

# The Association for Documentary Editing e-newsletter

#### Summer 2010

# **Editor's Letter**

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you all have had an enjoyable summer. The theme of this issue is advocacy, and features Charlene Bickford's report on the House Subcommittee's NHPRC reauthorization hearings and Sue Perdue's testimony and comments from that hearing. We also have plenty of opportunities for members to expand their own advocacy efforts, with calls from liaison and membership committees. Amanda Gailey and Andrew Jewell weigh in with their exciting plans for DE.

See you in Philadelphia--Jenn Steenshorne

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# **ADE News**

# **Annual Meeting**

The Association for Documentary Editing's Annual Conference is just around the corner! This year we head to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 15-17, 2010, at the Hilton Garden Inn.

The registration form and program can be found on the web site at: <a href="http://documentaryediting.org/meeting/">http://documentaryediting.org/meeting/</a> index.html

# **Membership Committee**

Calling all ADE members! The Membership Committee needs your help! We are looking to expand the ADE's membership, and broaden our reach. We

need your suggestions for potential members. Maybe some of your colleagues have not joined, or you know an editor whose name is not on our current members list (add directory URL). You might have a local library or historical society that is mounting transcriptions or images of historical documents, who would benefit from joining the ADE. You don't need to get in touch with them (though you can, if you like!). Just send me their names and e-mail addresses, and let me know if we can use your name in our recruitment request. Building a stronger and more varied ADE is an essential part of our long-term goals. Please help the Membership Committee build for the future. Thanks,

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# **Liaison Committee**

Are you a member of another professional association? Do you know members of these groups who might be interested in learning more about documentary editing? Is there information about your other organization that would be of interest to ADE members? If so, we need your help! You can provide vital professional service as an **ADE Liaison**.

Last year the ADE conducted a survey of its members and found that our members are affiliated or connected to over 158 other professional societies!

Please consider serving as an **ADE liaison** to one of the other organizations to which you belong. The work is relatively simple but the mutual rewards in expanding the reach and the value of documentary editing are enormous.

#### An ADE Liaison can:

- Take membership brochures to professional meetings
- · Identify potential prospects for ADE membership and pass along information to Membership
  Chair
- Gather and provide information about meetings, conferences, awards, research that might be of interest to other ADE members
- Pursue formal ADE affiliation with other organization as merited upon approval of ADE Council
- Provide members with information about ADE annual meeting, awards, committee work, and initiatives as pertinent to members of other professional organizations

We can't do it without you! Volunteer today by contacting Martha King, Liaison Coordinator, for more details mjking@princeton.edu or 609-258-5091.

Thanks for helping the ADE grow its membership and be more widely known in the scholarly community.

#### Changes Coming to Documentary Editing

by Amanda Gailey and Andrew Jewell

This spring the ADE Council, working with the Publications Committee, accepted our proposal to edit *Documentary Editing* beginning with the 2012 issue. Our plan is to continue the fine traditions of the journal—essays about the theory and practice of editing, reviews of editions, news pertinent to the ADE, etc.—while simultaneously taking it in an exciting new direction. Thanks to a partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, the journal will soon be an open-access, digital publication, and it will begin to publish peer-reviewed short editions themselves.

The ADE Council has also approved the title change to **Scholarly Editing: The Annual of the Association for Documentary Editing**.

Below is our Call for Editions, which we hope many readers of this newsletter will have already seen. We hope many of you will consider submitting a proposal to us or will encourage your colleagues with appropriate projects to do so. We are, of course, happy to talk over ideas with editors informally before a full proposal is submitted.

We look forward to working with many of you as we take Scholarly Editing in this bold new direction.

A temporary website, with the call for submissions, may be found here: http://www.scholarlyediting.org/

# Background

Since 1979, *Documentary Editing* has been a premier journal in the field of documentary and textual editing. Beginning with the 2012 issue, the renamed *Scholarly Editing* will move online and become an openaccess, digital publication. While retaining the familiar content of the print journal, including peer-reviewed essays about editorial theory and practice, in the 2012 issue *Scholarly Editing* will become the first academic journal to publish peer-reviewed editions.

Even as interest in digital editing grows, potential editors have not found many opportunities to publish editions that fall outside the scope of a large scholarly edition or that do not require creating a sophisticated technical infrastructure. We believe that many scholars have discovered fascinating texts that deserve to be edited and published, and we offer a venue to turn these discoveries into sustainable, peer-reviewed publications that will enrich the digital record of our cultural heritage.

