NATIONAL ARCHIVES

NATIONAL HISTORICAL
PUBLICATIONS
& RECORDS COMMISSION

The attached document contains the grant narrative of a previously funded grant application. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Be aware that minor changes may have been made to the plan of work and other portions of the proposed project in response to comments made during the review process. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations.

Prospective applicants should consult the NHPRC's application guidelines at https://www.archives.gov/nhprc/apply for instructions.

Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with the NHPRC staff member listed in the grant announcement well before a grant deadline. Prospective applicants are also strongly encouraged to submit a draft application by the deadline listed in the grant announcement.

The Commission especially welcomes applications from collaborative teams producing online editions of historical records that center the voices and perspectives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Project Title: *Civil War & Reconstruction Governors of Mississippi Digital Documentary Edition*

Institution: University of Southern Mississippi

Project Director: Susannah J. Ural

Grant Program: Publishing Historical Records in Documentary Editions

[*Please note: In FY 2023, this program was renamed the Publishing Historical Records in Collaborative Digital Editions program.*]

Project Narrative

1. Overview: The Civil War & Reconstruction Governors of Mississippi Digital Documentary Edition (CWRGM) is revolutionizing how US historians study this era by spotlighting what scholars don't know and complicating what we think we know. Grounded in nearly 20,000 documents from the state's governors' papers, CWRGM begins in late 1859 on the brink of secession and ends just after Reconstruction in the early Jim Crow South as elite white Mississippians regained control of the state and abandoned the civil rights advances of the past two decades. Organized around nine administrations, the collections touch on nearly every major issue of the age and include voices from every possible constituency. The resulting project, launched in 2019 and scheduled for completion by 2030, will be a keyword-searchable digital documentary edition, freely available online, that includes high-resolution images of original documents next to their transcriptions, with metadata, keyword searchability, and annotations. It will also feature essays that place the documents in historical context, lesson plans, a blog, and a podcast. Grounded in the records of one of the most influential states in nineteenth-century America, CWRGM is poised to challenge the existing historiography and transform how scholars, educators, and the public think, write, and teach about the U.S. Civil War, Reconstruction, and the American South.

Planning for CWRGM began in Spring 2018 under the direction of Civil War historian Susannah J. Ural, Professor of History, co-director of the Dale Center for the Study of War & Society at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), and past president of the Mississippi Historical Society. She worked closely with lead archivists at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), which already collected the state's governors' papers decades ago, and the directors of the Mississippi Digital Library (MDL), the digital home of repositories

across the state. Ural also sought the advice of digital editors like Patrick Lewis, then director of

the Civil War Governors of Kentucky (CWGK) Digital Documentary Edition (which inspired

this project), Cathy Hajo, director of the Jane Addams Papers Project/Jane Addams Digital

Edition (JAPP/JADE), other editors at the Association for Documentary Editing's 2019 Institute

for the Editing of Historical Documents (which Ural attended that year at Princeton University),

and with digital developers like Sue Perdue (Perdue Digital Services), Anneliese Dehner, and

Ben and Sara Brumfield (Brumfield Labs). These discussions ensured that when CWRGM

launched in the spring of 2019, it did so as a true partnership between MDAH, MDL, and USM's

History program and as a well-informed digital documentary edition with a plan in place for high

quality production and early, user-friendly accessibility.[1]

Thanks to multi-agency grant funding, the CWRGM team is on track to meet several key

goals by June 2021.[2] MDAH has already completed digitization and first level quality review of

approximately 15,000 documents (33,750 images) or about 60% of the project. They will finish

the two-stage quality verification of almost all of the state's governors papers tied to the Civil

War (1861-1865) by June 2021. That includes over 6,000 documents from the John J. Pettus (Oct

1859-Oct 1863) and Charles Clark (Oct 1863-May 1865) collections. MDL's team will complete

the writing and two-stage review of metadata for over 4,000 of these documents, and the USM

History team will complete verified transcriptions and annotations for 4,000 documents by June

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[1] CWRGM's originally launched as the Civil War Governors of Mississippi. The name changed in the fall of 2019 to include "& Reconstruction" to ensure that site visitors understood the full scope of this project, which consciously included Reconstruction records so that researchers and the public could hear from as many Mississippians — especially African-American Mississippians, whose voices surge from the collection at the war's end in 1865 and continue through Reconstruction — in this project that truly represents the diversity of late-nineteenth century Mississippi.

[2] CWRGM has received funding from: the Watson-Brown Foundation (WBF), ~$32,000 for a 1-year Visiting Digital Archivist May 2020-April 2021; National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Humanities Collections and Reference Resources award of ~$345,000 for June 2020-May 2023; National Historical Publications and Records Commission (National Archives) Publishing Historical Records in Documentary Editions (NHPRC PHRDE) award of $100,000 for July 2020-June 2021. See Supplementary Materials for more information.

