



OMOHUNDRO  
INSTITUTE

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2021

*Annual Report*





# FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JANUARY 2022

“Change” and “continuity” are keywords for historians so perhaps it is fitting that we witnessed plenty of both in 2021.

“Change” may be the most obvious force. In October, Karin Wulf ended a remarkable term as Executive Director when she left the OI and William & Mary to become the Beatrice and Julio Mario Santo Domingo Director and Librarian at the John Carter Brown Library. Under her dynamic leadership, we increased our digital programming and expanded the number and range of our fellowships, thus funneling more support to more scholars and encouraging a more capacious vision of Early America. As much as we miss her, we are grateful for the work she did and eager to build upon it in the months and years to come. Karin’s departure coincided with the OI’s renewed partnership with Colonial Williamsburg. We are pleased to again have both W&M and Colonial Williamsburg as sponsors of the OI and have the good fortune to be working with Ann Marie Stock and Cliff Fleet respectively in their roles at W&M and CW. Exciting plans for future collaborations are already in the works, including “For 2026,” a five-year conference series jointly sponsored by the OI, CW, and W&M. In the meantime, we have already begun to benefit from CW’s generous sponsorship of the *Ben Franklin’s World* podcast.

Big changes, indeed.

But their magnitude should not eclipse the continuity that we have worked hard to maintain and broaden. We have remained energetically focused on securing and delivering fellowship support, especially crucial for emerging, junior, and non-tenure-track scholars. Partnerships with other institutes, libraries, and museums, combined with our NEH postdoctoral fellowship, has delivered support to two dozen scholars. A NEH-SHARP grant, aimed at scholars who are precariously employed, will deliver funding to over a dozen additional scholars this spring. We have retained an energetic

digital presence, offering programs and collaborative, virtual space to some members of the multiple communities that animate our fields. Finally, our publications – the *William & Mary Quarterly* and the Books program – have never been stronger. We continue to benefit from a powerhouse Board of Directors that now includes Cliff Fleet, Annette Gordon-Reed, and Mary Beth Norton along with Sarah Barringer Gordon, Jennifer Morgan, Barbara Oberg, Paul Sperry, and Ann Marie Stock.

Historians often argue about the relative importance of “change” versus “continuity”. While we cannot know for sure how the coming year will unfold (historians love “contingency,” too!), I’m looking forward to/betting on a continued commitment to excellence and innovation, which has long defined the OI.

— Catherine E. Kelly

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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EVENTS .....	6
PUBLICATIONS .....	21
DIGITAL PROJECTS .....	40
FELLOWSHIPS .....	46
SUPPORT .....	58
COUNCIL AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS .....	70



# FROM THE CHAIR

JANUARY 2022

The year 2020–2021 demonstrated the truism that *the only constant is change*. In programs and in personnel, we witnessed a number of revisions and changes.

First and foremost, we were pleased to re-enter a formal partnership with our neighbor and founding sponsor, Colonial Williamsburg. Thanks to the steady support of our other founding sponsor, William & Mary, we have a sturdy triad that gives us a firmer financial footing than before and the potential to expand our programming exponentially. Cliff Fleet, President and CEO of Colonial Williamsburg, is now a member of our Board of Directors and we are fortunate to have him. William & Mary's Ann Marie Stock continues to sit on the Board, now as the newly appointed Presidential Liaison for Strategic and Cultural Partnerships. In addition to the OI, she oversees the research and operations of the Williamsburg Bray School Initiative, the Muscarelle Museum of Art, and James Monroe's Highland. We are grateful as ever for her support and guidance.

We welcomed back three old friends to the OI leadership team. Annette Gordon-Reed and Mary Beth Norton, each an iconic scholar of Vast Early America and each a proven leader of American scholarly institutions, joined the OI Board. They are now officially Forever Board, as well as having already been deemed Forever Council. We could not be more pleased to have their support and participation. Catherine E. (Cathy) Kelly, known already for her stellar contributions to the award-winning OI Books program in her role as Editor of Books, also joined the leadership and now brings her shrewd insights and effective management style to her new role as the OI's Interim Executive Director.

In May 2021, we said goodbye to Sid Lapidus, supporter of early American scholarship *non-pareil*, who stepped down after 13 years on the Board to spend more time with his family and his extraordinary trove of early American legal manuscripts. In October Karin Wulf, after eight years leading the OI

as Executive Director and seven years before that as Book Review Editor of the *William and Mary Quarterly*, left to become Director and Chief Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library. We take comfort in knowing that both Sid and Karin are still very much fellow travelers in Vast Early America and expect to see them at OI events online and in-person.

And what a lot of events they have to choose from! Despite another year of hardship imposed by the global pandemic, we managed to bring together a great number of scholars via our numerous online workshops, lectures, colloquia—and of course our OI Coffeehouse tables. We applied for and received several NEH grants as well as the continued support of OI Associates—all of which will provide extraordinary opportunities to support the early Americanist community. You can read about these in the pages that follow, as well as revel in another constant that is as predictable as change itself: the excellence and lasting impact of OI publications and programs.

We thank you for your exemplary support of all of these programs and look forward to the opportunities to work with you in 2022.

Barbara Oberg  
*Chair, OI Board of Directors*



# FALL 2020 AND SPRING 2021 CONFERENCES

While the pandemic prevented us from gathering in person, we maintained a full slate of events online. An asterik indicates a recording of the session is available via the OI Events site.

## SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Early American Reading Group

*Wicked Flesh: Black Women, Intimacy, and Freedom in the Atlantic World* by Jessica Marie Johnson

## SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

\*The 2020 Vast Early America Lecture

“A Bible with Whales and an Indigenous Sawmill: Entangled Lives, Materials, and Memories from the Native and Colonial Northeast”

With Christine DeLucia (Williams College)

## SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

“Institute and Society Publishing in the 2020s: what can historians do for themselves?”

A joint event from the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, and the Omohundro Institute. With additional contributions from the American Historical Association, African American Intellectual History Society, and Sussex Humanities Lab.

## OCTOBER 7, 2020

\*“Seeing Virginia History Through Colonial Portraits”

A Roundtable with Janine Yorimoto Boldt (curator at the Chazen Museum of Art and creator of Colonial Virginia Portraits), William Rasmussen and Karen Sherry (curators at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture)

## OCTOBER 15, 2020

Early American Reading Group

*Indigenous Prosperity and American Conquest: Indian Women of the Ohio River Valley, 1690-1792* by Susan Sleeper-Smith

## OCTOBER 22, 2020

\*OI Author Conversation

“Telling Unconventional Life Stories in Vast Early America”

With Carolyn Eastman (Virginia Commonwealth University) and Sophie White (University of Notre Dame)

## NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Early American Reading Group

*In the Matter of Nat Turner: A Speculative History* by Christopher Tomlins

## NOVEMBER 5, 12, AND 19, 2020

“From Primary Sources to Publication: an online workshop for scholars of early America”

*Three sessions for early career scholars in finding, reading, interrogating, and incorporating archival materials with archivists and editors from the John Carter Brown Library and the Omohundro Institute*

Karin Wulf and Neil Safier, organizers

## DECEMBER 17, 2020

Early American Reading Group

*Elizabeth Seton: American Saint* by Catherine O’Donnell

## DECEMBER 17, 2020

\*“Creating Breathing Room for Our Students and Ourselves”

A workshop with Cate Denial (Knox College)

## JANUARY 13, 2021

\*“Making History through Handwriting: An Introduction to Manuscript Transcription”

A lecture by Julie A. Fisher and Sara Powell (both from the American Philosophical Society)

Immediately followed by a workshop

“Seals, Folds, and Holes: Diplomatic Transcription and the Material Text”

**JANUARY 21, 2021**

\*“A Pedagogy of Kindness”  
A workshop with Cate Denial

**JANUARY 25, 2021**

“Queen Charlotte and Transatlantic Women’s Intellectual Networks”  
A lecture by Karin Wulf for the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute

**JANUARY 25, 2021**

\*Vast Early America at the Washington History Seminar  
*Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory*  
Author Claudio Saunt in conversation with Kathleen DuVal (University of North Carolina) and Michael Witgen (Columbia University)

