital edition and Volume 4 of the print edition. Documents to be edited showcase Addams growing national influence as a social reformer and activist focused on child labor and child protective services, the industrial and educational environments for the working class, and woman suffrage.

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ

\$186,657

To support a project to edit the *Papers of Thomas A. Edison*, a documentary edition of the historical records of the late 19th/early 20th century American inventor and entrepreneur. The project will add 119,000 document images scanned from Parts 4-5 of the microfilm edition covering the years 1899-1919 to its Image Edition, publish Volume 9 (Jan. 1888 – Dec. 1889) of its print edition, and advance editorial work on Volume 10 (Jan. 1890 – Apr. 1892), an especially busy and important period of Edison's life with the opening of his new laboratory at Orange, New Jersey.

Cumberland University
Lebanon, TN

\$143,888

To support a digital edition, building on the microfilm edition, of the *Papers of Martin Van Buren*, the eighth President of the United States. During the proposed grant period, the project staff will complete digitization and cataloguing of 13,000 documents (derived from the original NHPRC-funded microfilm edition); advance editorial work for at least 1,800 documents from Series 2 through 7; and publish all documents for Series 2 and 3 on the project website.

University of Maryland
College Park, MD

\$183,046

To support the *Freedmen and Southern Society Project*, documenting the history of emancipation in the United States. During the proposed grant period, the project will complete all editorial work on Volume 7 (*Law and Justice*), and perform document selection, second-stage verification, and annotation for four chapters of Volume 8 (*Family and Kinship*). The project also will add an additional 20 annotated documents to its website.

Trustees of Columbia University
New York, NY

\$120,490

To support a project to edit *The Selected Papers of John Jay*, the statesman, diplomat, signer of the Treaty of Paris, contributor to the *Federalist Papers*, and first Chief Justice of the United States. The project will publish Volume 6 (1795-1800) to its Rotunda digital edition, complete all remaining editorial work and publish the final Volume 7 (1801-1829) of the print edition (which will be added to the Rotunda edition following the grant period), and organize two culmination events to mark this achievement.

Stanford University
Stanford, CA

\$200,000

To support a project to edit the *Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers*, a documentary edition of historical records of this 20th-century Civil Rights leader, with work on Volumes 8-9, covering the period of September 1962 through 1964, and the *Digital Edition*. During the proposed grant period, the King Papers will focus its editorial work on Volume 8 (Sept. 1962 – Dec. 1963), including drafting and verification of annotation, and continue research in the digital collections of the LBJ Presidential Library for Volume 9 (1964). Documents to be edited illuminate King's planning and leadership of the watershed campaign to desegregate Birmingham, Alabama, and the seminal March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation
Springfield, IL

\$87,125

To support a project to edit the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln*. Project staff will advance editorial work on and publish 235 fully-transcribed, annotated and encoded documents, including document images, in the new Abraham Lincoln

Congressional Digital Edition, and provide online access to over 3,500 transcribed and imaged documents in the related Congressional Digital Archive.

University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA

\$107,014

To support a project to advance work on *Fame and Infamy: Walt Whitman's Correspondence, 1888-1892*, which aims to collect, edit, and publish the 19th century American poet's correspondence from the final four years of his life. Project editors will transcribe, annotate, and publish an additional 450 letters from this period of Whitman's life. The correspondence will be added to the online *Walt Whitman Archive*, a joint project with the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA

\$200,000

To support a project to edit *The Papers of George Washington*. During the proposed grant period, the project will publish Volumes 20 and 21 of the *Presidential Series*, thereby concluding its work on that series. Project staff are now shifting their collective energies to the *Revolutionary War Series*. Editors will publish Volume 27 and advance editorial work on an additional six volumes (28-33). Volume 26 of that series, as well as Washington's *Barbados Diary*, will be added to the Rotunda digital edition.

Princeton University
Princeton, NJ

\$146,580

To support a project to edit and publish a comprehensive edition of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*. During the proposed grant period, project staff will submit the manuscript for Volume 45 to press; advance editorial work on an additional three volumes (46-48); add Volume 43 to both its Rotunda digital edition and *Founders Online*; and in collaboration with the UVA Center for Digital Editing, create and launch a freely-accessible online edition of *Jefferson's Meteorological Records*.

INSTITUTES FOR HISTORICAL EDITING

University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA

\$268,000

To support a two year project to continue the Institute for Editing Historical Documents, which began in 1972. During the proposed grant period, core members of the Association for Documentary Editing Education Committee will implement a substantially revised program of activities for *basic* and *advanced* institutes, with the goal of reaching larger and more diverse audiences of practitioners in the field of documentary editing.