2021. CWRGM is seeking renewed funding of $108,924 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission's (NHPRC) Publishing Historical Records in Documentary Editions (PHRDE) program. This will contribute significantly to CWRGM's 2021-2022 work plan, specifically funding the digitization and verification of nearly 4,500 documents, and the creation and verification of metadata, transcriptions, and annotations for an additional nearly 1,700 documents which will be available for public access by June 2022.

2. Historical Overview: Nineteenth-century southerners wrote to their governors about everything imaginable, and those who could not write found others to communicate on their behalf. That makes governors' records incredibly significant historical resources because they provide access to voices that are missing in more traditional records like letters and diaries. Studying these records in Mississippi is also significant, because so many of the historically significant questions of the Civil War and Reconstruction eras took place in the Magnolia state: military invasion and large-scale destruction; emancipation, contraband camps, and African-American military service; conscription and draft resistance; pre-Freedmen's Bureau efforts to protect and support the freedom of thousands of emancipated Mississippians; county- and state-level assistance for veterans and soldiers' families starting as early as August 1861; fourteen years of military occupation of the state by the U.S. Army, twelve of which involved the entire state; and the election of the nation's first two African-Americans to the U.S. Senate, along with hundreds of African-American office holders at the state and local level. The letters, petitions, telegrams, and executive journals of the nine administrations in this collection offer countless insights into these groundbreaking events. Increased, improved, and free access to these digitized, transcribed, and annotated records will help historians, teachers, students, and the public to better understand how Mississippians of different classes, races, ages, educational

levels, religious beliefs — of countless perspectives — responded to the opportunities and

pressures of the age.

From suspicions of "abolitionist plots" in 1859 through warnings of increased racial

violence in the 1870s and 1880s, CWRGM will help site users study how *everyday* people — not

just those for whom we have letters, diaries, and traditional writings — experienced the

revolutionary changes caused by the end of slavery and the possibility of and opposition to racial

equality and justice (see examples from CWRGM in Supplementary Materials).[3] During the war,

military telegrams and messages allow scholars to study campaigns as events unfolded. Protests

and pleas from impoverished families, including a number of widows, help researchers

investigate the pressures the war placed on the home front that contributed to dissent and civil

unrest.[4] The collection reveals determined freed peoples asserting their rights and complaints to

their governor as businessmen and citizens as early as August 1865.[5] CWRGM is also

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[3] These experiences, seen in some of the sample documents from Lambert Moore and Mark Joseph (see Supplementary Materials) will enhance the scholarship on the connections between enslavement and the expansion of American empire, resistance to slavery by the enslaved and their determined efforts to keep families together, and as well as postwar advances and violent resistance to these. In the existing historiography, see Walter Johnson, *River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap, 2013); Diana Ramey Berry, *The Price for Their Pound of Flesh: The Value of the Enslaved, from Womb to Grave, in the Building of a Nation* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2017); Gregory P. Downs and Kate Masur, eds. *The World the Civil War Made* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2015); Eric Foner, *Reconstruction* (New York: HarperCollins, 1988); Mary Farmer-Kaiser, *Freedwomen and the Freedmen's Bureau: Race, Gender, and Public Policy in the Age of Emancipation* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2010).

[4] A number of historians have investigated these wartime/home front pressures and how they influenced the Confederate war effort, but much of that work focuses on the eastern theater; not the west including Mississippi. Those scholars include (but are not limited to): Joseph T. Glatthaar, *General Lee's Army: From Victory to Collapse* (New York: Free Press, 2008); William Blair, *Virginia's Private War: Feeding Body and Soul in the Confederacy, 1861-1865* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998); Gary W. Gallagher, *The Confederate War* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1997); Stephanie McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2010). In the Supplementary Materials, see sample documents from Mary Jones and other women, as well as observations of civilian sympathy for deserters.

[5] Historian Justin Behrend analyzed some these political advances in his award-winning *Reconstructing Democracy: Grassroots Black Politics in the Deep South After the Civil War* (University of Georgia Press, 2015). But he rightly insisted that much more investigative work must be done before historians can fully understand "the subject of democracy formation at the grassroots level" among everyday whites and blacks, not just political elites, during Reconstruction (3). Letters from community leaders, businessmen, and Freedmen like Lambert Moore will help scholars unravel this mystery. See Moore's August 1865 letter in CWRGM Supplementary Material.

uncovering higher levels of Union military service by black and white Mississippians than the

scholars have recognized, the memory of which was largely erased by the Lost Cause

movement.[6] The project is also uncovering patterns of continued revolutionary social change,

regardless of race or class, as women led their households and asserted their rights not just

during and long after the war on a larger scale than historians have recognized.[7]

Mississippi's Reconstruction governors included former Union general Adelbert Ames,

