

**National Historical Publications and Records Commission**  
**Executive Summary Minutes**  
**of November 23, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by David S. Ferriero, chairman, at 9:00 am via teleconference.

*Commission Members present:*

David S. Ferriero, Chairman  
W. Eric Emerson  
Adam Howard  
Dennis Meissner  
George Miles  
Kaye Lanning Minchew  
Naomi Nelson  
Nicole Saylor  
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

*National Archives Staff*

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*Guests and Attendees*

Mary Jo Binker, Association for Documentary Editing (ADE)  
Christopher Brick, Eleanor Roosevelt Papers (ADE)  
Sarah Koontz, Council of State Archivists

**I: Welcome, Announcements, Agenda**

Mr. Ferriero opened the meeting and greeted the Members, staff, and guests. He offered special thanks to Jeff de la Concepcion for his work in facilitating the meeting materials. Mr. Ferriero spoke briefly about the effects of the Federal government shutdown in late December 2018 and early January 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 the other members agreed to another term on the executive committee. Mr. Ferriero noted that this July marks the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Archives and the NHPRC and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “National Treasure.”

Mr. Hamilton reported on the state of the budget, noting that a Continuing Resolution is pending that would carry through operations from November 22, 2019 to December 20, 2019. For FY 2020, the House of Representatives provided \$7 million in its bill, and the Senate bill does not provide any funding. Congress may reach a compromise position or negotiate a year-long Continuing Resolution based on FY 2019 funding.

Ms. Bredhoff reported on the work of the America 250 Commission (America250.org), describing the membership, and the inclusion of AOTUS as ex officio member. America 250 has been focused on fundraising, including requesting funds for Congress, and its regular meetings. In addition to representing the National Archives, Ms. Bredhoff is involved in the plans for National Archives celebrations, including a possible 76-hour open house at the National Archives on July 2-4, 2026, a symposium on the American Revolution, programming at the 14 Presidential Libraries, civic education and outreach through the Legislative Archives and through stories from NARA's digital records in celebration of the Declaration of Independence and other Charters of Freedom. Mr. Ferriero informed the Commission that Ms. Bredhoff is also part of the team to redo the Public Vaults, funded through the National Archives Foundation.

Mr. Eck celebrated AOTUS on the 10-year anniversary as Chairman of the Commission, and Mr. Ferriero recalled that on his first day on the job, he chaired his first meeting of the Commission, saying how pleased he was to be, for the first time, "giving money away rather than begging for it."

## **II: Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

*Mr. Ferriero called for adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the May 2019 meetings, which were approved by unanimous consent.*

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

As a preface to his report, Mr. Eck pointed out the impact that NHPRC grants make, particularly in leveraging new funding. Often through adjustments to grant opportunity announcements, the NHPRC spurs activity. After the "Early Legal Records" language was added to the Archival Projects applications, the number of applications and awards increased exponentially.

Mr. Stokes reported on the progress of two cooperative agreements awarded after the November meeting designed to help the Commission address its strategic goal of enhancing the capacity of small and diverse organizations with historical records collections. One of the agreements is with Shift Design, which will conduct a needs assessment to identify hidden collections documents the nation's diverse culture and history. Shift will survey 50-100 small and diverse organizations and report after the survey is complete in May 2020. A second agreement with Lyrasis will conduct a needs assessment of small and diverse archival organizations to identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities related to long-term sustainability, growth, and public access. Lyrasis will also be working with state boards that have worked extensively with small archival institutions. They will report after completing their survey in June 2020.

Mr. Meadows provided an update on the NHPRC-Mellon Digital Edition Publishing Cooperatives program. He reminded the Commissioners that the intent of the initiative was to develop new modes of collaborative publishing entities that in 2018 the program funded eight planning teams, and in May 2019 received 10 applications for full implementation support. Three projects were selected for further revision and consideration for funding up to \$1 million by the Mellon board at its December meeting: the University of Virginia, Bucknell, and the Massachusetts Historical Society. In addition to these grants, the initiative got the field to think about the benefits of such collaborations.