If you are interested in editing a small-scale digital edition of a single document or a collection of documents, we want to hear from you.

**Call for Editions** (note: the deadline has passed for the next issue of *SE* but submissions will be considered for future issues)

We invite proposals for rigorously edited digital small-scale editions. Proposals should be approximately 1000 words long and should include the following information:

A description of content, scope, and approach. Please describe the materials you will edit and how you will approach editing and commenting on them. We anticipate that a well-researched apparatus (an introduction, annotations, etc.) will be key to most successful proposals.

A statement of significance. Please briefly explain how this edition will contribute to your field. Approximate length.

Indication of technical proficiency. With only rare exceptions, any edition published by Scholarly Editing must be in XML (Extensible Markup Language) that complies with TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) Guidelines, which have been widely accepted as the de facto standard for digital textual editing. Please indicate your facility with TEI.

A brief description of how you imagine the materials should be visually represented. Scholarly Editing will provide support to display images and text in an attractive house style. If you wish to create a highly customized display, please describe it and indicate what technologies you plan to use to build it.

All contributors to *Scholarly Editing* are strongly encouraged to be members of the Association for Documentary Editing, an organization dedicated to the theory and practice of documentary and textual editing. To become a member, go to www.documentaryediting.org.

Please send proposals as Rich Text Format (RTF), MS Word, or PDF to the co-editors via email no later than August 1, 2010 for consideration for the 2012 issue (published in late 2011). Feel free to contact us if you have questions.

### **Call for Articles**

Scholarly Editing welcomes submissions of articles discussing any aspect of the theory or practice of editing, print or digital. Please send submissions via email to the editors (agailey2@unlnotes.unl.edu, ajewell@unlnotes.unl.edu) and include the following information in the body of your email:

- 1. Names, contact information, and institutional affiliations of all authors
- 2. Title of the article
- 3. Filename of article

Please omit all identifying information from the article itself. Send proposals as Rich Text Format (RTF), MS Word, or PDF; If you wish to include image files or other addenda, please send all as a single zip archive. Submissions must be received by February 1, 2011 for consideration for the 2012 issue. Please, no simultaneous submissions.

Thank you,

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# **Project News**

### **U. S. Grant Papers**

The Grant Papers presented the first annual Ulysses S. Grant Association-John Y. Simon Award of Merit to MSU Dean of Libraries Frances N. Coleman for her work in support of the Grant Presidential Papers at MSU, and to Rhode Island Chief Justice (ret.) Frank J. Williams for his 25 years of service on the USGA Board of Directors and his fifteen years of leadership as president. The project also hosted the 2009 and 2010 annual meetings of the Ulysses S. Grant Association. The 2011 meeting will take place in Galena, Illinois, the 2012 meeting at MSU, and the 2013 meeting at Georgetown, Ohio.

### Papers of Abraham Lincoln

Researchers with the *Papers of Abraham Lin-coln*, have identified and electronically matched two pieces of a page from Lincoln's arithmetic copybook, one piece at the University of Chicago and the other at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

"The Papers of Abraham Lincoln is delighted to have been able to reunite these two fragments from a page of Lincoln's homework as a teenager," said Daniel W. Stowell, Editor of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. "Although the two original fragments are in repositories nearly 1,000 miles apart, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln has reunited them digitally into a single page."

The oldest existing manuscripts in Abraham Lincoln's own hand are pages from an arithmetic copybook that Lincoln created in the mid-1820s while living in Indiana. Lincoln's stepmother Sarah Lincoln gave the copybook to his third law partner, William H. Herndon, after Lincoln's death in 1865. Herndon subsequently distributed the pages among friends and acquaintances. Ten pages or partial pages from the copy-

book are known to have survived and were published in facsimile form in *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* in 1953.

When Stowell and Research Associate Kelley Clausing scanned Lincoln-related documents at the University of Chicago's Regenstein Library in November 2009, they began the process that led to the reunion of two parts of a page from the copybook. Among the items they scanned was a fragment of approximately seven inches wide by seven and one half inches tall with math problems on one side and a series of questions and answers on the reverse. While processing the images at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library later, Stowell discovered that the fragment fit neatly with a smaller fragment that the project had scanned at the John Hay Library at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island in 2003. Although the fragment from Brown University had been published in the Collected Works, the other portion of the page at the University of Chicago had not. Using the digital images, Stowell compared the fragments and digitally reunited them into a single image for the front and another for the back of the page.