(1868-1870; 1874-1876), James Lusk Alcorn (1870-1871), a former Unionist turned Confederate

turned Republican who supported civil rights for African Americans including male suffrage,

and finally the Redeemer Democrat John Marshall Stone (1876-1882). The era opened with

hopeful changes for freed peoples and some whites who accepted the need for fundamental civil

rights for all, but it ended in racial violence that dominates the final ten years of the CWRGM

collection. These accounts are not unknown to historians, but the frequency with racial violence

occurred and the context of the results of pleas for protections for African Americans at the local

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[6] There have been several studies of Unionism and Union military service in the Confederacy including most recently Christopher Rein's *Alabamians in Blue* (2019). In Mississippi, however, the best known studies focus on a single county and a band of men in "The Free State of Jones," (see Victoria Bynum's *The Free State of Jones* (2001). See W. T. Roland's letter (Supplementary Materials) For analysis on the commodification of Confederate memory and Old South culture see Sarah E. Gardner, *Blood & Irony* (2004) and Karen Cox, *Dreaming of Dixie* (2011); Scholars like Carole Emberton have rightly called for a deeper investigation into African-American Union Army service to challenge its celebratory nature and recognize its significant brutality and the limited rewards it provided when compared to white northern Union Army service. Emberton, "Only Murder Makes Men": Reconsidering the Black Military Experience," *The Journal of the Civil War Era* (2012).

[7] Laura Edwards's essay "Reconstruction and North Carolina Women's Tangled History with Law and Governance" in Paul D. Escott, *North Carolinians in the Era of the Civil War and Reconstruction* (2008) observed in postwar North Carolina that black and white women "regularly initiated complaints themselves ... with the expectation that they would be heard and their concerns resolved." (155) Nancy Bercaw documented similar patterns in the Mississippi Delta in *Gendered Freedoms* (2003), and historians like Anne Sarah Rubin (*A Shattered Nation*, 2005) and Stephanie McCurry (*Confederate Reckoning*, 2012), spotlighted cases across the Confederacy, while Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers's *They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South* (2019) highlighted the power that enslavement provided white women in the antebellum South, and how they saw to emancipation as an "unprecedented robbery" of that power. CWRGM can help scholars document the scope and magnitude of women's changing rights, regardless of race or class, in Mississippi during and after the war as no other work has to date.

and county level are much less understood.[8] CWRGM offers site users the opportunity to study

this process in detail to help them understand how this southern state, though briefly poised to

make tremendous postwar strides, sank into the racial retrograde of the New South whose central

issues continue to echo in the nation today.

3. Project Methods: The partnership in which CWRGM is grounded — MDAH, MDL, and

USM History Program — allows for focused and steady production represented in this

workflow:
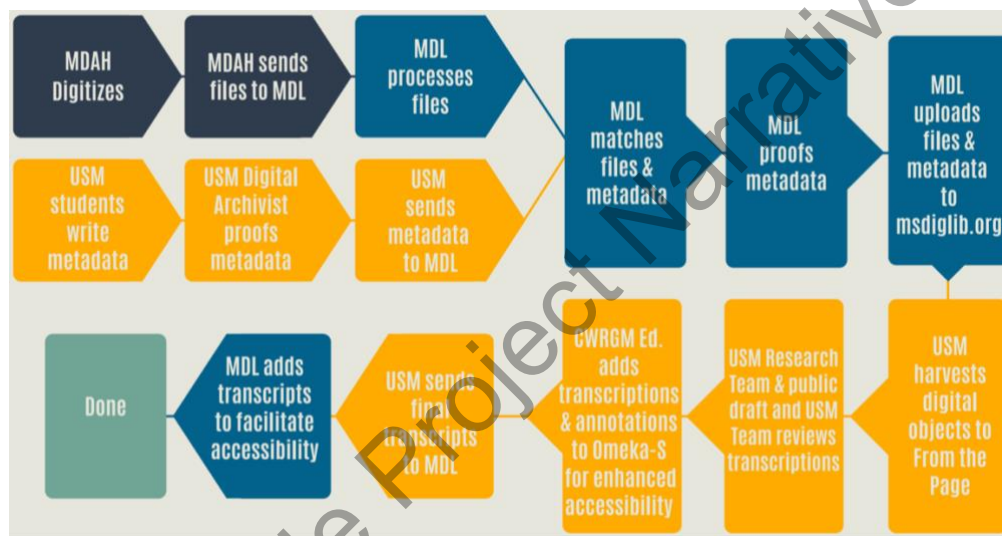
Digitization: The state's governors' papers are already housed at MDAH, which eliminates the

need to scour regional and national repositories for these records. As a project partner, MDAH is

entirely responsible for the digitization process, including two-stage quality verification, of all

20,000 documents (or roughly 53,000 pages) in this collection that spans nine administrations

from 1859-1882. MDAH transfers tiff files electronically to the CWRGM partners at MDL in