**JANUARY 30, 2021**

Virginia Consortium of Early Americanists (VCEA) annual meeting

**FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

“Free the Ghost of Blithfield Hall!”  
A workshop with Julie A. Fisher, Sara Powell, and Heather Wolfe (all from the American Philosophical Society)

**FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

A Georgian Papers Programme Coffee Break with Kate Heard and Kathryn Jones (both from the Royal Collection Trust)

**FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

\*12th annual Rio de la Plata Workshop  
Fabrício Prado, organizer (William & Mary)

**MARCH 1, 2021**

\*Vast Early America at the Washington History Seminar  
*The Black Republic: African Americans and the Fate of Haiti*  
Author Brandon Bryd in conversation with Laurent Dubois (University of Virginia)

**MARCH 5, 2021**

“Centering the Native South: A Roundtable on Native Pasts and Futures”  
A workshop with Brooke Bauer, Malinda Maynor Lowery, and Julie L. Reed for the Society of Early Americanists

**MARCH 16, 2021**

A Georgian Papers Programme Coffee Break with Stephanie Howard-Smith (University of York)

**MARCH 23, 2021**

\*OI Author Conversation  
“Fighting for Their Places: Race and Settlement in the Early Republic”  
With Samantha Seeley (University of Richmond) and Michael Witgen

**MARCH 26 AND APRIL 2, 2021**

*A William and Mary Quarterly — Hispanic American Historical Review* Workshop  
Martha Few (Penn State University) and Joshua Piker, organizers

**MARCH 30, 2021**

A Georgian Papers Programme Coffee Break with Mary Louise O’Donnell

**MARCH 31, 2021**

“Schoolhouse Rock for a New Generation”  
A talk with author, educator, and *Atlantic Monthly* contributor Paul Ringel (High Point University)

### APRIL 19, 2021

\*Vast Early America at the Washington History Seminar  
Until Justice Be Done: America's First Civil Rights Movement,  
from the Revolution to Reconstruction  
Author Kate Masur in conversation with Erica L. Ball  
(Occidental College)

### APRIL 20, 2021

A Georgian Papers Programme Lecture  
"Exploring the Inventories in the Georgian Papers"  
With Holly Day (White Rose College of Arts and Humanities)

### APRIL 27, 2021

A Georgian Papers Programme Coffee Break with Ben Schofield  
(King's College London)

### APRIL 29, 2021

"Focus on Documentary Editing: The Papers of John Marshall"  
With Sara Georgini (Massachusetts Historical Society) and  
Charles Hobson  
Co-sponsored with the John Marshall Center for Constitutional  
History & Civics

### MAY 11, 2021

A Georgian Papers Programme Coffee Break with Cole Jones  
(Purdue University)

### MAY 12, 2021

\*"An Introduction to Online Resources at MESDA"  
With MESDA curators Gary Albert and Kim May  
Co-sponsored with the Museum of Early Southern Decorative  
Arts (MESDA)

### MAY 13, 2021

OI Author Conversation  
\*"Religions, Nation States, and Politics in Vast Early America"  
With Kate Carté (Southern Methodist University) and Julia Gaffield  
(Georgia State University)

### MAY 18, 2021

A Georgian Papers Programme Lecture  
"Exploring the Essays in the Georgian Papers"  
With Jenny Buckley (White Rose College of Arts and Humanities)

### JUNE 8, 2021

A Georgian Papers Programme Roundtable  
"Global Georgians: Transnational Interactions with the  
British Monarchy"

With David Armitage (Harvard University), Charles Prior  
(University of Hull), Henrietta Harrison (University of Oxford),  
and Priya Atwal (University of Oxford)

### JUNE 15, 2021

"Reading for Teaching: A Vast Early America Book Club"  
For K-12 teachers, professors, public historians, and others who teach  
Melissa Johnson (Columbia Basin College), organizer

### JUNE 15, 2021

\*"Jessica Marie Johnson talks to Jennifer L. Morgan about  
*Reckoning with Slavery*"  
With Jessica Marie Johnson (Johns Hopkins University) and  
Jennifer L. Morgan (New York University)

### JUNE 16, 2021

\*"Jennifer L. Morgan talks to Jessica Marie Johnson about  
*Wicked Flesh*"  
With Jennifer L. Morgan and Jessica Marie Johnson  
The talks on June 15 & 16 were co-sponsored with the Center for  
Black Visual Culture and Institute of African American Affairs, and  
the NYU Center for the Humanities.

### JUNE 17-19, 2021

Omohundro Institute 26th Annual Conference



Actors Claire Wittman (left) and Alyssa Elkins (right) perform on the Play House Stage in a production of Jug Broke Theater Company's "Ladies of Llangollen." The troupe uses contemporary theater techniques to draw audiences into compelling, personal stories of the 18th-century world. This play, the first reenactment at Colonial Williamsburg to focus on an LGBTQ story, centers the experiences of Sarah Ponsonby and Eleanor Butler, who eloped together from Ireland to Wales and shared their lives for the next 50 years. The musical romance gives life to the women's own words, adapted from their diaries, letters, and poetry. The play is presented for guests with Colonial Williamsburg admission. Photograph taken by Wayne Reynolds and used with the permission of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

# COLLOQUIA 2020-2021

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The Omohundro Institute colloquium series is an ongoing seminar for scholars to present their work in progress for graduate students and colleagues. All participants read the pre-circulated paper and prepare to engage in generous and generative feedback. Persons interested in presenting their work are invited to contact the executive director at [OIDirector@wm.edu](mailto:OIDirector@wm.edu) by April 4, 2022.

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

Julia Gaffield, Georgia State University

“The Schism: Haitian Independence and the National Church”

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**

Tara Bynum, University of Iowa

“A Curious List and a Trip to Sierra Leone: Or, Why Obour Tanner Bought Rev. Hopkins’  
*The System of Doctrines* in 1793?”

**OCTOBER 20, 2020**

Sarah Jessica Johnson, University of Chicago

“Asserting Pregnancy in a Colonial Prison: Resounding Silences in Cecilia’s Record”

**NOVEMBER 17, 2020**

Michael Blaakman, Princeton University

“Preemptive Property: Native Power, Unceded Land, and Speculation in the Early Republic”

**DECEMBER 8, 2020**

Warren Milteer, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

“The Evolution of Freedom: Free People of Color in the Revolutionary South”

**JANUARY 26, 2021**

Nathan Perl-Rosenthal, University of Southern California

“From New Cultures to a New Regime: Washington and Cuzco in the 1810s”

**FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

Melissa Johnson, Columbia Basin College

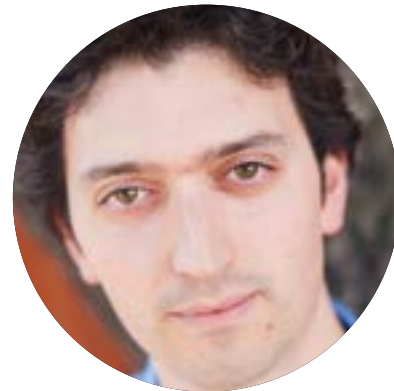
“Mistress, Housemaid, Daughter, Spy: Servants and the Management of Household  
Gossip in 17th Century New England”

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**PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT:**

**Michael Blaakman, Julia Gaffield, Melissa Johnson, Sarah Jessica Johnson,  
Warren Milteer, Nathan Perl-Rosenthal**

**NOT PICTURED: Tara Bynum**



# OI COFFEEHOUSES

## A place for Vast Early America to connect

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We began the OI Coffeehouse program in 2021 as a way for scholars to connect online and continue the conversations and momentum so many lost to the pandemic. We are now winding down our fourth iteration and will start another series early in the new year. For each session, table “hosts” take applications for “seats” at tables organized around themes of their choosing. The OI runs the Zoom rooms, shared Dropbox folders, and application process for each table. What follows is a list of the tables offered in the first six months of 2021 with descriptions provided by the hosts.

### FEBRUARY 2021

#### **Imagining Lost Lives: Archival Silences and the Challenge of Writing Histories of the Enslaved**

Frances Bell (William & Mary) and Simon P. Newman (University of Glasgow, emeritus)

We welcome scholars who are hoping to complete writing focused on enslaved people who have left few archival traces. Generations of historians have struggled with the challenge of doing justice to the enslaved individuals who figure in their scholarly writing, and a slew of recent scholarship has underlined what is at stake in our dependence upon masters’ records imbued with the violence of slavery. We seek as broad a range of participants as possible, including junior, mid-career and senior scholars and others as we confront the challenge of historical writing given that we “have irretrievably lost the thoughts, desires, fears, and perspectives of many whose enslavement shaped every aspect of their lives.”[1] [1] Brian Connolly and Marisa Fuentes, “Introduction: From Archives of Slavery to Liberated Futures?” *History of the Present: A Journal of Critical History*, 6, 2 (2016), 105.