ACCESS TO HISTORICAL RECORDS

For projects at archival repositories in preserving and processing primary source materials.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, PA

\$95,846

To support a project to process and preserve 140 linear feet of manuscript and published materials from the J.B. Lippincott Co. Papers collection. Located in Philadelphia, Lippincott began publishing in 1836, first with religious works, eventually expanding into other genres particularly medicine. In addition to their publishing business, Lippincott operated a printing and bookbinding factory. By the end of the 19th century, Lippincott was one of the largest and best-known publishers in the world.

Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum
Rochester, NY

\$69,159

To support a project at The Strong to digitize the diaries of game designer Sid Sackson (1920-2002), which total approximately 13,000 pages, and create a searchable website linking those archives to Sackson's game designs. Widely considered the most prolific game inventor of the 20th century, Sackson brought to market more than 50 games, including *Acquire*, *Can't Stop*, *Sleuth*, *Focus*, *Bazaar*, *Metropolis*, *Monad*, *Take Five*, and *Venture*.

Alaska Library Network
Anchorage, AK

\$75,860

To support a project to digitize 54,200 documents related to the history of Alaska that are maintained in the collections of six repositories located in the eastern United States. The collections to be digitized include: The American Museum of

Natural History Jesup Exhibition Collection and George Thornton Emmons ethnographic papers on the Tlingit, Haida, Athabaskan, Inupiat, Yupik, and other Alaskan Native cultures; the Northwest Coast Trade Records and the Francis Dana Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society; the Nicholson Whaling Collection held by the Providence Public Library; the State Archives of North Carolina collection on Captain James Iredell Waddell and the *CSS Shenandoah*; the Sheldon Jackson Papers and Alaska Mission Files of the Presbyterian Historical Society; and additional papers of Sheldon Jackson located at the Princeton Theological Seminary.

University of Colorado
Boulder, CO

\$93,826

To support a project to process and digitize 34.5 linear feet, plus glass plate negatives and lantern slides, of the Earl Morris Collection. A pioneer of Southwest archaeology and the founding father of the archaeology collections and archive at the Colorado University Museum of Natural History, Morris was an archaeologist for the American Museum of Natural History and the Carnegie Institution. He led expeditions to New Mexico and Arizona for the University of Colorado from 1913-1916, again in 1922, and in 1924 and 1938. Morris was an expert in Ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) material culture, worked on Basket-maker period sites near Durango and the La Plata district, both in Colorado, and actively published on these topics.

Maryland State Archives
Annapolis, MD

\$50,619

To support access to Maryland's early legal records by digitizing 40 volumes of Chancery Court dockets for the period 1784 to 1851, 56 volumes of Chancery Court case transcriptions for the period 1801 to 1852, and 155 court files for the period 1786-1850 that relate to the guardianship of those deemed to have a mental illness..

Vermont Office Secretary of State
Montpelier, VT

\$45,198

To support a project to digitize more than 1,600 reel-to-reel tapes of the Vermont General Assembly's legislative committee meetings recordings from 1985 to 1998. The audio recordings document important legislative deliberations such as those around civil unions, educational funding, and health care reform. They are frequently used by researchers to understand the legislature's reasons for passing specific legislation.

Kentucky Arts, Education & Humanities Cabinet
Frankfurt, KY

\$97,906

To support access to Kentucky's early legal records and address major issues such as the settling of the Commonwealth prior to statehood and continued immigration to Kentucky through the World War II era. The project will digitize 69.2 cubic feet of court and naturalization records and make them available online through the Kentucky State Digital Archives, present three educational sessions that utilize subject-specific training materials, and implement a crowdsourcing program to engage citizens in the indexing of the digitized records

State Archives of North Carolina
Raleigh, NC

\$83,636

To support access to North Carolina's early legal records from 1665 to 1806. The project will arrange, describe, and provide online access to two collections of North Carolina's early court records: the Colonial Court Records (43 cubic feet) and the District Superior Court Records (170 cubic feet), create EAD finding aids, digitize approximately two cubic feet of the Colonial Court Records and make them available online through North Carolina Digital Collections, and host a platform for volunteer citizen archivists to create transcriptions of the digitized records

Maine State Archives
Augusta, ME

\$96,195

To support access to Maine's early legal records by digitizing approximately 42,000 pages from the unpublished Journals of the Maine House of Representatives and the Maine Senate starting with statehood in 1820 through 1865. Along with the files on individual bills, also preserved in the Maine State Archives, and the limited collections of published documents of the House and the Senate, available in the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library, the Maine State Library, and other repositories, the journals are one of the linchpins to understanding Maine's early legislative history.

University of Illinois
Champaign, IL

\$94,205

To support a project to process the Woodward Collection, one of the largest advertisement collections in the United States, dating from the late 1800s through the mid-1980s. The University of Illinois Library will create a folder-level EAD finding aid and a collection-level MARC record for the collection, design and launch a web portal created to enhance access to and a better understanding of the Woodward Collection, and digitize approximately 30 advertisements that are in the public domain and make them available online.