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[8] Neil McMillen analyzed this process in *Dark Journey: Black Mississippians in the Age of Jim Crow* (1990), while C. Vann Woodward considered it in a larger historical context decades earlier in *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* (1955). More recent works like *Beyond Freedom: Disrupting the History of Emancipation* (eds. David Blight and Jim Downs, 2017) underscore the fact that emancipation was a process, not a moment, that faced powerful limits during the war and Reconstruction. It also highlights the fac that the experience of racial freedom varied significantly across space and time, and it is to this issue that CWRGM can contribute most specifically, helping researchers, educators, students, and the public investigate this process across a deep South state where over 50 percent of the population demanded and navigated these freedoms in the 1860s and beyond.

monthly batches of roughly 1,000 documents (usually one archival box). A more detailed

description of MDAH's process is available in the Supplementary Materials, and their

digitization protocols are available here.

Metadata and Early Access : MDL is an online archival library based at USM that

provides digital access to millions of records from repositories across the state. MDL serves as

CWRGM as a digital repository for the electronic surrogates of digitized document shared by

MDAH. When MDAH sends digital access files to MDL via a secured File Transfer server,

MDL assistant director, Elizabeth La Beaud and CWRGM digital archivist, Austin Justice,

download these, convert them to JPEG format, and match, name, and folder the files with their

metadata.[9] La Beaud and Justice also oversee the creation and two-stage verification of that

metadata following CWRGM metadata protocols based on the Dublin Core standard (ISO

15836-1:2017). CWRGM student researchers are trained by La Beaud and Justice on metadata

creation and review using these protocols and a customized-spreadsheet template. They work off

of old MDAH calendars for each governors' collections, and update descriptions with inclusive

language that is appropriate in the modern age. In weekly batches, the first reviewer analyzes all

of the completed metadata using Google-refine's text facet and Microsoft Excel's pivot tables to

identify any inputs that do not conform to MDL's Metadata Best Practices and CWRGM

Metadata Protocols, any punctuation and spelling errors, and checks each document against its

metadata for accuracy. Any issues are recorded in an issues spreadsheet and returned to the

metadata creator for correction. Once all the records in a batch are approved, the metadata goes

on to a second reviewer who double checks the metadata for conformity and accuracy, again

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[9] La Beaud is a permanent staff member at USM Libraries/USM. Justice's position is funded through a Watson-Brown Foundation grant from May 1, 2020-April 30, 2021, and through an NEH grant for 2021-2022. CWRGM is applying for funding outside this application to continue this position after 2022.

using Google-refine's text facet and Microsoft Excel's pivot tables. The team of grant-funded

student researchers write metadata in the summer, fall, and spring, with one or two of them

handling Stage 1 review, and Justice or La Beaud conducting Stage 2 review.[10] When errors are

discovered on the live site, they are reported to Justice and La Beaud who correct the error in a

timely fashion. This work plan ensures both the quality and steady rate of project production (see

Work Plan in Supplementary Materials).

When digitized documents have verified metadata, MDL provides the public with the

earliest possible access to these, much earlier than if the project had to wait for transcriptions and

early annotations. MDL uploads new batches of documents at a minimum of every other week,

while the discovery index updates automatically on a nightly basis, and MDL is designing

enhanced search features in fall 2020 to allow users to narrow their search of CWRGM

documents by subject terms, date ranges, and keywords. The only thing MDL cannot do is host

project enrichments such as enhanced transcriptions with subject tagging, more detailed

annotations, or other features like lesson plans and podcasts. That is why CWRGM digital

developer Anneliese Dehner (NEH funded) is designing an Omeka S site for the project that

launches in June 2021 (described below). When that site launches, MDL will add a splash page

to the CWRGM home in MDL that explains what MDL offers and what the Omeka S site

provides, educating users in the two ways that they can access the CWRGM digital documentary

edition.

Transcription and Tagging/Early Annotations: Once MDL provides a CSV file for

uploading digital document files and verified metadata, CWRGM Assistant Editor Stephanie

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[10] Current CWRGM funding employs 4 graduate researchers each summer from 2020-2022, and 5 undergraduate researchers in fall and spring 2020-2021. They split their time, based on production needs, between metadata, transcription, and annotation creation/review.

Seal Walters uploads these to CWRGM's home at From the Page (FtP). All transcribers follow CWRGM Transcription Protocols, and all transcriptions go through two-stage verification, with final review conducted by senior graduate researchers, Walters, or project director Ural. Their verification work is grounded in key Documentary Editing literature and in close consultation with CWRGM Transcription Protocols. There are some public volunteers creating transcriptions at CWRGM's FtP home, and the project will solicit more through crowd sourcing efforts in 2020-2021. But all verification is conducted by veteran CWRGM researchers, Walters, or Ural.