#### **Six Degrees of Phillis Wheatley**

Tara Bynum (University of Iowa)

This table will gather us together to talk and write about how early African American communities made themselves within a revolutionary era and early Republic context.

#### **The Liberal Arts College Table**

Cate Denial (Knox College)

Come and create community with other liberal arts professors, as we navigate the ins and outs of research and writing as scholars with demanding teaching loads. Adjunct faculty are welcome!

#### **Rethinking Historical Narratives: Slavery and Memory in the Atlantic**

Michael Dickinson (Virginia Commonwealth University) and Dexter Gabriel (University of Connecticut-Storrs)

This table will consider how societies throughout the Atlantic have worked to reconcile and remember the histories of black bondage. In light of contemporary discussions in the United States surrounding the legacies of slavery, we believe that discourses across geographic boundaries have much to contribute as we work to move forward as a society. Therefore, we would like to invite participants to use this opportunity to generatively consider the human project of illuminating past oppression and acknowledging present continuities in order to heal historical injustices.

#### **Indigenous Mapmaking and Mapmakers**

Jenny Marie Forsythe (Western Washington University) and Heesoo Cho (Washington University in St. Louis)

Indigenous people have always made maps. The work of Lisa Brooks, Margaret Pearce, Annita Hetoevého-tohke’e Lucchesi, and many others powerfully contests the false notion that cartography is exclusively



# OI COFFEEHOUSE

## #VastEarlyAmerica

a colonial technology or a Western science. This table will be a mix of coffee date, reading group, and work-in-progress group; a space to learn more about Indigenous histories and practices of mapping Vast Early America.

### **Archival Fragments, Experimental Modes**

Sara E. Johnson (University of California, San Diego) and Sarah Knott (Indiana University)

This table will bring together scholars interested in exploring the methods and forms in which we write when confronted by the limits of the archive. As scholars of vast early America, we can draw particular inspiration from women's, indigenous and enslaved histories. We are also inspired by recent developments in scholarly modes from across the Humanities. These might include critical fabulation; the history of the present; what Maggie Nelson calls "presencing" (in which the writer is present in the text); or other styles, methods, and genres brought by group members.

### **New Wine in Old Bottles: De-Daddding Dad History**

Tyson Reeder (University of Virginia)

With Alexis Coe's memorable description of the "thigh men of dad history" ping-ponging around our brains, those of us who write about well-known figures and events in early America may question whether we are just retracing the lines of old portraits in slightly different hues. We want to present important topics to wide audiences without falling into caricature, or we may struggle with the line between revision and polemics. This table will help us sort through new frameworks and diversify our approaches to prominent subjects, while still reaching broad audiences.

### **Childhood and Youth in Early America**

Crystal Lynn Webster (University of Texas at San Antonio)

This group is designed for scholars researching broadly on the concept of childhood and/or doing history that centers children as historical subjects. Relevant topics include child-labor, race & childhood, children and criminal/carceral studies, and more. The group intends to hold space for writing together, as well as workshop works-in-progress.

### **Enslaved.org: Public Scholarship, Project Management, and Ethics in Digital Slavery Studies**

Daryle Williams (University of California Riverside and Co-Principal Investigator, Enslaved.org) and Kristina Poznan (Editorial Associate, Enslaved.org)

This table will use Enslaved.org: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade as a case study and "sandbox" for exploring the various opportunities and challenges of engaging in data-driven public scholarship, humanistic research, and humanities careers. Each session will consist of an introductory overview on the week's topic, led by the co-hosts and invited guests, followed by breakouts for discussion and collaboration. We welcome scholars, students, and public humanities professionals actively working in slavery studies, data-driven historical research, and/or digital projects at any stage to join.

### Just Write

Karin Wulf (Omohundro Institute)

Join our table for company and accountability as you ... just write. We check in at the beginning of the session, state our goals for that day's meeting, and get to work. At the end of the session we report back. The Just Write table proved very helpful to participants in the last round and we are eager to resume it.

### MAY 2021

#### Mobility, Emplacement, and Homelands

Denise I. Bossy (University of North Florida) and S. Max Edelson (University of Virginia)

This coffee table will be a place to consider different forms of movement and settlement across the spaces of vast early America. We are especially interested in fostering cross-disciplinary dialogues and welcome scholars working on Indigenous, African, or colonial settler communities. Through readings and chats we will explore different constructs and methodologies – shatter zone, diaspora, emplacement, cartography and the spatial turn, colonial settlement, among others – while also providing space for scholars to think together and share their own work.

#### The Disaffected and the American Revolution

Rebecca Brannon (James Madison University)

The American Revolution was a minority project—one that the majority of people living in British North America did not want. How can we write the history of the era of the American Revolution in the light of the incredible diversity of ideas and actions captured by the study of dissenters, pacifists, disaffected, Loyalists, prisoners, enslaved people, and Native Americans before, during, and after the American Revolution? Join this table and get support in our quest to write the Revolution in all its complexity.

#### Slavery, Law, and Power in early America and the British Empire

Holly Brewer (University of Maryland)

This table will focus on connections between slavery, law, and power in early America and the British empire – that is, what we might call structural racism and larger structures of power (including imperial structures)

in the differential growth of slavery in colonies primarily in the British empire. It assumes that enslaved people are also, on some level, political actors, even though less powerful. Scholars who study other empires/ colonial spaces, who want to engage in comparative conversation, are welcome. We also encourage scholars interested in documentary editing and digital humanities to apply. Participants will be encouraged to share their work, and potentially to contribute edited documents to a beta website (supported by the NHPRC) that will launch in November 2021 (with authorial credit).

#### Race, Images, Objects, and Identity in #VastEarlyAmerica

Cynthia Chin (University of Glasgow) and Philippe Halbert (Yale University)

Come join us to hone and expand your understanding of #VastEarlyAmerica through images and objects, which often bear witness to the lives and identities not always featured in the traditional archival record. This table will support scholars of all levels wishing to engage with objects and a wide spectrum of related methodological approaches by encouraging object-focused discussions of race and identity in early America 1450-1830, including North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean. We welcome everyone — no prior experience or work in material culture is required to participate!

#### Women and Gender in Early America

Sara Damiano (Texas State University)

This table will connect researchers working within the expansive fields of women's and gender history. It welcomes scholars studying Black, Native, and European-descended women, as well as those studying the histories of masculinity and femininity. The group will offer space for writing, informal conversation, and workshopping of short excerpts from works-in-progress.

#### From Dissertation to Manuscript: De-Mystifying the Process (and Doing It!)

Alexi Garrett (Iona College) and Robert Colby (Christopher Newport University)

As graduate students finish their studies, they confront an assumption that they will immediately publish their dissertation as a book. But they often face this next stage armed only with limited, vague, dated, or even contradictory advice. This table is for anyone who wants to learn about and advance in the dissertation-to-book process: end-stage grad students, early career scholars, independent historians who want to

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pick up their dissertation again after the odd fifteen years, those with editors, those without, and more. Together, we will seek to demystify this process. We will discuss how and why the dissertation is different from the book; consider diss-to-book timelines; examine writing a book proposal/pitching your work; finding an editor; determining the best “fit” with a press; and understanding what types of changes editors want to see in the final product. We will also conduct manuscript workshops for participants. While we will work with participants to see how this group will most benefit them, we envision a mix of guest speakers (including editors and recently-published authors) and participants sharing their personal experiences and advice, as well as workshoping works-in-progress.

#### **Putting the Latin America into Vast Early America**

Catherine Goode (The Americas Research Network)

This is a table for anyone working on the Portuguese and Spanish occupied regions of the Americas. Take the opportunity to write with scholars who work on regions as diverse as the northern borderlands of Mexico and the U.S. southwest, through the Caribbean and south to the Rio de la Plata, including Indigenous, African and African-descended, Asian, mestiza, and European historical actors. Join us to share your work and have dedicated writing time on early modern Latin America. Independent scholars, contingent faculty, and graduate students are encouraged to participate!