State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

\$79,538

To support access to Wisconsin's early legal records through the Citizen Petition Access and Digitization Project, which will process citizen petitions submitted to the Wisconsin legislature from 1836 to 2009 (a total of 120 cubic feet). The project will then scan and make available online half of the petitions from the territorial period, 1836-1890, including all petitions related to African Americans and Native Americans, and create an online exhibition and classroom curriculum kits featuring select petitions.

Tulane University
New Orleans, LA

\$36,987

To support a project to arrange and describe 115 linear feet of manuscript materials from the collection of Marguerite Cartwright (1914-1986). After attaining a Ph.D. in Sociology, Dr. Cartwright had a long career as a university instructor. For more than three decades, Dr. Cartwright's newspaper columns appeared regularly in *The Pittsburgh Courier*, where she was the correspondent for the United Nations, and *The New York Amsterdam News*. Cartwright was a specialist in African affairs as a charter member of the U.N. Correspondents' Circle and was appointed as one of five founding members of the University of Nigeria in Nsukka.

University of Oregon
Salem, OR

\$59,758

To support a project providing access to the work of three collections of prominent children's literature writers and artists: Kurt Wiese, Caldecott and Newbery Award-honored illustrator and author; Edwin Tunis, educational children's book illustrator; and Kurt Werth, illustrator and writer. The project will update EAD finding aids, create collection-level MARC records, digitize 150 illustrations and manuscripts for an online exhibitions, and mount two exhibits at the Eugene Public Library.

ARCHIVES COLLABORATIVES – PLANNING GRANTS

For projects to plan and develop a working collaborative designed to enhance the capacity of small and diverse organizations with historical records collections. Successful collaboratives will be eligible to apply for grants to implement projects.

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
Mount Pleasant, MI

\$20,000

To develop a Strategic Action Plan for the consolidation of archival, digital, print, and media resource materials within a Center for Anishinaabe Language, Literature, and Storytelling (CALLS). Collaborating partners include the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinaabe Culture & Lifeways, Mount Pleasant, MI; the Michigan State University Native American Institute, East Lansing, MI; the Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center, Okemos, MI; and the Consortium for Critical Diversity in the Digital Age Research, East Lansing, MI. Representatives from Anishinaabe tribes in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota will be recruited to serve on two advisory boards.

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
Dearborn, MI

\$22,442

To develop a partnership to create an online index of Arab American archival collections housed in libraries, museums, and archives across the country and produce a plan for developing an online collection of materials related to Arab American literature, music, and art for the period 1910 to 1940. Collaborating partners include the Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, MI; the Moise A. Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies, Raleigh, NC; and Dr. Maria Curtis, University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Lipscomb University
Nashville, TN

\$17,000

To develop a plan for a Nashville Archives Collaborative to share best practices, tools, and techniques that will help them preserve, protect, and promote the use of their archival collections. In preliminary discussions about this initiative, the

partner universities each have demonstrated both an understanding of the benefits of sharing professional practices in relation to the preservation and sustainability of archival collections and a commitment to collaborating with other small institutions. Collaborating partners include Lipscomb University, Fisk University, and the Meharry Medical College in Nashville.

Northern Michigan University
Marquette, WI

\$22,000

To develop a plan for the Upper Peninsula Digital Preservation and Access Network. Collaborating partners include Northern Michigan University, Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Lake Superior State University in Marie, Peter White Public Library in Marquette, and the Marquette Regional History Center.

Wisconsin Library Services
Madison, WI

\$22,547

To develop a community-driven strategic planning process to design an Archives Collaborative to increase the capacity of small, rural, under-resourced, and underrepresented repositories to create, manage, and share digitized historical resources. Collaborating partners include Wisconsin Library Services, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and Recollection Wisconsin, a statewide digital collections consortium.

South Asian American Digital Archives
Philadelphia, PA

\$25,000

To develop a Community Archives Collaborative for institutions across the country to collaborate, share skills, training, and best practices, to leverage pooled resources, and provide peer-to-peer mentoring to support long-term sustainability and growth. Collaborating partners include the South Asian Digital Archive in Philadelphia, Densho in Seattle, the Texas After Violence Project in Austin, and the Interference Archive in Brooklyn.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH HISTORICAL RECORDS

For projects that encourage citizen engagement with historical records, especially those available online.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, PA

\$45,839

To support the “Becoming U.S. Teacher Institute,” a week-long summer institute for approximately three dozen K-12 educators to introduce them to archival research and provide them with strategies for using primary source materials for building lesson plans within the curriculum.

The History Center in Tompkins County
Ithaca, NY

\$132,946

To support HistoryForge, a web application that combines information from U.S. census records, Sanborn maps, and other records in to an interactive framework of human and spatial relationships that illustrate what communities looked like and how they evolved over time. The project will plan and offer curriculum development workshops to middle- and high-school teachers, as well as work with other communities to set up their own instances of HistoryForge.

[The Commission went into Executive Session at 11:42 PM and adjourned at 11:57 AM]