"This new discovery revives a part of what was lost to scholars when William Herndon dissected Lincoln's 'sum book' and portioned it out in pieces to libraries and collectors as a memento of Lincoln. We are grateful to the Papers of Abraham Lincoln for their detective work, which restores the context of Brown University's own fragment of this earliest known written work by Abraham Lincoln. It is our hope that this effort will underscore the benefits of the growing body of digital scholarship on Lincoln," said Brown University North American History Librarian Holly Snyder.

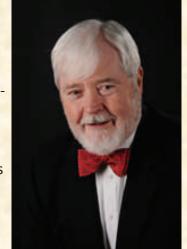
Further research revealed that the questions and answers were from *The Schoolmaster's Assistant, Being a Compendium of Arithmetic, Both Practical and Theoretical in Five Parts* by Thomas Dilworth. The math problems on the back of the sheet were from the "Examples" section of the same publication. Both the questions and the problems related to the "Single Rule of Three," a mathematical method for solving proportions. Dilworth's volume was first published in London in the 1740s. An American edition appeared in 1769, and additional American editions appeared regularly for the next sixty years. Which edition Lincoln may have used to create his copybook remains unknown.

The reunited images, as well as other images of Lincoln documents, may be seen at <a href="http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org/New Documents.htm">http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org/New Documents.htm</a>.

# Theodore J. Crackel Retires from the Papers of George Washington

During his six years as Editor in Chief of the project, Ted published ten letterpress volumes - Presidential Series, volumes 13, 14, 15, and 16; Revolutionary War Series, volumes 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20. A

digital team was also created during his tenure to work in conjunction with Rotunda on the production of the Papers of George Washington Digital Edition, which currently contains fifty-nine volumes and a cumulative index. Ted also laid the groundwork for numerous projects, some of which include: the George Washington Bibliography project, in conjunction with the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University; the Financial Papers project, including a conference of premier scholars at Mount Vernon; and the institution of new Travel and Learn Continuing Education courses that will start in 2011 with a tour of the sites of the 1775-1776 siege of Boston, followed by Trenton-Princeton, and then the 1777 campaign. The list of accomplishments could go on, as Ted was extremely dedicated the Project and staff. Instead, I thought it best to include comments from a few of the editors.



Assistant Editor Carol Ebel notes that "Ted enthusiastically launched several new editorial and outreach efforts. I worked with him closely on 'The

Civility Project: Where George Washington Meets the Twenty-first Century' which focused on the 110 rules of behavior Washington prized to highly. Ted used the Civility Project to encourage debate about social attitudes during the eighteenth century and our own time, a topic which continues to engage the interest of both academic and public history circles. Most importantly, the 'Civility Project' served as an avenue through which university students nationwide engaged in a dialogue about Washington's character and pondered civil behavior as it applied to their role as the upcoming generation of citizens and leaders."

Tom Dulan, the Project's copy editor, comments "Ted's tenure at the helm of PGW has intrinsically reshaped the project, and his legacy will be evident even in the project's final act as our repository is moved to Mount Vernon. Everything from expanded fundraising efforts to broader access through digitization bears his fingerprints, right down to the fundamental tools we now use in producing our print editions. The print editions themselves have seen changes that include the addition of endpaper maps and volume introductions. The joint effort between print and digital to produce a cumulative index, the launch of the financial papers project, the Travel & Learn initiative, and the Civility Project all are part of his legacy as well. On a personal note (and a personnel note), I have to express my deep appreciation that he hired me in the first place and has been consistently fair-handed and supportive as my supervisor. I always will look fondly upon these four-plus years, and I wish Ted the very best in his retirement and any

future endeavors."

Ed Lengel, Professor and Senior Editor, notes that "after six years as Editor in Chief, Ted Crackel leaves the project running at a greater level of efficiency and collegiality than I have ever seen it before. The numerous initiatives that he has promoted in scholarship and outreach have enabled our editors to engage productively not only with the scholarly community but with the American public at large--thus fulfilling one of our core missions, to promote knowledge and appreciation of our nation's most important historical figure. Ted's legacy, embodied in exciting new projects such as the George Washington Bibliography project and the Financial Papers project, will be long lasting."