#### **The Dutch Atlantic World**

Deborah Hamer (New Netherland Institute) and Jared Hardesty (Western Washington University)

This table will be a supportive place to share works in progress that deal with the Dutch Atlantic in its broadest sense. We welcome participants who focus on any aspect of the Dutch experience in the Atlantic world as well as those who study interimperial or intercultural entanglements that involve the Dutch. Building connections across imperial historiographies will be a central part of this table's goals.

#### **Archives Based Open Data Projects in Early America**

Molly O'Hagan Hardy (National Endowment for the Humanities) and Kyle Roberts (Loyola University Chicago)

Open Data initiatives - such as the ones at the Magazine of Early American Datasets (<https://repository.upenn.edu/mead/>), American Antiquarian Society (<https://www.americanantiquarian.org/resourcesRemote-access>), and the American Philosophical Society (<https://diglib.amphilsoc.org/data>) - have transformed valuable data in hard-to-re-use analog formats into easier-to-analyze tabular data. The goal of such initiatives is not only to produce datasets, but also to encourage their use in scholarship and teaching. This table brings together DH practitioners, scholars working in libraries and academia, and educators to explore the data sets that have been produced and to discuss ethical, practical, technical, professional, and intellectual opportunities and obstacles they present.

#### **History Happened Here: Teaching and Research with Historic Sites**

Erin Holmes (American Philosophical Society) and Kristina Poznan (Enslaved.org)

This table will explore methods and opportunities for site-based teaching and research in early American history, including how to create and manage opportunities/spaces/occasions for student research and digital and public engagement. The table will be hosted by two public historians who got their start at W&M's National Institute of American History and Democracy. We will explore topics including historic sites as primary sources, the benefits of various types of sites (not only museums and historic homes but also less-visited sites like cemeteries), archaeology and architecture for history education, why physical field trips are worth the hassle (and how to pull it off), digital alternatives and supplements to field trips, critical assessment of historic sites through writing reviews, and involving students in site advocacy and preservation. Particular attention will be paid to the opportunities at historic sites to tell diverse, inclusive histories, how to tell those stories even when the site does not, and how to turn silences into teachable moments. Guests from various historic sites will join us to share their expertise and perspectives. Individuals from all aspects of history education are encouraged to apply, from secondary teachers to university instructors to museum professionals and beyond. Those interested in undergraduate education through public history are especially encouraged to apply.

#### **Just Write**

Karin Wulf (Omohundro Institute)

### JULY 2021

#### Reconsidering Credit Debt and Early National Life, 1700-1840s

Elbra David (Independent Scholar)

This table will focus on the connections between Americans' lived experience with debt and credit in the aftermath of the American Revolution. From Alice Hanson Jones's study of probates to historian Claire Priest's work on credit in early America and international policy (2020), historians continue to apply fresh new methodologies to the economy of credit and debt. The panel welcomes scholars focused on any aspect of debt and credit including institutions (i.e., banking and mercantile law), slavery, and markets that lay beyond the borders of the United States during the seventeenth- to nineteenth- centuries. Scholars who study other empires/colonial spaces, as well as Digital Humanities scholars who want to engage in comparative conversation are welcome. The goal is to bring practitioners together to discuss both the opportunities and obstacles of individual work. Meetings will be divided between writing time and discussion with possible guest speakers for interested participants.

#### Dusting off the Puritans

Annie Powell (William & Mary)

This coffeehouse table will take one of the most traditional topics in early American history Puritan New England and reconsider it in light of new scholarship, frameworks, and methods. Scholars of all levels with a variety of interests in fields related to seventeenth century "Puritan" New England (theology, race, gender, political economy, environmentalism, settler colonialism, etc.) will be welcomed as we look to find new methods to approach this subject. The coffeehouse table will provide a collaborative space to discuss recent literature, share pieces of our own works-in-progress, and talk more generally about the process of "re-discovering" a well-worn topic.

#### Thinking Around Treaties

Charles Prior (University of Hull)

This table aims to begin a conversation about treaties, as part of a wider project to re-assess their place as historical documents that are also living agreements. Early American history still in search of an analytical

framework that balances settler colonialism and Indigenous power, is Continental in scope, connects the local to the international, and illuminates the web of interactions that defined common worlds. Treaties between Indigenous sovereigns and colonial / imperial governments have the potential to provide that framework. Standard studies (Jones, Calloway, Glover) present treaties as mechanisms of imperial domination or as part of the legal architecture of 'perfect' settler jurisdiction. Each approach closes off opportunities to move beyond treaties as events and to situate them as part of processes that shaped and constrained power. This took a variety of forms: the regulation of movement, commerce, and alliance; the definition of territoriality; processes of state-formation; the development of commensurate languages and norms of international relations; the articulation of Indigenous epistemologies and cultural expressions of sovereignty through kinship, gender, and place. This table will provide a space to address these issues through shared reading, collaborative discussion, and shared work.

#### The Non-Human in Human History

Strother Roberts (Bowdoin College) and Whitney Barlow Robles (Dartmouth College)

This table will explore the role that the non-human has played in human history. For decades, environmental historians have argued that the physical landscape is more than merely the stage upon which humans enact history and that nature whether flora, fauna, weather, etc. has an agency all its own. But writing histories that effectively re-center nonhuman agency can be a challenging endeavor. Historians are, after all, only human, so how can we expand our critical imaginations to, for example, think like a river (as Donald Worster once urged)? This table will consider such methodological questions through the discussion of shared readings and by providing a space to workshop works-in progress.

#### Foodways and Food Cultures in Early America

Rachel Winchcombe (University of Manchester)

This table will connect researchers working on foodways and food cultures in early America (broadly defined). The group will support scholars at all levels of their career, and will welcome scholars studying Indigenous, Black, and European communities and their food cultures. The table aims to foster crossdisciplinary collaboration by exploring foodways from historical, archaeological, and anthropological perspectives. Participants will be invited to discuss a range of readings, both thematic and methodological, and to consid-

er how different disciplinary approaches can help radially shift our understanding of colonial expansion, Indigenous and Black resistance, and imperial identities and their connection to complex and capacious trans-national food systems and cultures.



**Miss your favorite writing spot,  
Vast Early America? Us too.**  
That's why we opened the OI Coffeehouse.  
Send us your **ideas for new tables** by **5:00 EDT, April 2, 2021.**

**NEW CALL FOR  
TABLES**



**OMOHUNDRO  
INSTITUTE**

**DETAILS AT  
[oisahc.wm.edu/  
oi-coffeehouse](https://oisahc.wm.edu/oi-coffeehouse)**



# COMING IN 2022

VAST EARLY AMERICA TEACHING INSTITUTE  
CO-SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE HUMANITIES



**We are excited to announce a new, two-week, in-person, workshop in Williamsburg, Virginia for K-12 teachers of history. Applications are being accepted through March 1, 2022.**

## OVERVIEW

What, where, and when is “early America?” On what is our nation founded? As the United States prepares for the 250th anniversary commemoration of American independence in 2026, we look for ways to connect our current experience of nationhood to our early history, and to help educators find historical themes that will connect the Revolutionary era with their diverse and often conflicted communities.

The historical scholarship of the last decades reveals a layered picture of the full geography of the contemporary United States as well as its early modern Caribbean and Atlantic context. Historians have researched and written the early American histories of the Gulf Coast, Texas, and Southwest, California, the Pacific Northwest, the Rocky Mountains, the Midwest, and the Mississippi River Valley, complementing a traditional focus on New England, the Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast. The foundational Native American histories of these places as well as the impact and influence of European travelers and settlers, and of the enslavement of Africans, all continue to reverberate today.

While the totality of Vast Early America is, in fact, impossible to convey in any single institute, the 2022 workshop “Teaching the History and Culture of Vast Early America”—or Vast Early America Teacher Institute (VEATI)—will introduce 25 teachers to this capacious view of early America via deep dives into case studies and through lectures by the resident faculty and visiting scholars. To provide participants with a range of subjects covering Native American, African American, and

European settler histories as well as the connections among them, the case studies of early American Texas, California, Arkansas, the Caribbean, Virginia, and the American and Haitian revolutions will be developed both in lectures and through secondary and primary sources readings.