There are several additional ways, NHPRC is redesigning its Publications program: a revamped Editing Institute, to grow the field and attract new and diverse projects; and a New Guide for Digital Scholarly Editing in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Humanities. NEH has committed funds to bring together representatives from the key organizations and an array of scholarly edition projects next April to develop a framework for such a guide and to discuss the appropriate balance for funders. These combined

efforts will shape Commission thinking about how best to fund Next-Generation Historical Editions, perhaps in two stages. Early stage funding might go for training, editorial and technical planning, and laying the groundwork. Successful projects would move on to implementation. Mr. Meadows also described the Video Series on YouTube for Next Generation Historical Editions.

Mr. Ferriero expressed his pleasure with the Mellon partnership and the cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities and believed that we must continue to look for new partners.

#### **IV. Executive Committee Report**

Ms. Nelson reported on the previous day's executive committee meeting. Mr. Miles described the work of the 250<sup>th</sup> Semiquincentennial Committee. Over the course of several months, the Committee looked at the option of pursuing additional funding for projects, but decided that such prospects were dim. Instead, the Committee recommended adding language to existing Grant Announcements reflecting the desire of the Commission to celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Commission approved adding the following to the Grant Announcements:

*The National Historical Publications and Records Commission seeks projects that will significantly improve public discovery and use of major historical records collections. The Commission is especially interested in projects to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. We encourage applications that use collections to examine the ideals behind the founding of the United States and the continual interpretation and debate over those ideals over the past 250 years. We welcome projects that engage the public, expand civic education, and promote understanding of the nation's history, democracy, and culture from the founding era to the present day.*

Mr. Miles then reported on a second recommendation by the Committee to hold a National Convening of the leadership of organizations represented on the Commission and affiliated stakeholders. At the Executive Committee meeting, after hearing about ongoing efforts by AOTUS with national organizations, the Executive Committee decided on a different approach to sharing information among the Commission, staff, and others about the challenges and opportunities facing their respective fields.

The Executive Committee proposed that at the May and November 2020 meetings that the Commission representatives prepare short 5-minute presentations to introduce their organizations (size, composition, mission) and outline their perspective on the needs of the field and the audiences they serve and how the NHPRC and others might better address those concerns. In addition to the reports from the Commission Members, the Commission would plan to invite similar presentations from affiliated stakeholders (research libraries, CoSA, etc.), funders (NEH, IMLS), associated branches within the National Archives, and other federal agencies with similar missions (Library of Congress, Smithsonian).

Mr. Miles emphasized that such an approach is part of the Commission's Strategic Plan and that such presentations and discussions are vital to continuing our own education and developing a better understanding of each other's needs. Ms. Nelson added that the approach addresses concerns some Members had about communication with their representative organizations. Mr. Emerson asked if the presentations would come from the representatives or from their organizations, and Mr. Thomas thought the Commission should adopt a strategy of both leadership and delegates to Commission.

Mr. Meissner asked if such presentations and reporting back to their organizations might become a permanent part of the fabric of the meetings. Both he and Mr. Miles expressed some optimism about this process as adding depth to the Commission's agendas. Ms. Hankins asked about who else might be invited to

present to the Commission as a whole, suggesting that we should be inclusive and consider diverse groups not already represented, calling particular attention to the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. The Commission agreed to begin those representative presentations with the May 2020 meeting and requested staff assistance in preparing the agendas.

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

- Archives Collaborative Implementation
- Publishing Historical Documents
- State Board Programming

## V. Public Comment

Ms. Koontz expressed her gratitude for being at the meeting and relayed CoSA's work on behalf of NHPRC and the National Archives, its desire to be part of the 250<sup>th</sup> celebrations, and its willingness to be included for formal presentations at a future meeting.