Associate Editor Bill Ferraro states that "I am most appreciative of Ted Crackel's support for activities broadly related to the main task of editing documents. For instance, he facilitated my examination of the collections at the Library of Congress and Georgetown University on John C. Fitzpatrick, editor of the Writings of Washington, which are now being supplanted by the Papers of George Washington. Learning how Fitzpatrick approached his editorial work allows me to make the best possible use of that earlier effort as I address my own editing, and that knowledge has given me the capacity to develop publishable pieces on documentary editing's past, such as "The AHA and the George Washington Bicentennial in 1932," Perspectives on History: Newsmagazine of the American Historical Association, 47 (Oct. 2009), 55-56."

I too feel fortunate to have worked with Ted these past six years. His enthusiasm for the digital edition made it the wonderful resource it is today and set the standard for future work. Ted never settled for anything less than perfection, but always encouraged creative thinking and experimentation. The resulting digital edition and forthcoming financial papers are things I am extremely proud of, and know it couldn't have happened without his involvement.

We all wish Ted the best in his retirement!

Jennifer Stertzer

# Edward Lengel becomes new Editor in Chief of the Papers of George Washington

Longtime editor Ed Lengel was appointed Editor in Chief following Ted Crackel's retirement. Ed has been with the Washington Papers since 1996, when he began as a research assistant. Ed has written extensively on Washington, including the books *A Companion to George Washington* (Blackwell Publishing, forthcoming 2011), *Inventing George Washington: America's Founder in Myth and Memory* (New York: HarperCollins, January 2011), *This Glorious Struggle: George Washington's Revolutionary War Letters* (New York: HarperCollins, February 2008), and *General George Washington: A Military Life* (New York: Random House, June 2005) as well as given numerous talks, presentations, and interviews. He has also edited seven volumes of the Washington Papers. Everyone at the Washington Papers is thrilled to have Ed at the helm of the Project!

# **New Staff**

#### Papers of Benjamin Franklin

The Franklin papers have two new staff members: Robert Frankel, formerly of the *Supreme Court Papers* and the *Eleanor Roosevelt Papers*, and Allegra DiBonaventura, a recent Yale Ph.D.

#### **U. S. Grant Papers**

The Grant papers have hired Aaron Crawford, formerly of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and the *James K. Polk Correspondence Project*, as Assistant Editor, and Elizabeth Coggins, a graduate of MSU with a double major in history and English, as library associate/administrative assistant.

# **Publications**

The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, Volume 31, January 1, 1883-July 23, 1885, ed. John Y. Simon, Aaron M. Lisec, Leigh Fought, and Cheryl R. Ragar (Southern Illinois University Press, 2009).

http://www.siupress.com/product/Papers-of-Ulysses-S-Grant-Volume-31,2833.aspx.

Volume 31 covers Grant's presidency of the Mexican Southern Rail, political downturns, health problems, and massive debt due to bad financial decisions, declining health, and the writing of his *Memoirs*.

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Retirement Series, Volume 6, 11 March to 27 Nov. 1813, ed. J. Jefferson Looney, et al. (Princeton University Press, 2010).

http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9048.html

Volume 6 of the Retirement series documents Jefferson's continued interest in politics during his retirement years, such as advising President James Madison during the War of 1812 and writing his congressional son-in-law, John Wayles Eppes, on the repayment of the national debt and the reining in of the American banking system. It also documents his wide ranging correspondence, most notably with John Adams, in an exchange of thirty-one letters, in which the two men reveal their hopes and fears for the nation.

The Papers of Clarence Mitchell, Volume 3: 1946-1954, ed. Denton L. Watson (Ohio University Press, 2010).

http://www.ohioswallow.com/book/ The+Papers+of+Clarence+Mitchell+Jr. Volume 3 documents the extent to which Mitchell, as labor secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and then director of the NAACP's Washington Bureau, made his program for the creation of a permanent FEPC central to his quest for presidential leadership in civil rights. As a result of Mitchell's work in this period, President Truman in 1948 issued an order barring discrimination in federal employment and created a board to review discrimination complaints. Volume III is an invaluable reference in tracing Mitchell's greatest contribution to the strengthening of American democracy by getting Congress, the courts, and the executive branch to join together in upholding the Constitutional rights of African Americans.

The Selected Papers of Margaret Sanger, Volume 3: The Politics of Planned
Parenthood, 1939-1966, edited by Esther Katz with Cathy Moran Hajo and Peter
C. Engelman, associate editors. (University of Illinois Press, 2010).

http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/54myn9qx9780252033728.html

Volume 3, subtitled "The Politics of Planned Parenthood," highlights Margaret Sanger's quest for the "magic pill" and her collaboration with the philanthropist Katharine Dexter McCormick and their masterful direction of scientists, physicians, and birth control bureaucrats toward the production of the first contraceptive pill--the catalyst for the sexual revolution--which is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary. The volume also features documents on Sanger's attempt to guide the American birth control movement during World War II and its immediate aftermath.