While in residence in Williamsburg, Virginia — July 3–17, 2022 — VEATI participants will complete a research project on the early America of teachers’ own home communities for use in their classrooms.

APPLY ONLINE via the Omohundro Institute website.

# Laistoria



51



# 2021 WAS A BANNER YEAR FOR THE OI BOOKS PROGRAM.

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Catherine E. Kelly  
Editor of Books

We published six new books: Carolyn Eastman's, *The Strange Genius of Mr. O: The World of the United States' First Forgotten Celebrity*; Katherine Carté's, *Religion and the American Revolution: An Imperial History*; Robert G. Parkinson's, *Thirteen Clocks: How Race United the Colonies and Made the Declaration of Independence*; Samantha Seeley's *Race, Removal, and the Right to Remain: Migration and the Making of the United States*; Hannah Farber's *Underwriters of the United States: How Insurance Shaped the American Founding; and Family, Slavery, and Love in the Early American Republic: The Essays of Jan Ellen Lewis*, edited by Barry Bienstock, Annette Gordon-Reed, and Peter S. Onuf. A seventh book, Michael Witgen's *Seeing Red Indigenous Land, American Expansion, and the Political Economy of Plunder in North America*, is in the final stages of production and will appear just after the new year.

Each of these titles is superb on its own. Yet taken together, they suggest a newly expansive understanding of what an OI book might be: Books that originated in doctoral dissertations and books written by senior scholars. Erudite monographs and equally erudite midlist titles. Books for career specialists and books for students.

As different as these books read, they share in the tradition of excellence that has long been the hallmark of our imprint. That tradition that is on full display in the pages that follow, where you can read about the awards and commendations that our recent titles have earned. And when you've finished reading this year's report, pick up one of this year's titles. You won't be disappointed.

# STATISTICS

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253

TOTAL NUMBER  
*of books published*

213

TOTAL NUMBER  
*of awards won*

29

BOOKS PUBLISHED  
*2016–2021*

35

AWARDS WON  
*2016–2021*

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# BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2021

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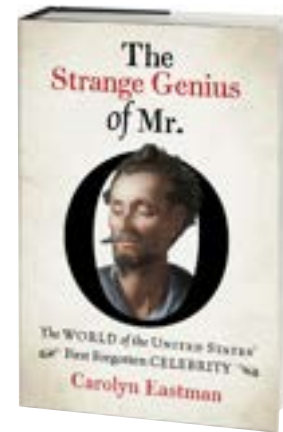
Published in March 2021

Carolyn Eastman

*The Strange Genius of Mr. O: The World of the United States' First Forgotten Celebrity*

When James Ogilvie arrived in America in 1793, he was a deeply ambitious but impoverished teacher. By the time he returned to Britain in 1817, he had become a bona fide celebrity known simply as Mr. O, counting the nation's leading politicians and intellectuals among his admirers. And then, like so many meteoric American luminaries afterward, he fell from grace.

*The Strange Genius of Mr. O* is at once the biography of a remarkable performer — a gaunt Scottish orator who appeared in a toga — and a story of the United States during the founding era. Ogilvie's career featured many of the hallmarks of celebrity we recognize from later eras: glamorous friends, eccentric clothing, scandalous religious views, narcissism, and even an alarming drug habit. Yet he captivated audiences with his eloquence and inaugurated a golden age of American oratory. Examining his roller-coaster career and the Americans who admired (or hated) him, this fascinating book renders a vivid portrait of the United States in the midst of invention.



WHO WAS JAMES OGILVIE? IN A PAGE-TURNING BOOK THAT READS MORE LIKE A MYSTERY NOVEL THAN THE WORK OF A PROFESSIONAL HISTORIAN, CAROLYN EASTMAN RECONSTRUCTS NOT JUST A FORGOTTEN LIFE OF CELEBRITY BUT A FORGOTTEN WORLD OF THE EARLY UNITED STATES. THROUGH HER ARTFUL TELLING, WE LEARN HOW A YOUNG PUBLIC'S EARNEST DESIRE FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT COMBINED WITH A SINGULAR MAN'S ORATORICAL GENIUS AND MEDIA TALENT TO FUSE EDUCATION, RELIGION, POLITICS, AND HUCKSTERISM INTO AN INDISTINGUISHABLE CULTURAL BREW. WITH A KEEN EYE—AND WITH GREAT WIT AND ARCHNESS—EASTMAN PULLS THESE AND OTHER STRANDS APART EVEN AS SHE SHOWS THEIR IMPOSSIBLE INTERCONNECTIONS IN AMERICAN CULTURE. IT IS A RARE WORK OF HISTORY THAT SPEAKS TO BOTH PAST AND PRESENT.

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FRANÇOIS FURSTENBERG

## PUBLICATIONS

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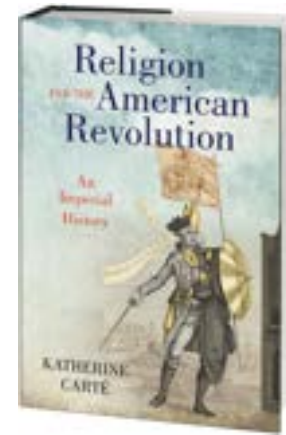
Published in April 2021

Katherine Carté

*Religion and the American Revolution: An Imperial History*

For most of the eighteenth century, British protestantism was driven neither by the primacy of denominations nor by fundamental discord between them. Instead, it thrived as part of a complex transatlantic system that bound religious institutions to imperial politics. As Katherine Carté argues, British imperial protestantism proved remarkably effective in advancing both the interests of empire and the cause of religion until the war for American independence disrupted it. That Revolution forced a reassessment of the role of religion in public life on both sides of the Atlantic. Religious communities struggled to reorganize within and across new national borders. Religious leaders recalibrated their relationships to government. If these shifts were more pronounced in the United States than in Britain, the loss of a shared system nonetheless mattered to both nations.

Sweeping and explicitly transatlantic, *Religion and the American Revolution* demonstrates that if religion helped set the terms through which Anglo-Americans encountered the imperial crisis and the violence of war, it likewise set the terms through which both nations could imagine the possibilities of a new world.



“WAS THE UNITED STATES FOUNDED AS A ‘PROTESTANT NATION’? CARTÉ TAKES ON ONE OF THE MOST ENDURING NARRATIVES IN AMERICAN HISTORY AND DECISIVELY SHOWS THAT ANGLO-AMERICA’S PROTESTANT ORDER DID NOT SURVIVE THE REVOLUTION AND ITS VIOLENT DISMANTLING OF EMPIRE. A STRIKINGLY FRESH INTERPRETATION OF THE POLITICS OF CHURCH AND STATE IN AN ERA OF REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE.”

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SUSAN JUSTER

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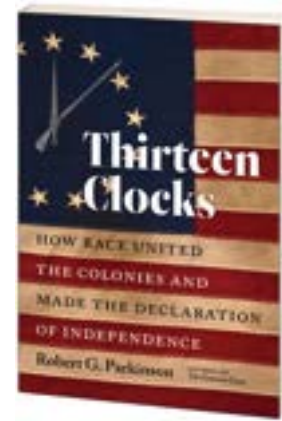
Published in May 2021

Robert G. Parkinson

*Thirteen Clocks: How Race United the Colonies and Made the Declaration of Independence*

In his celebrated account of the origins of American unity, John Adams described July 1776 as the moment when thirteen clocks managed to strike at the same time. So how did these American colonies overcome long odds to create a durable union capable of declaring independence from Britain? In this powerful new history of the fifteen tense months that culminated in the Declaration of Independence, Robert G. Parkinson provides a troubling answer: racial fear. Tracing the circulation of information in the colonial news systems that linked patriot leaders and average colonists, Parkinson reveals how the system's participants constructed a compelling drama featuring virtuous men who suddenly found themselves threatened by ruthless Indians and defiant slaves acting on behalf of the king.

Parkinson argues that patriot leaders used racial prejudices to persuade Americans to declare independence. Between the Revolutionary War's start at Lexington and the Declaration, they broadcast any news they could find about Native Americans, enslaved Blacks, and Hessian mercenaries working with their British enemies. American independence thus owed less to the love of liberty than to the exploitation of colonial fears about race. *Thirteen Clocks* offers an accessible history of the Revolution that uncovers the uncomfortable origins of the republic even as it speaks to our own moment.