## VI. Proposal Review

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

*The Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia*(PD102973) – Ms. Nelson

*The Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia*(PD102975) – Ms. Nelson

*University of Georgia* (RC102976) – Ms. Minchew

*South Carolina Department of Archives and History*(RC102958) – Mr. Emerson

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

### PUBLISHING HISTORICAL RECORDS

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American University

Washington, DC

\$36,117

To support a project to edit the *Correspondence of Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore* and produce digital and print editions of letters to and from the 12th and 13th U.S. presidents. The project expects to accession an estimated 14,000 letters, of which ~1,100 will be fully transcribed, annotated and published in three volumes, covering the years 1844-1853—a decade in which “the nation expanded its boundaries while advancing toward civil war.” During the proposed grant year, the project director will establish workflow systems and metadata standards, perform imaging, accessioning, and identification of new letters, as well as select, transcribe, and proofread an initial set of 20 letters, which will inform the project’s guide to editorial practice. A project website will also be launched. (PD102961-20)

University of Kentucky Research Foundation

Lexington, KY

\$75,000

To support the John Dickinson Writings Project, which is editing and publishing *The Complete Writings and Selected Correspondence of John Dickinson*. The edition is currently estimated at nine volumes, and will be published in both print and digital forms. During the proposed grant year, staff members will bring to near completion *Volume 4 (1770–1775)*, the first of two volumes documenting the years of the American Revolution, and develop the project’s digital edition website with 20 sample documents. (PD102964-20)

Massachusetts Historical Society  
Boston, MA

\$160,000

To support a project to edit *The Adams Papers*—a selective edition of the papers of John Adams and the Adams Family. During the proposed grant period, editorial staff will publish volume 15 and commence editorial work on volume 16 of the *Adams Family Correspondence (AFC)*, advance work on volume 21 of the *Papers of John Adams* to near completion, and prepare XML files for and publish 288 documents from *AFC* volume 13 to the Adams Papers Digital Edition. (PD102965-20)

Research Foundation for SUNY Old Westbury  
Albany, NY

\$127,729

To support a project to edit the *Papers of Clarence Mitchell, Jr.* An American labor and civil rights activist and Director of the NAACP's Washington Bureau, Mitchell served as the NAACP's chief lobbyist for nearly 30 years. During the proposed grant period, project staff will complete final review and correction of page proofs for print edition Volume 5 (1955-1957) and Volume 6 (1958-1960); complete final revision of the Volume 7 (1961-1964) manuscript, and resume editorial work for Volume 8 (1965-1968). For the digital edition, staff at the University of Virginia's Center for Digital Editing will complete the digital conversion of previously published print volumes 1-3 (documenting the years 1942-1950). (PD102966-20)

George Washington University  
Washington, DC

\$160,000

To support a one-year grant to the *Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project*. During the proposed grant period, editorial staff will add an electronic edition of Volume 2 (1949-1952) of the *Papers of Eleanor Roosevelt: The Human Rights Years* to the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers website; publish print Volume 3 (1953-1955); advance editorial work on Volume 4 (1956-1959); perform document search and accessioning for Volume 5 (1960-1962); and publish at least 30 additional sound-recording transcripts to the *Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Audio Archive*. (PD102968-20)

The Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, VA

\$130,000

To support a project to edit and publish a comprehensive edition of *The Papers of James Madison*. During the proposed grant period, the project will publish *Presidential Series* Volume 11 (thus completing that series altogether), and advance work on Volumes 12 and 13 of the *Secretary of State Series*, as well as Volumes 4 and 5 of the *Retirement Series*. (PD102973-20)

The Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, VA

\$85,000

To support the *Presidential Recordings* project at the Miller Center of Public Affairs. For the proposed grant period, project staff will transcribe, annotate, and prepare publication-ready files for 467 conversations related to the Election of 1964, drawn from the secret recordings of President Lyndon B. Johnson. These conversations comprise 51 hours of recorded material and cover President Johnson's tactics and strategy for winning both the presidential election and expansive majorities in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate in November 1964; the respective trajectories of the Democratic and Republican parties; Johnson's evolving thoughts about White House, Cabinet, and Executive Branch personnel; and a legislative agenda for Johnson's first full term as president. (PD102975-20)

Kentucky Historical Society  
Frankfort, KY

\$98,800

To support a project to edit and publish the *Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition*. During the proposed grant period, project staff will continue development of its annotation tool, and perform all editorial work on and publish an additional 400 documents on the project's digital edition website. (PD102978-20)