# **Member News**

Ann Gordon and Lynn Sherr's editorial, "Sarah Palin is no Susan B. Anthony" was published in the Washington Post's "Guest Voices" section. http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/guestvoices/2010/05/sarah\_palin\_is\_no\_susan\_b\_anthony.html

Cathy Hajo, associate editor for the Margaret Sanger Papers, has published Birth Control on Main Street: Organizing Clinics in the United States, 1916-1939 (University of Illinois Press, 2010). Unearthing individual stories and statistical records from previously overlooked birth control clinics, the book looks past the rhetoric of the birth control movement to show the relationships, politics, and issues that defined the movement in neighborhoods and cities across the United States. Whereas previous histories have emphasized national trends and glossed over the majority of clinics, Birth Control on Main Street contextualizes individual case studies to add powerful new layers to the existing narratives on abortion, racism, eugenics, and sterilization.

http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/ catalog/55qew6cg9780252035364.html (press website)

Image: <a href="http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/">http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/</a> images/9780252077258.jpg (cover image)

Cathy also presented a paper, "The Sustainability of the Scholarly Edition in a Digital World," at the conference "XML for the Long Haul, International Symposium on Issues in the Long-term Preservation of XML, held on 2 August, in Montréal.

John Kaminski's talk, "Premier John Jay: The Most Important Man in America," delivered at the celebration of the publication of the Selected Papers of John Jay, volume 1, on March

25, 2010, is now available at Columbia University Library's <u>Academic Commons</u>.

**Beth Luey's** book, Expanding the American Mind: Books and the Popularization of Knowledge, was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in June.

Melody M. Miyamoto wrote the new introduction to the latest volume of Kenneth Holmes's Covered Wagon Women. It's called Best of Covered Wagon Women: Emigrant Girls on the Overland Trails and is published by the University of Oklahoma Press. The book is a collection of diaries by women who headed west in the nineteenth-century.

Kathryn Kish Sklar and Beverley Wilson Palmer participated in a book discussion of their recently-published volume, The Selected Letters of Florence Kelley, held at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. on April 7. Other members of the panel were Sara Manzano-Diaz, Director of the Women's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Labor; Kirsten Downey, author of The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins; Sally Greenberg, Executive Director of the National Consumers League, and Dorothy Ross, Emirita Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University. On April 9, Sklar and Palmer joined Mary Lynn McCree Bryan, editor of the Jane Addams Papers and Ann Gordon, editor of the Stanton/Anthony Papers in a panel discussion, "What New Insights About Women in Public Life Can We Find in Recent Scholary Editions of Women's Letters and Papers, 1870-1919?" at the Organization of American Historians Meeting in Washington, D.C.

**Ryan P. Semmes**, Assistant Archivist on the U.S. Grant Papers, presented a Poster Session at the

annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Washington, D.C. August 2010, on the archival techniques used in organizing the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Papers. He and John F. Marszalek have composed an essay on student use of primary sources, using the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Papers as an example, for the Mississippi Historical Society's online publication "Mississippi History Now." Semmes and Mississippi State University 2010 undergraduate student and now University of Alabama Library Science graduate student Sarah Thornburg have had a proposal accepted by the Association of College and Research Libraries to do a book chapter on the preparation of a small exhibit using primary sources, utilizing materials from the Ulysses S. Grant Collection.

# Technology Databases and Online Editions

# Florence Kelly Database

The Florence Kelly database containing about 7,000 letters to and from Florence Kelley is now available at the Kheel Center for Labor Management Documentation and Archives at Cornell University's Industrial Labor Relations School. This database will enable scholars to obtain information in addition to the documents published in The Selected Letters of Florence Kelley, 1869-1931, edited by Kathryn Kish Sklar and Beverly Wilson Palmer (University of Illinois Press, 2009).