WITH HIS STUNNING DEBUT, *THE COMMON CAUSE*, PARKINSON ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS ONE OF THE MOST ASTUTE HISTORIANS OF THE REVOLUTION. DRAWING FROM THAT EXHAUSTIVE RESEARCH, HE HAS WRITTEN A BRILLIANT HISTORY OF EVENTS THAT CULMINATED IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. *THIRTEEN CLOCKS SHOULD BE READ BY ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN STORY.*

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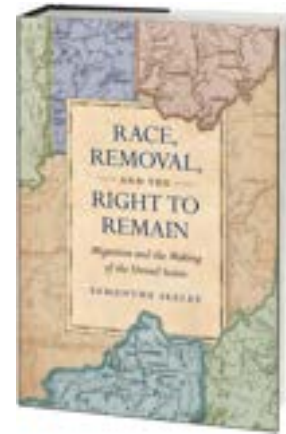
ANNETTE GORDON-REED

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Published in August 2021

Samantha Seeley

*Race, Removal, and the Right to Remain: Migration and the Making of the United States*



Who had the right to live within the newly united states of America?

In the country's founding decades, federal and state politicians debated which categories of people could remain and which should be subject to removal. The result was a white Republic, purposefully constructed through contentious legal, political, and diplomatic negotiation. But, as Samantha Seeley demonstrates, removal, like the right to remain, was a battle fought on multiple fronts. It encompassed tribal leaders' fierce determination to expel white settlers from Native lands and free African Americans' legal maneuvers both to remain within the states that sought to drive them out and to carve out new lives in the West. Never losing sight of the national implications of regional conflicts, Seeley brings us directly to the battlefield, to middle states poised between the edges of slavery and freedom where removal was both warmly embraced and hotly contested.

Reorienting the history of U.S. expansion around Native American and African American histories, Seeley provides a much-needed reconsideration of early nation building.

BY INTERTWINING THE MIGRATIONS—FORCED, VOLUNTARY, AND IN BETWEEN—OF WHITE, BLACK, AND NATIVE PEOPLE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC, **SAMANTHA SEELEY MAKES US SEE THE LONG ERA OF REMOVAL IN AN ENTIRELY NEW WAY.** A REVOLUTIONARY BOOK AND A MODEL FOR TELLING ALL OUR HISTORIES TOGETHER.

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KATHLEEN DUVAL

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Published in October 2021

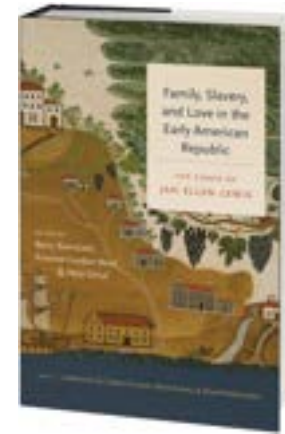
Jan Ellen Lewis

Edited by Barry Bienstock, Annette Gordon-Reed, and Peter S. Onuf

*Family, Slavery, and Love in the Early American Republic: The Essays of Jan Ellen Lewis*

One of the finest historians of her generation, Jan Ellen Lewis transformed our understanding of the early U.S. Republic. Her groundbreaking essays defined the emerging fields of gender and emotions history and reframed traditional understandings of the founding fathers and the U.S. Constitution. As significant as her work was within each of these subfields, her most remarkable insights came from the connections she drew among them. Gender and race, slavery and freedom, feelings and politics ran together in the hearts, minds, and lives of the men and women she studied. Lewis's brilliant research revealed these long-buried connections and illuminated their importance for America's past and present.

*Family, Slavery, and Love in the Early American Republic* collects thirteen of Lewis's most important essays. Distinguished scholars shed light on the historical and historiographical contexts in which Lewis and her peers researched, wrote, and argued. But the real star of this volume is Lewis herself: confident, unconventional, erudite, and deeply imaginative.



WHEN LEWIS BEGAN HER CAREER, THE EARLY AMERICAN REPUBLIC WAS A MORIBUND FIELD; THIS VOLUME SHOWS US THE MAGIC BY WHICH SHE BROUGHT IT BACK TO LIFE. **FIELD CHANGING WHEN IT WAS FIRST PUBLISHED, HER WORK HAS MAINTAINED ITS RELEVANCE EVER SINCE.**

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SERENA ZABIN

## PUBLICATIONS

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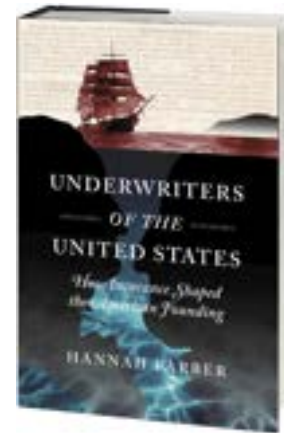
Published in November 2021

Hannah Farber

*Underwriters of the United States: How Insurance Shaped the American Founding*

Unassuming but formidable, American maritime insurers used their position at the pinnacle of global trade to shape the new nation. The international information they gathered and the capital they generated enabled them to play central roles in state building and economic development. During the Revolution, they helped the U.S. negotiate foreign loans, sell state debts, and establish a single national bank. Afterward, they increased their influence by lending money to the federal government and to its citizens. Even as federal and state governments began to encroach on their domain, maritime insurers adapted, preserving their autonomy and authority through extensive involvement in the formation of commercial law. Leveraging their claims to unmatched expertise, they operated free from government interference while simultaneously embedding themselves into the nation's institutional fabric. By the early nineteenth century, insurers were no longer just risk assessors. They were nation builders and market makers.

Deeply and imaginatively researched, *Underwriters of the United States* uses marine insurers to reveal a startlingly original story of risk, money, and power in the founding era.



SURVEYING THE EARLY UNITED STATES FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF THE MARINE INSURANCE OFFICE, HANNAH FARBER MAKES READERS THINK ANEW ABOUT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND THE UNSETTLED DECADES THAT FOLLOWED. WITH DEEP RESEARCH AND LUCID PROSE, SHE FATHOMS AN OCEAN OF RISK, AND PLUMBS THE MORAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE PAPER PUSHERS WHO TRAWLED FOR PROFIT IN THOSE STORMY SEAS, AND WHO SHAPED THE FRAGILE NEW NATION IN THE PROCESS.

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JANE KAMENSKY

# NEW IN PAPER



## RELEASED IN PAPER IN MAY 2021

Sophie White

*Voices of the Enslaved: Love, Labor, and Longing in French Louisiana*

An award-winning book:

- + 2019 Kemper and Leila Williams Prize in Louisiana History, Historic New Orleans Collection and the Louisiana Historical Association
- + 2020 James A. Rawley Prize in Atlantic History, American Historical Association
- + 2020 Mary Alice and Philp Boucher Book Prize in French Colonial History, French Colonial Historical Society
- + Co-winner, 2020 Summerlee Book Prize, Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf South at Lamar University
- + Co-winner, 2020 Rosalyn Terborg-Penn Prize for Outstanding Book on Gender and Sexuality, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- + Finalist, 2020 Sterling Stuckey Book Prize, Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- + 2020 Frederick Douglass Book Prize, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition, Yale University

- + Honorable Mention, 2020 Merle Curti Social History Book Award, Organization of American Historians
- + Shortlisted, 2020 Kenshur Prize for Best Book in Eighteenth-Century Studies, Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies

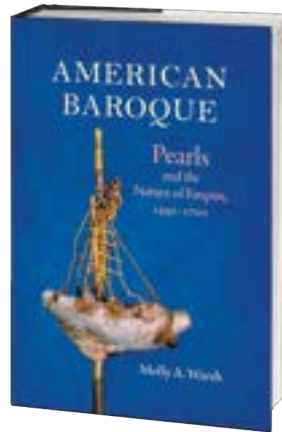
“With subtle analysis and empathetic storytelling, *Voices of the Enslaved* uncovers a stunning level of detail about how enslaved people experienced and resisted their bondage, how they managed profound loss and imagined possible futures. In their own words, and with vivid flashes of personality, the enslaved reveal their inner worlds like never before. A remarkable achievement.”  
– Brett Rushforth, University of Oregon