When CWRGM staff create or review transcriptions, they add subject tagging features that annotate each document. These tags are tied to the following seven categories that enhance document discoverability: people, locations, organizations, events, occupations, vital statistics (birth, death, marriage, divorce), and social identifiers. Most of those categories are self-explanatory; they help users with diverse research interests understand how the collection might be of use to them. CWRGM director Ural created the last category, "social identifiers," to spotlight the experiences of individuals whose voices are often unheard in history including the enslaved, free and freed people of color, widows, veterans (especially enlisted men), and the

poor. CWRGM Tagging also educates non-specialist users on racially inappropriate and appropriate language while preserving original text in the transcriptions. For example, when the term "colored" appears in a document, it is transcribed verbatim, but subject tagging annotates this social identifier as the term "African American" (right). This enhances the

Subjects Mentioned Frequently With African Americans

discoverability of this document in keyword searches by inexperienced users, educates students who may not know proper racial terminology, and connects that document to any other item relating to the African American experience in the collection.

CWRGM annotations also help users think about new ways to access the collection, suggesting terms like arrest, orphans, impoverished people, and mental illness. Visitors may not

Subjects Mentioned Frequently With Arrest
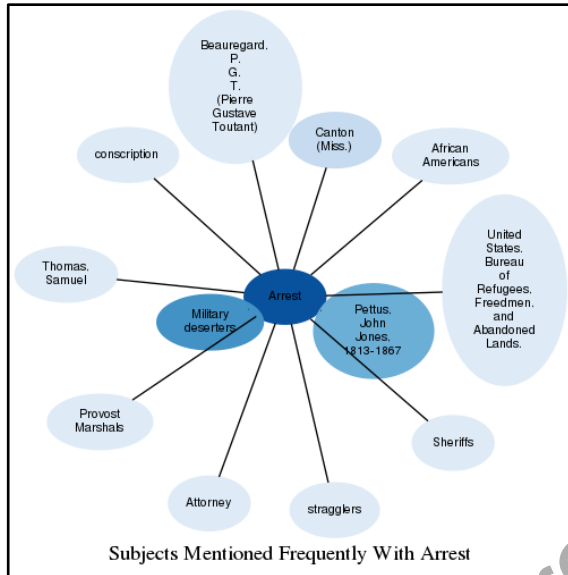
think about studying criminal justice in a collection like CWRGM, but as this annotation diagram (left) shows, in a collection with just 125 documents, 15 pages contained terminology relating to the subject of "arrest," and connect that document to related instances in the collection. Geolocation is also added in the annotation work for any location, organization, or event so these will be ready for future CWRGM mapping projects. Thanks to the subject tagging features in From the Page that will be a search feature of the Omeka S site, CWRGM is offering powerful annotation tools from the very beginning of the project to enhance access, discoverability, and historical interpretation.

Selection and Arrangement: All of the 20,000 documents of the CWRGM governors' Correspondence and Papers, Military Telegrams, Letters and Petitions, and Executive Journals from 1859-1882 are included in this comprehensive digital documentary edition. In all cases but the executive journals, original documents are digitized to provide high-quality images for scholars and researchers. Because the Executive Journals are tightly bound, CWRGM currently plans to use digitized microfilm records for these official government records except for the final

administration, John Marshall Stone, where the original EJ, never microfilmed, will be digitized.

The only items eliminated from this otherwise comprehensive project are duplicate documents

such as copies of letters and receipts that comprise an estimated one percent of the entire

collection. These duplicates are tracked internally in the calendar indexes and maintained at

MDAH. Because these collections are all government records that are in the public domain, they

are free of copyright restrictions/required permissions, and MDAH's traditional digitization fees

are part of their in-kind contributions to this grant.

4. Publishing Methods: The Omeka S home for CWRGM will launch with the first 4,000

digitized documents with verified metadata, transcriptions, and annotations in June 2021, and it

will offer users multiple approaches to accessing the collection. Digital developer Anneliese

Dehner's design of the CWRGM Omeka S site (NEH funded) will allow visitors to search for

key events by date or date range, for any place name or individual's name, and to browse the

collection by box and folder arrangement (simulating a scholar's research in the archives,

including the availability of finding aids). Users will also be able to browse subject headings

listing occupations, organizations, vital statistics, and commonly used social identifiers that non-

experts may not know to include in their search terms. When viewing a document transcription,

visitors will be able to click subject tags within the transcription to browse other documents with

the same subject tag, enabling users to explore all documents mentioning a key event,

organization, place, individual, social identifier, or vital statistic.