http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/fkelley/

# **Massachusetts Historical Society**

The Massachusetts Historical Society owns a remarkable document in Thomas Jefferson's own handwriting, the text of his only full-length book, *Notes on the State of Virginia*. When Jefferson was in Paris in 1785 representing the United States as a diplomat, he paid to have 200 copies of *Notes* printed for private distribution. Prior to publication, Jefferson reworked an earlier version of his manuscript by using sealing wax to attach corrections and changes written on small additional pieces of paper to full handwritten pages. He also expanded the text by inserting additional full pages. These changes show the evolution of Jefferson's ideas on a number of topics, and the supplemental information he gathered as he wrote. This website allows the reader to interact directly with Jefferson's complex manuscript by reading the original manuscript and by following all the changes that he made to the text before it was first published—including the opportunity to see passages written by Jefferson that have been hidden by attachments for more than two centuries.

http://www.masshist.org/thomasjeffersonpapers/notes/

#### **U. S. Grant Papers**

Completed the searchable digitization of the 31 published volumes of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* and made them available for free on the website. This digitized edition was named the "Digital Library of the Week" by the American Library Association.

Also on the website are searchable sheet music, political cartoons and individual folders of unpublished U.S. Grant correspondence. As of mid-June, 2010, 24,780 titles of correspondence have been listed, covering the period: 1861-November 1866. This is an ongoing project which is regularly being updated. <a href="https://www.digital.library.msstate.edu/collections/usgrant/index.html">www.digital.library.msstate.edu/collections/usgrant/index.html</a>

# **Special Report: Advocacy**

Note: On July 27<sup>th</sup>, the NHPRC reauthorization bill (HR5616) was unexpectedly pulled from the schedule for markup. No explanation for this has been given. As the House is out on recess until September 14, we will have to wait for any further action.

# House Subcommittee Holds NHPRC Reauthorization Hearing

Charlene Bickford

**Background:** The House of Representatives subcommittee with oversight and reauthorization jurisdiction over the National Historical **Publications and Records Commission** (NHPRC) is the Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. In March 2009 the Chairman of this subcommittee, Wm. Lacy Clay (D-MO), introduced a five year (FY2010-FY2014) reauthorization of the NHPRC's grants program at the \$20 million level (H.R. 1556), double the authorization level that has been in place since 1991. Unfortunately no progress was made on this bill in 2009. The grants program currently is funded at \$13 million (due to an infusion of funds for digitizing the Founding Fathers Papers), but lacks an authorization.

On the Senate side (S. 2872), which would have reauthorized the NHPRC's grants program beginning at the \$13 million level in FY2010 and rising \$500,000 each year to \$15 million in FY2014, was introduced by Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE). Sen. Carper is the Chair of the Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. The bill was approved by the subcommittee, but when it reached the full committee markup stage, Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), the ranking minority member, called the

proposed increase "fiscally irresponsible" and refused to go along with any increase in the authorization level. Thus, the bill which passed out of the full committee would continue the NHPRC's authorization at the current level (\$10 million) for five years. The Senate was due to act on S. 2872 before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July recess, but that was delayed because the memorials for Senator Robert Byrd—Mr. History of the United States Senate and a longtime NHPRC supporter.

The Hearing: Rep. Clay called a hearing on June 9 with the intention of building a record of support for his bill. This was the first full scale hearing on the NHPRC reauthorization since 1981. In order to make the strongest possible case, the majority staff director, Anthony Clark, had recruited an impressive group of witnesses representing all of the constituent member organizations on the NHPRC and the Board of the Foundation for the National Archives. NHPRC member Representative John Larson, Archivist David Ferriero and NHPRC Executive Director Kathleen Williams led off the hearing.

This careful preparation for the hearing was necessary to counteract anticipated problems from the subcommittee's minority members. We had received word the previous week that House Minority Whip Eric Cantor had put the NHPRC's appropriation on the Republicans' website aimed at seeking votes for cutting programs: http://republicanwhip.house.gov/ YouCut/ and thus we were prepared for opposition. That opposition surfaced early in the opening statement by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), who began by arguing that there was no money for this kind of program, that the American people were voting to cut it, and that the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) shouldn't be involved in a program that wasn't about preserving federal records. He then went on to question both the veracity and completeness of some statements made on forms that witnesses are required to submit to the committee with the implication that they were covering up some sort of conflict of interest. He seemed determined to undermine the witnesses.

Despite the efforts of Rep. Chaffetz to discredit them, the witnesses did an excellent job of explaining the importance of the NHPRC's grants program and what has been accomplished since the program started. And, interestingly, after a recess for a floor vote, Mr. Chaffetz changed his tune and stated that the Republicans didn't want to eliminate the grants program, they just didn't support an increase in the authorization level.