“A compelling and insightful chronicle of the lives of individual enslaved men and women in French colonial Louisiana.”  
– Journal of Southern History

“This meticulously researched and lyrically written study offers a road map through the archives and a reconceptualization of the autobiography of the enslaved in the Atlantic world. Sophie White’s interpretive strategies wrest a vibrant and complex history of slavery from testimony, court proceedings, and the

voices of the enslaved themselves. A genre-busting book.”  
– Jennifer L. Morgan, New York University

“Through meticulously recorded and preserved legal testimony derived from criminal trials in 18th-century New Orleans, White details how slaves perceived their own cultural reality as well as that of the ruling masters. The stories provided offer insight into their morals, societal values, and views on labor, violence, and familial bonds. The author intersperses her narrative with records in French and includes multiple paintings, samples of documented testimony, maps, and architectural sketches that help bring these figures and their plight to life. . . . Graduate students and professionals will find it uniquely enlightening.”  
– Choice



**RELEASED IN PAPER IN MAY 2021**

Molly A. Warsh

*American Baroque: Pearls and the Nature of Empire, 1492-1700*

“Among the first forms of material wealth extracted from America, pearls are important to our understanding of how contact with the New World transformed the economic and cultural milieu of early modern Europe. In this impeccably researched book, Molly Warsh illuminates the diverse participants—from enslaved pearl divers in Venezuela to European merchants, jewelers, and customers—of the newly global pearl trade. A fascinating read for anyone interested in the complex nuances of world history during this formative period.”

—Jennifer L. Anderson

“A richly researched contribution to the literature on commodities in global history. . . . Quite convincing in encouraging readers to see that pearls were much more than a bauble; they had the power to shape an empire’s trajectory over two centuries.”

— Journal of American History

“Warsh’s account of one particular American commodity and its complex encounter with different peoples (enterpriser and enslaved, skilled and unskilled, immigrant and indigenous, elite and common), systems (ecological, labor, technological, commercial, linguistic, and legal), and markets (the Americas, England, Holland, Portugal, Spain, Italy, and beyond) is original, coherent, and convincing. All those interested in the Atlantic

experience should read this beautifully baroque book and come to terms with its subtle argument about the creative-destructive tension between imperial and colonial wealth management. History both intimate and magisterial.”

— David Hancock, The University of Michigan

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# RECENT HONORS

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## ALLISON BIGELOW

*Mining Language: Racial Thinking, Indigenous Knowledge, and Colonial Metallurgy in the Early Modern Iberian World*

(published April 2020; xvi + 336 pp. + Index)

- + 2021 James A. Rawley Prize in Atlantic History, American Historical Association
- + Co-winner, First Book Prize, Modern Language Association
- + Honorable Mention, 2021 Howard F. Cline Memorial Prize, Conference on Latin American History

## CHRISTINE WALKER

*Jamaica Ladies: Female Slaveholders and the Creation of Britain's Atlantic Empire*

- + 2021 William Nelson Cromwell Foundation Book Prize, American Society for Legal History
- + Finalist, 2021 Harriet Tubman Prize, Lapidus Center
- + 2020 Best Book Award, Society for the Study of Early Modern Women & Gender

## SOPHIE WHITE

*Voices of the Enslaved: Love, Labor, and Longing in French Louisiana*

- + 2020 Frederick Douglass Book Prize, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition, Yale University

## CÉLINE CARAYON

*Eloquence Embodied: Nonverbal Communication among French and Indigenous Peoples in the Americas*

- + 2021 Book Prize, Forum on Early Modern Empires and Global Interactions (AHA affiliated group)

# WILLIAM AND MARY QUARTERLY

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Joshua Piker  
Editor

The *WMQ* aims to publish the best scholarship in early American history, not to publish scholarship that wins awards. Often, though, the former leads to the latter.

We don't actually have a comprehensive list of the articles and prizes won by *WMQ* articles, but a quick search of my email files shows that, in the last half-dozen or so years, our authors have won article prizes in—at a minimum—agricultural history, eighteenth-century studies, intellectual history, ethnohistory, legal history, Native American and Indigenous Studies, borderlands history, European Studies, Latin American history, the history of science, environmental history, food history, women's history, early modern women's history, theater history, church history, and communal studies. Plus early American history, of course!

I've put together that list not—or at least, not entirely—to brag on our authors or the journal, but rather to brag on the field of early American history.

The *WMQ*, and the *OI* more generally, has been inextricably linked with the effort to broaden and diversify early American history that is known as Vast Early America. Discussion of the pros and cons of that approach to our field tends to focus on geography and chronology: where and when was “early America”?

There are good reasons to talk about those issues, but those conversations should not be allowed to obscure the reality that the study of early American history is ‘vast’ in another critical sense: it encompasses a wide array of thematic interests and methodological approaches, and it draws upon the expertise of scholars from a wide array of departments and disciplines. In fact, as the list of article prizes suggests, many of the leading scholars in these fields are people who we are proud to consider early Americanists.

One final thing: you wouldn't know it from that list, but many of the authors of the articles in question were early-career scholars—graduate students, NTEs, and assistant professors. I find that fact both comforting and alarming.

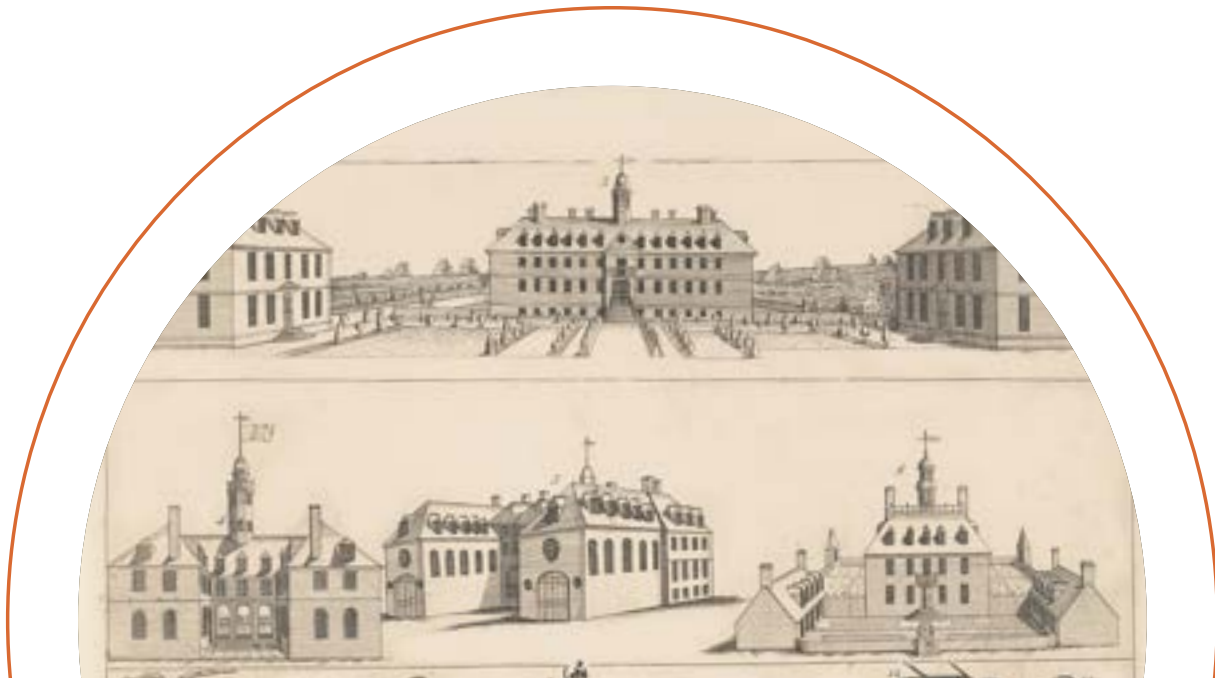
The prominence of junior scholars in our ranks of award-winning authors is comforting for two reasons. In the first place, the journal has long prided itself on being a place that features the work of scholars who are just starting out in the field, and I'm delighted that *Quarterly* continues to fulfill that role. And secondly, that so many early-career scholars are winning awards in such a wide variety of specialties speaks to the vitality and creativity of early American history as a field. We have, it seems to me, been at our best through the years when we have sought out new topics, approached our topics—new and old—in novel ways, and worked to build bridges to a wide range of fields and disciplines. Our junior colleagues are building on that tradition in new and exciting ways, opening up a future for early American history that is vast in the best sense of the term.