University of Wisconsin

Madison, WI \$160,000

To support a project to edit and publish *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution and the Adoption of the Bill of Rights*. During the grant year, the project will published volume 1 and complete all editorial work for volumes 2 and 3 of the *Bill of Rights Series*; add supplementary documents to the UW-Madison Libraries Digital Collections; and commence work on the cumulative index for DHRC project volumes 1-34. (PD102993-20)

## MAJOR INITIATIVES

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Unified Court Systems of New York State

Jamaica, NY \$263,575

To support digitizing and making available freely online over 400,000 naturalization records from the boroughs of Queens and the Bronx. The Naturalization Records (1794-1952) include Declarations of Intent, Petitions for Naturalization, and other records useful for genealogical and historical research. The project will establish ties with the New York City Public Library's Queens and Bronx branches and with history students recruited by St. John's University to transcribe additional metadata. (RM102987-20)

Mississippi State University

Starkville, MS \$340,424

To support the Lantern Project, a collaborative effort which focuses on the records that illuminate the experience of persons sold "down river" as part of the slave trade conducted on the Mississippi River. The project which will identify, digitize, transcribe and index legal records of enslaved persons held by Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, Delta State University, Columbus-Lowndes Public Library, the Natchez Historical Foundation, and the Montgomery County (AL) Archives. The Lantern Project will coordinate the process digitizing, transcribing and indexing these records in an online database that will be full-text searchable and provide digital images of the original records. (RM102988-20)

Library of Virginia

Richmond, VA \$175,392

To support a project to enhance the website Virginia Untold: the African-American Narrative by adding digitized Registers of Free Blacks (1793-1865) from 19 localities in the Commonwealth, along with five additional Registers held by Arlington County. In addition, the project will arrange, describe, and digitize records relating to free blacks from the City of Richmond. The project will also work with county clerk's offices that hold additional Registers to encourage digitization, and build on efforts to engage the public in transcribing the records. (RM102989-20)

University of South Florida

Tampa, FL \$250,000

To support a project to translate and transcribe almost 8,000 pages from the Archives of the Diocese of St. Augustine of baptism, marriage, confirmation, and death notations, mostly written in Spanish, though interspersed with Latin and English, documenting the events from 1594-1821 for the Europeans, Indians, and Africans living there. The documents will be added to the website, La Florida, along with biographical portraits to deepen understanding of colonial Florida society. (RM102992-20)

## STATE BOARDS

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South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Columbia, SC \$12,000

To support the work of the South Carolina Historical Records Advisory Board, including a survey and four focus groups to gather information for incorporation and drafting of a new strategic plan; focus group to share information about the needs of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the state; and design basic archival training for the archives of HBCUs and other primarily African American archives.

(RC102958-20)

Tennessee State Library and Archives  
Nashville, TN \$38,500

To support the Tennessee Historical Records Advisory Board's programming, including a regrant program to preserve and provide access to the state's records, the Tennessee Archives Institute for training archivists; and access to online workshops that provide basic information about digitization. (RC102959-20)

Missouri Office of the Secretary of State  
Jefferson City, MO \$12,422

To support the Missouri Historical Records Advisory Board's programming, including scholarships to a Family History Conference to 20 genealogical and historical societies and providing 2,000 additional copies of a six-generation genealogy chart for distribution at workshops, conferences, and other professional gatherings. (RC102960-20)

Montana Historical Society  
Helena, MT \$11,996

To support the Montana Historical Records Advisory Board's programming, including scholarships for professional and amateur archivists to attend training; a one-day workshop to be held in conjunction with the Montana History Conference, distribute two editions of the *Montana Archivist* newsletter and an Archives Month poster, offer the Traveling Student Archivist program that provides on-site assistance to an underserved archival repository, and conduct an Archives Blitz to help process collections at a small, underserved archival repository. (RC102962-20)

Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources  
Cheyenne, WY \$21,474