The individuals listed below testified at the hearing and we thank them for their willingness to publicly and eloquently declare their support for the NHPRC's grants program. This program has been vitally important to the success of nearly every major historical documentary edition, many of which are publishing federal government documents and/or the papers of individuals/institutions that played a part in the history of our national government. It has also played an essential role in promoting communication and cooperation within the archival community and addressing issues of concern to all those responsible for historical records at all levels.

#### Panel I

The Honorable John B. Larson

Member, U.S. House of Representatives

Member, National Historical Publications and Records Commission

The Honorable David S. Ferriero

Archivist of the United States

Chairman, National Historical Publications and Records Commission

Ms. Kathleen M. Williams

Executive Director, National Historical Publications and Records Commission

United States National Archives and Records Administration

#### Panel II

Mr. Michael R. Beschloss

Presidential Historian

Vice President, Board of Directors, Foundation for the National Archives

Dr. Steven Hahn

Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of History

University of Pennsylvania

Ms. Karen Jefferson

Head of Archives and Special Collections

Atlanta University Center

Dr. Ira Berlin

Distinguished University Professor

University of Maryland

Representing the American Historical Association

Dr. Pete Daniel

Curator, National Museum of American History (Retired)

Representing the Organization of American Historians

#### Panel III

Dr. Peter Gottlieb

State Archivist of Wisconsin

Representing the Society of American Archivists

Ms. Barbara Franco

Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Representing the American Association of State and Local History

Ms. Barbara Teague

Kentucky State Archivist and Records Administrator

Representing the Council of State Archivists

Ms. Kaye Lanning Minchew

Director of Archives, Troup County, Georgia

Representing the National Association of Government Archives & Records Administrators

Ms. Susan Holbrook Perdue

Director, Documents Compass

Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

Representing the Association for Documentary Editing

All the written testimony submitted and a video of the hearing can be found at:

http://oversight.house.gov/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=4963:qstrengthening-the-national-historical-publications-and-records-commissionq&catid=48:hearings&Itemid=29

On July 1, just before the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess, a new bill, HR 5616, which would reauthorize the NHPRC's grants program at the \$20 million level for FY2011-FY2015, was voted out of the House subcommittee on a 6-1 vote with Chairman Clay, and Representatives Chu (D-CA), Cuellar (D-NY), Driehaus (D-OH), Maloney (D-NY), and Norton (D-DC) voting for it and Rep. Chaffetz voting no. The full committee vote is expected before the August recess.

Thanks to all ADE members for efforts that they have made in behalf of the NHPRC!! Keep up the good work!

# **Testimony and Report**

Sue Perdue

I had the honor of representing the members of ADE at the recent subcommittee hearing for reauthorization of the NHPRC. It was a fascinating experience, albeit a somewhat intimidating one. The hearing began at 2:00 and I was the very thirteenth witness to speak at around 5:30, by which time all of the attending subcommittee members had dashed off to vote leaving Eleanor Holmes Norton alone as acting chair. She was a very sympathetic and supportive audience making my testimony painless unlike the reception that the witnesses received in the early stages of the hearing at the hands of Reps. Chaffetz and others. The big challenge is coming up with a five minute statement that distills all of the good work editors do and the crucial role NHPRC plays in that process. I would have liked to mention all of the projects represented by our membership but could include only a handful of them in the full testimony (on the subcommittee website), and fewer still in the five minute statement printed here.

# House Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives Testimony of Susan H. Perdue, President-elect, Association for Documentary Editing, 9 June 2010

Chairman Clay, ranking Member McHenry, and Members of the Subcommittee, I am Susan Holbrook Perdue, president-elect of the Association for Documentary Editing, or ADE. I am very grateful for this opportunity to speak on behalf of my professional organization in support of reauthorization of the NHPRC and an increase in its funding.

The primary message I want to convey to this committee is just how essential the work is that documentary editors do and its importance to every American. As a society, we need the sort of expertise that editors provide in order to clearly understand the historical record, and so that we might have informed and reasoned debate as part of a true democracy. This is not a partisan endeavor but a mission to establish the definitive works of our historical legacy. This is especially important when it comes to the texts of our Founding Fathers. These documents are at the core of our nation's history and they continue to be the substance of significant debate. Many Americans want to lay claim to them, and they should. These documents are part of everyone's story. For this reason, they deserve the time and attention that they receive from the scholars who are now editing them.

The ADE was founded in 1978 to promote documentary editing and to build on our shared commitment to the highest professional standards of accuracy of transcription, editorial method, and intellectual access to our nation's documentary heritage. The organization now has more than 350 members who work with a broad range of historical and literary figures. Many of our members depend on NHPRC funding.