CWRGM uses Omeka S because it is the leading free open-source software for online

archival and museum exhibitions in digital public history. It has existed for over ten years, is still

being grant funded, is the prize project of the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New

Media at George Mason University (GMU), and is user-friendly for administrators of the site and

the public who intend to access it. The development of plugins by digital documentary editorial teams has made Omeka a more suitable platform for editions like CWRGM than it was when initially launched, and it allows CWRGM to create interactive online exhibits which content management systems such as WordPress, Drupal, and Joomla cannot replicate. It has been repeatedly tested and praised by documentary editions upon which CWRGM is modeling itself, including CWGK and JAPP/JADE, and CWRGM benefits from an assistant editor (Walters) who earned her Ph.D. at GMU in History with a digital history field and who teaches Omeka workshops, along with a developer (Dehner) who has extensive Omeka and Omeka S experience working with documentary editions. When the Omeka S site launches, users will use the various search or browsing options described above, and then click on a specific document. It will appear with the digitized document on the left, the annotated transcription on the right, and metadata below along with a recommended citation format. All of these features will be housed on a Reclaim Hosting server, which benefits an excellent reputation in the documentary editing field and nearly 24 hour/7 days week support at the budget conscious price of $100/year for 100 GB of storage (about twice what the entire project needs).

Until the Omeka S site launches in June 2021, CWRGM's home is here (Squarespace). This visually appealing site allows CWRGM to explain its purpose, share protocols, and, most importantly, offer a Sample Document exhibit that has already attracted nearly 3,000 pageviews since the creation of CWRGM.org in June 2019. That interest spiked with the September 2020 launch of CWRGM's Sample Document exhibit, which features roughly 80 sample documents selected from throughout the collection to help the public understand the project's potential and to ensure that CWRGM collections are getting into secondary classrooms as soon as possible. Ural organized the 80 documents into four themes that are of particular interest to researchers,

educators, students, and the public — Memory and Commemoration, Emancipation and Citizenship, Civilians and Divided Loyalties, and Soldiers and the Military Experience. Each theme opens with a short essay placing the topic in historical context and spotlights several of the selected documents. CWRGM Asst. Ed. Walters built the exhibit (NHPRC funded), Ural worked with MDAH to select the documents and also wrote the contextualizing essays (NHPRC funded), and four veteran educators created lesson plans grounded in state and national standards for each theme (NHPRC funded). In Spring 2021, the site will also feature the CWRGM podcast, sharing the backstory of the historiographically significant documents, and serve as the basis of an educator workshop hosted at MDAH. After the launch of the Omeka S site, the Sample Document feature will remain, serving as a "trailer" of sorts, introducing new users to CWRGM and its uses.

The final publishing method to remember is the *very* early access to the collection that MDL provides. Every CWRGM digitized document appears on MDL as soon as it has verified metadata (even before it has been transcribed) , support early access to the collection for scholars, educators, students and the public.

5. Preservation Standards: CWRGM has a clear plan in place for long-term sustainability. Ural and the CWRGM partners are dedicated to continuing to apply for grant-funding to ensure completion of the entire project. MDL is committed to correcting any metadata-related errors, and MDL's content management system (CONTENTdm), the current home for CWRGM (Squarespace), and discovery tool (Primo) are all hosted in cloud based environments in geographically distributed data centers in North America to ensure data security/stability. Additionally, copies of all CWRGM MDL files and metadata are stored on USM's networked storage drives hosted in USM's data center and replicated to a disaster recovery site, located

100+ miles away. Similar security and backup provisions are in place with Reclaim Hosting (where all materials for CWRGM's Omeka S based site will be stored), which holds their nightly backups of websites for up to 30 days. Finally, through Ural's partnership with MDAH, whose mission includes the preservation and dissemination of the state's governors' papers, teacher workshops will continue to be offered regularly to ensure that CWRGM remains an active component of K-12 classrooms at minimal cost if grant funding cannot support this in the future (an NEH grant funds these through Summer 2023). In the unlikely event of the closing of Reclaim Hosting, USM's University Libraries has agreed to harvest the Omeka S site and provide public access to the snapshot until another hosting solution can be secured. USM's Dale Center (of which Ural is co-director) would provide the necessary funding to temporarily pay for hosting services until other funding is secured. CWRGM cannot imagine this emergency step would be necessary, but it is in place as a sustainability precaution.

6. Plan of Work: In this application, CWRGM is asking to continue employing a part-time assistant editor (though reduced to 30 percent of her time), fund a CWRGM Graduate Research Assistant/Assistant Editor (12 months) from USM's existing pool of History graduate students, fund MDL Asst. Dir. Elizabeth La Beaud's contributions, retain digital developer Anneliese Dehner (NEH funded for 2020-2021) for her expertise with complex Omeka S issues, and continue to employ four (4) Undergraduate Research Assistants in the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters. The CWRGM assistant editor, Walters, plays a critical role on this project thanks to her digital humanities training and her PhD in early American history (George Mason University). Walters handles the uploading of all documents to FtP for transcription and annotations, and helps with FtP trouble-shooting. Walters also built and maintains the CWRGM

Sample Documents site that is key for CWRGM's early publication impact with users, assists Ural with CWRGM podcasts, and is critical to transcription and annotation verification.