To support the Wyoming Historical Records Advisory Board's programming, including at least two workshops, up to five regrants of \$2,500 each for projects to process, preserve, and provide increased access to records, and sponsor the ARMA (formerly the Association of Records Managers and Administrators) spring seminar. (RC102963-20)

Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration  
Denver, CO \$40,000

To support the Colorado Historical Records Advisory Board's programming, including up to six regrant projects that have a digital access component, conduct site visits for all of the regrant projects, a two-day workshop focusing on preservation and access, and provide scholarships for attending professional workshops on archival practices. (RC102970-20)

Oklahoma Department of Libraries  
Oklahoma City, OK \$80,000

To support the Oklahoma Historical Records Advisory Board's programming, including eight training opportunities in collaboration with key partners, award at least 15 scholarships to support professional development, distribute Archives Month posters, conduct up to ten preservation assessments at smaller repositories, and fund at least 15 regrant projects to address collections care concerns or increase digital access. (RC102971-20)

Ohio Historical Society  
Columbus, OH \$30,720

To support the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, including awards for the best use of Ohio's historical records in History Day projects, an award to recognize significant achievements in the management, preservation, access, advocacy and use of historical records in Ohio, implement the Ohio Citizen Archivist Award, fund regrants for policy development, collection assessment, preservation, and digitization projects,

continue the Archives Fellowship Program to provide graduate students with archival training and practical experience, and award scholarships for professional development. (RC102974-20)

University of Georgia  
Atlanta, GA

\$40,000

To support the work of the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board's programming, including two scholarships to cover the cost of attending the Georgia Archives Institute, present approximately 25-30 awards recognizing outstanding work in the preservation and use of archives, award eight regrants to local repositories, and co-sponsor the production and distribution of materials for Archives Month. (RC102976-20)

Texas State Library and Archives Commission  
Austin, TX

\$23,802

To support the work of the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board's programming, including registration for up to 30 people to participate in an online Basics of Archives course, conduct five 90-minute webinars on developing emergency preparedness and response plans, conduct three Texas Archival Resources Online training workshops in El Paso, Denton, and San Antonio, develop and distribute a digital Archives Month poster, sponsor and participate in the Austin and Houston Archives Bazaars, continue awards program activities for National History Day and Archival Excellence, and sponsor and participate in a session on archival records at the Texas State Historical Association meeting. (RC102977-20)

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
Raleigh, NC

\$25,364

To support the North Carolina Historical Records Advisory Board's programming, including at least six online tutorials covering the basics of archival management, at least five site visits to provide assessments and two to three days of training, and prepare site visit reports with recommendations for increased access to and preservation of collections. (RC102979-20)

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Richmond, VA

\$10,000

To support the Virginia Historical Records Advisory Board's programming, including a survey of the needs of the state's archival repositories and a strategic plan with the assistance of a consultant. (RC102980-20)

Kansas Historical Foundation, Inc.  
Topeka, KS

\$54,320

To support the Kansas Historical Records Advisory Board, including regrants to enhance online access to historical records, host vendor tables at professional and avocational meetings, and award scholarships for educational offerings. (RC102981-20)

Utah Division of Archives and Records Service  
Salt Lake City, UT

\$40,000

To support the Utah Historical Records Advisory Board, including funding for at least six regrant projects that increase access to historical collections, conduct a Family History Workshop, hold two regional one-day workshops on grant writing and archives fundamentals, and sponsor at least one event during Archives Month. (RC102983-20)

State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
Madison, WI

\$38,976

To support the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board's programming, including three workshops each year at the statewide Local History and Historic Preservation Conference, four workshops for municipal and county government record custodians, sponsorship of the Governor's Archives Awards, and award six professional development scholarships. (RC102984-20)



**ACCESS TO HISTORICAL RECORDS**

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Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Juneau, AK

\$49,238

To support a project to select and digitize the 50 most significant civil and criminal case files from the territorial era, 1884-1959, plus surviving records of territorial police, U.S. Marshals, and Indian Police Force. (RH102747-20)

*[The Commission went into Executive Session at 11:00 PM and adjourned at 11:20 AM]*