Editors preserve the documentary record by creating a comprehensive catalog for all the known writings of an individual. We have performed a valuable service for future generations by collecting and preserving these unique archives in one place.

Documentary editors play a beneficial role in establishing the documentary record because they authenticate and provide authoritative versions of the letters and documents produced by their subject. Editors

become experts on all aspects of their subject matter, form their handwriting to their habits.

The documentary editions of the Founding Fathers—the papers of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington—all have a long and integral history with the National Archives itself, as do the documents associated with the ratification of the United States Constitution, the first Federal Congress, and the early Supreme Court. Make no mistake about it, these projects are publishing the records of our federal government.

One of the most beneficial tasks we perform as editors is ensuring that documents make sense to modern audiences. Editors reveal the hidden meaning in documents through extensive research. This kind of work takes time.

Historical documentary editions and records are used by an ever-widening audience ranging from school children to advanced scholars, as well as genealogists, curators, and the general public. Projects such as the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers produce lesson plans for ages K through 12. Ken Burns's recent film on the National Parks drew on the John Muir Papers project that was supported by NHPRC, and recent episodes of American Experience and History Detectives featured editors from three separate NHPRC sponsored projects.

Many editors are now retooling in order to meet the demands of both print and digital publication. In order to respond to this new digital world, they look to organizations such as the NHPRC to provide the necessary funding to enable this to happen. There is substantial work to be done on digitizing and providing additional editorial resources to make the thousands of rolls of microfilm from projects done in the 1960s and '70s available on the Internet. New efforts will need new support.

Nonetheless, our mission as documentary editors has changed little over time even with the added challenge of publishing online. We will adhere to the same high standards we have always followed regardless of the ultimate medium. We are indeed at a crossroads; this is true not only for the profession of documentary editing, but for archives and repositories world-wide. As we read about the perceived negative impact of the Internet on people as they are increasingly gathering their knowledge through multitasking and sound bites, all of which threaten to shorten our attention spans, we recognize the urgent need for reliable, durable, and rich content on the World Wide Web. Now, more than ever, we want the good to drive out the bad. If we cut off support to NHPRC and to the editors and projects that have produced superlative editions for over half a century, we cut off their ability to reach a new global audience in ways none of us could have imagined twenty years ago.

# **Just for Fun**

Letters of Note http://www.lettersofnote.com/

# **Blogs**

#### **Women's History Sources**

Women's History Sources seeks contributors for their collaborative blog that serves as a current awareness tool for anyone who is interested in primary sources at archives, historic sites and museums, and libraries. Some of the types of sources that the blog covers: new exhibits in archives, libraries, and muse-

ums; new digital collections (artifacts, diaries, oral histories, photos, etc.); featured objects/documents from other blogs and websites; "In the News" - stories that feature original documents or artifacts, "On this Day" - digital resources that are related to an event on a specific date; and recent books that include letters, diaries, photographs, etc.

Audience: archivists, librarians, museum curators/personnel, historians, college students, K-12 teachers, and the general public with an interest in women's history

Geographic Coverage: although the initial emphasis has been on women in United States history, the blog will become international in scope as the list of contributors grows.

Contributors: The blog will include archivists, historians, librarians, and museum professionals. Please contact Ken Middleton (ken.middlet@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a blog contributor. http://womenshistorysources.blogspot.com/

#### Of Interest

#### **New Organization**

Biographers International Organization (BIO) is the first-ever international organization that represents the professional interests of biographers: those who've already published, and those working on biographies - in every medium, from print to film. The idea for BIO grew from the success of a monthly newsletter, the *Biographer's Craft* begun in 2006, that recognized that biographers generally work without the support of university-level course or professional organizations devoted to the art and craft of biography.

- A subscription to the monthly electronic newsletter, the Biographer's Craft
- A 10 percent discount on the Compleat Biographer conference
- A free personal webpage to help you connect with others
- Assistance in finding or creating a local BIO group
- Access to members-only webcasts and phone seminars

Participation in Agents Read & Speed Dating

To become a member of BIO, go to our website: www.biographersinternational.org/ Membership fees are \$45 (\$30 for an associate membership). There you can also download a copy of the Compleat Biographer Conference 2010 program and view videos of presentations to get an idea of what's in store for the 2011 conference in Washington, DC.

Charles J. Shields
Vice-President,
Chair of Membership Committee