Walters's reduced commitment from 50 percent (2020-2021) to 30 percent of her time in 2021-2022 reflects a significant increase in DH projects and programming at USM which requires more of Walters's time in her other position as Digital Liaison for the USM School of Humanities. The GRA/Asst. Ed. position in this application is critical to offsetting Walters's reduced hours, and allows her to focus on more complex troubleshooting while the GRA conducts transcription review and assists Walters with the uploading of documents to FtP. The fully-funded 12-month GRA/Asst. Ed. would allow CWRGM to select from some of the best graduate students in the History program, a number of whom specialize in the Civil War and Reconstruction eras, while providing that student with excellent and highly marketable training for their future employment and scholarship.

As is the case with Walters, the shift of La Beaud from in-kind contributions in 2020-2021 to a small salary ($5,000/year) in this application reflects the rapid growth of DH at USM and the requirements of her position to support this for all faculty (not just CWRGM). So her in-kind hours have to shift to supporting other projects in the coming year. Similarly, funding digital developer Anneliese Dehner ($5,000/year) at the advice of other DDEs like the Jane Addams Digital Edition and "Last Seen" (both NHPRC funded) is key to CWRGM's ability to trouble-shoot any complex Omeka S issues. Finally, the URA positions are absolutely critical to CWRGM's continued metadata, transcription, and annotation creation/verification progress.

The CWRGM full work plan for 2021-2022 (see detailed plan in Supplementary Materials) involves the digitization and two-stage verification of nearly 3,400 documents from four administrations (Sharkey, Humphreys, Ames, and Alcorn) for the period spanning May

1865 through November 1871. It also involves the creation and verification of metadata, transcriptions, and annotations for almost 3,400 digitized documents which will be available at the Omeka S site, and even earlier — as soon as metadata is verified — at MDL. That includes the remaining 75 documents from Gov. Pettus's Correspondence and Papers and Telegrams (1859-1863), and 60 percent of Gov. Clark's Correspondence and Papers and Telegrams (Nov. 1863-May 1865).

Of that full work plan with funding from multiple agencies, nearly 30 percent can be covered by the positions outlined in this NHPRC application by Walters, the four URAs, and Ural. To achieve another 20 percent, CWRGM needs the GRA/Asst. Editor, La Beaud's salaried support, and Dehner's digital development skills and trouble-shooting expertise. The project also needs the budgeted $1,200 in travel funds to help project partners and lead researchers present CWRGM findings at academic meetings to ensure that it become a fundamental resource for scholars and secondary educators. The remaining 50 percent of CWRGM's 2021-2022 full work plan is already funded by the project's NEH grant.

CWRGM is confident in its ability to achieve this work plan based on its productivity to date in 2020. Its 2020-2021 NHPRC performance objectives include the digitization and verification of nearly 5,000 documents. MDAH is on track to achieve that goal by June 2021 (see Digitization Schedule in Work Plan in Supplementary Materials). The MDL's team's NHPRC objectives included the creation and two-stage review of metadata for nearly 3,200 documents. NHPRC funding began July 1, and as of September 29, 2020, the team had created metadata for 2,934 documents, reviewed metadata for 3,052 documents (some created before July 1), and has completed stage two verification for 1,761 documents. In its NHPRC 2020-2021 objectives, the USM History team pledged to have transcriptions drafted and through two-stage review for 670

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documents. Their objectives also included an additional 1,000 documents with transcriptions

drafted, with 700 of those through stage one review and 500 through stage two review by the end

of June 2021. As of September 29, 2020, there were nearly 300 documents in From the Page,

with 274 of those transcribed with annotations, and 230 of those through dual verification.

CWRGM is well positioned to meet its NHPRC performance objectives for 2020-2021, and it

has a similarly realistic plan in place to meet its proposed 2021-2022 objectives pending

continued NHPRC support.

7. Impact of the Project: CWRGM's ultimate goal is to enhance learning and knowledge among

scholars, teachers, students, researchers, and the public at large for decades to come. To

accomplish this, CWRGM material must be imbedded in secondary curriculum, and become a

regular home for scholarly research and a go-to resource for the public. With these goals in mind,

CWRGM charted several tasks for its first three grant-funded years (2020-2023): a Sample

Document site with lesson plans (done; NHPRC funded); a teacher workshop hosted with

MDAH at the Mississippi Historical Society meeting in March 2021 (under development;

NHPRC funded); continued educator workshops in 2021-2023 that will recruit teachers from

across the nation (NEH funded). The project is already having an impact through the early

publication of CWRGM documents at MDL, which generated 2,951 Pageviews between March

2019 and September 28, 2020; it was MDL's third most visited institution in the past year. In the

two week period between the launch of CWRGM's Sample Documents site on September 15 and

September 29, 2020, that site had 79 unique visitors and 238 visits, much of this driven by

CWRGM social media (Facebook and Twitter) that also began in September.

Additional outreach will take place at the collegiate level through presentations by

CWRGM project partners at the annual meetings of major history and library/archival

organizations when these resume. Despite Covid-19 travel restrictions, CWRGM is already doing this with a virtual roundtable hosted by the editors of the *Journal of the Civil War Era* on October 30, 2020 featuring CWRGM along with Civil War Governors of Kentucky and Civil War & Reconstruction Governors of Alabama projects. Those same three projects have also been accepted to present their research at the annual meeting of the Society for Military History annual meeting in April 2021, and are submitting a separate roundtable proposal for the Southern Historical Association annual meeting in November 2021. Finally, CWRGM is drafting scripts for its first podcast series that will launch in Spring 2021 via iTunes and Spotify through USM Center for Oral History & Cultural Heritage's existing podcast relationship with these entities.

8. Qualifications of Staff: The CWRGM Project's cross-domain partnership is led by **Susannah J. Ura**l, Professor of History and co-director of the Dale Center for the Study of War & Society. She is the author of four books, numerous articles, editorials, blog posts, and she has a regular column connecting educators with online resources in *Civil War Times Magazine*. She has taught university students about the U.S. Civil War era and American history in general for nearly twenty-five years. Ural is the past president of the Mississippi Historical Society, a trustee of the Society for Military History, and the recipient of the University of Southern Mississippi's two most prestigious two-year research professorships: The Blount Professorship in Military History and the Moorman Professorship. Her most recent digital project, The Beauvoir Veteran Project, led to Ural guest editing a special issue on veterans for the top scholarly publication in the field, *The Journal of the Civil War Era*.

CWRGM project partners **David Pilcher** is a 35- year veteran of MDAH. He and fellow MDAH archivist and CWRGM **Preston Everett**, who has been working with MDAH's Image & Sound Division since 1998, have extensive experience with large-scale federally funded digital

projects. They are fully committed to CWRGM as their steady, quality digitization pace, commitment letter, and in-kind contribution demonstrates (see Budget Narrative). At MDL, CWRGM project partners **Lisa Jones** and **Elizabeth La Beaud** have served as director and assistant director, respectively, of the Mississippi Digital Library since 2011 and been part of several major federally-funded projects including the NEH-funded "The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi: Providing Access at the 50th Anniversary." Their experience and determined support for CWGM is evident in their work creating and maintaining the MDL landing page for CWRGM and the early CWRGM website that hosts protocols and sample letters while generating public support, as well as their annual in-kind contributions to the project (detailed in the Budget Narrative).

Digital Developer **Anneliese Dehner** and **Brumfield Labs (From the Page)** are leaders in the digital editing world and come to CWRGM with the strong recommendation of CWGK and the Jane Addams Digital Project. CWRGM also benefits from the advice and annual review of its Board of Advisors (see Supplementary Materials). Digital Archivist **Austin Justice** is a veteran of Appalshop Archive, the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the Civil War Governors of Kentucky, while CWRGM Assistant Digital and Documentary Editor **Stephanie Seal Walters, Ph.D.** is a trained historian and DH specialist from George Mason University with experience on projects that include the Papers of the War Department and Histories of the National Mall. The Undergraduate Research Assistants (URAs) are recruited from among USM's strong History program, as well as related Humanities fields like English and Philosophy (see CWRGM's Staff listing here).

9. Performance Objectives: CWRGM seeks funding of $108,924 from the NHPRC PHRDE

program for the one-year period beginning July 1, 2021. With appropriate funding and staff,

CWRGM will accomplish these performance objectives by June 30, 2022:

1. Digitization and two-stage verification of 3,500 documents from the following

   collections: Gov. Sharkey, 1865 (430 docs); Humphreys, 1865-1868 (1,765 docs);

   Ames, 1868-1870 (380 docs); Alcorn, 1870-1871 (930 docs)

Part II: Pettus, Corresp. & Papers, Nov. 4, 1859-Oct. 1863 = 3,520 docs (100%)

(Note: This completes Part II; the first 3,000 docs already at Omeka S and MDL sites by June

2021 with verified metadata, transcriptions and annotations)

2. Transcription creation and two-stage verification for remaining 520 docs

3. Annotation creation and two-stage verification for remaining 520 docs

4. Remaining 520 docs on Omeka-S site with metadata, transcriptions, and annotations

Part III: Pettus Telegrams, 1859-1863 = all 870 docs (100%)

5. Metadata creation and two-stage verification complete for all 870 docs

6. All 870 docs uploaded to MDL with metadata

7. Transcription and annotation creation and two-stage verification complete for all 870

   docs

8. All 870 docs uploaded to Omeka S site with metadata, transcriptions, and annotations

Part IV: Clark, Corresp. & Telegrams, 1863-1865 = 310 of 3,840 docs (8%)

9. Metadata creation and two-stage verification for first 310 docs

10. First 310 docs uploaded to MDL with metadata

11. Transcription and annotation creation and two-stage verification for first 310 docs

12. First 310 docs uploaded to Omeka S site with metadata, transcriptions, and annotation