But the leadership of early-career scholars in these developments is also alarming because it is exactly these colleagues who are most endangered by the challenges of the last few years. Funding cuts; travel restrictions; archival closures; hollowed-out job markets—an entire cohort of early Americanists have had their professional and personal lives turned upside down by these problems. Finding ways to ameliorate those problems is first and foremost an ethical imperative, one that we all share; but as the list above suggests, it's also an intellectual one. The study of early American history, and our ability to draw upon and influence other fields, will be impoverished if we fail to help our colleagues.

NO ONE HAS EVER EDITED MY WORK WITH SUCH THOROUGHNESS, CARE, AND SINCERE INTEREST. WORKING WITH THE EDITORIAL STAFF AT WMQ WAS A TRULY GRATIFYING EXPERIENCE, AND THEIR ATTENTION UNQUESTIONABLY IMPROVED THE PIECE.

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SETH PERRY (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY), AUTHOR OF "*PAINE DETECTED IN MISSISSIPPI: SLAVERY, PRINT CULTURE, AND THE THREAT OF DEISM IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC*" (APRIL 2021)



# WILLIAM AND MARY QUARTERLY, VOLUME 78

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## JANUARY 2021

Whitney Barlow Robles, "The Rattlesnake and the Hibernaculum: Animals, Ignorance, and Extinction in the Early American Underworld"

Alexandra Havrylyshyn, "Troublesome Trials: How a Parisian Legal Practitioner Disrupted the Order of New France"

Gordon M. Sayre, "Jefferson Takes on Buffon: The Polemic on American Animals in *Notes on the State of Virginia*"

### Sources and Interpretations

Monica Anke Hahn, "Pantomime Indian: Performing the Encounter in Robert Sayer's *Harlequin Cherokee*"

## APRIL 2021

### Forum: Situating the United States in Vast Early America

Joshua Piker, "Editor's Note"

Eliga Gould and Rosemarie Zagari, "Situating the United States in Vast Early America: Introduction"

Josep M. Fradera, "The Mental and Physical Frontiers of Empire"

Caitlin Fitz, "Nation, Continent, Hemisphere: Situating the United States in the Vast Early Americas"

Leslie M. Alexander, "Black Utopia: Haiti and Black Transnational Consciousness in the Early Nineteenth Century"

Emily Conroy-Krutz, "The Vast Kingdom of God"

Patrick Griffin, "De-decentering the Narrative: The Case for a Vast 1776"

Rashauna Johnson, "Settlers, Slavery, and the Early Republic"

Michael A. Blaakman, "'Haughty republicans,' Native Land, and the Promise of Preemption"

Claudio Saunt, "Population Counts"

Jessica Choppin Roney, "Containing Multitudes: Time, Space, the United States, and Vast Early America"

Michael D. Hattem, "Revolution Lost? Vast Early America, National History, and the American Revolution"

Annette Gordon-Reed and Peter S. Onuf, "The Nation-State in a Changing World: Epilogue"

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Cameron B. Strang, "Pursuing Knowledge, Surviving Empire: Indigenous Explorers in the Removal Era"

### Sources and Interpretations

Seth Perry "Paine Detected in Mississippi: Slavery, Print Culture, and the Threat of Deism in the Early Republic"



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## JULY 2021

Timo McGregor, “Neighborly Rendition: Interpolity Law, Mobility, and the Boundaries of Political Community in Anglo-Dutch America, 1624–64”

Karen B. Graubart, “*Pesa más la libertad*: Slavery, Legal Claims, and the History of Afro-Latin American Ideas”

Elsbeth Martini, “‘Visiting Indians,’ Nursing Fathers, and Anglo-American Empires in the Post–War of 1812 Western Great Lakes”

### Sources and Interpretations

Kenneth P. Minkema, Catherine A. Brekus, and Harry S. Stout, “Agitations, Convulsions, Leaping, and Loud Talking: The ‘Experiences’ of Sarah Pierpont Edwards”

## OCTOBER 2021

Kathryn M. de Luna, “Sounding the African Atlantic”

John Garrigus, “‘Like an epidemic one could only stop with the most violent remedies’: African Poisons versus Livestock Disease in Saint Domingue, 1750–88”

John William Nelson, “Sigenauk’s War of Independence: Anishinaabe Resurgence and the Making of Indigenous Authority in the Borderlands of Revolution”

Nathaniel Millett, “Law, Lineage, Gender, and the Lives of Enslaved Indigenous People on the Edge of the Nineteenth-Century Caribbean”



# REPORT FROM THE BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

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Nicholas Popper  
Book Review Editor

The challenges faced by the *WMQ* Book Review section in the past year will likely sound familiar: in this inherently collaborative enterprise, with intensifying demands on time and energy and continuous atmospheric stress, it has been imperative to recognize individual circumstances and difficult to anticipate workflow. Writing a book review occupies an unusual space for academic work – while it does not require the labor, research, and vigor necessary to produce an article or chapter (let alone a book), it demands significantly more sustained engagement than routine teaching or administrative tasks. Over this past year some reviewers have clearly relished the opportunity for intellectual engagement at this register; others have struggled.

Above all, those who have completed their reviews under such adverse circumstances should be applauded, and we are fortunate to work within this incredibly motivated, responsible, and diligent community, who have produced spectacular work even faced with the many trials of this moment.

At the same time, we have sought ways to accommodate those reviewers who find themselves overwhelmed. We have been flexible about deadlines, streamlined the editing process, and been more intentional about when and how we communicate with reviewers. It has never been possible to compel writing from an overwhelmed or distracted reviewer, but the application of pressure seems particularly inappropriate this year. Therefore we have tread lightly when trying to get a scholar to submit or edit a review, conscious that they may have found the experience more demanding than they had anticipated. Similarly, we have been cautious about re-assigning overdue reviews, an experience we recognize may be more demoralizing under current conditions than otherwise (though we of course must consider the interest of the author too). We have taken this approach to assigning reviews as well. Accordingly there are some books that are simply taking longer to review than would typically have been the case in the past.

These measures have aimed to maintain, above all, the quality of the section, and we're delighted that the section this year has achieved the same level of excellence as in the past. At the same time we're happy to report that this year's Book Review sections differs little in size, scope, or demographic breakdown from those of previous years. We currently have a healthy pipeline, and only a small number verging on re-assignment. This is a testament to the commitment of the *WMQ* community.

Most importantly, the reviews continue to reflect and project the remarkable flourishing of scholarship on early America. And we look forward to playing our role in encouraging and advancing that project in coming years, with the hope that the current challenges may subside and conditions re-emerge conducive for everyone in our community to realize the full potential of their scholarship.



WORKING AS AN EDITORIAL APPRENTICE WITH THE OMOHUNDRO INSTITUTE THIS YEAR HAS BEEN AN EXCEPTIONALLY REWARDING EXPERIENCE AND HAS DEFINITELY INCREASED MY INTEREST IN PURSUING A CAREER IN EDITING AND PUBLISHING WHEN I FINISH MY DEGREE. THOUGH MY PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS ARE NOT IN EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY, THE OPPORTUNITY TO READ ARTICLES AND TRACE THE ORIGINS OF THEIR RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP HAS BEEN WORTHWHILE AS IT HAS HELPED ME SEE THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN EARLY AND NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN CULTURE AND TO IDENTIFY SOME OF THE MOST FOUNDATIONAL WORKS IN EARLY AMERICAN HISTORIOGRAPHY.

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TIM CASE, PHD CANDIDATE IN HISTORY

# APPRENTICES

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The Omohundro Institute partners with William & Mary's Lyon G. Tyler Department of History and American Studies Program to administer the Apprenticeship Program. The decades-long program introduces entering graduate students to the practices of scholarly publishing, historical editing, and digital content. Each year, students receive full-time training in August, followed by part-time work during the academic year on OI books and the *William and Mary Quarterly*.

**Apprentices for the 2020-21 academic year were:**

Timothy Case

Thalia Maria Chrysanthis

Kelly A. Conway

Kevin Fowler

Kai Werner

Vania B. Blaiklock, Book Review Assistant

Peighton Young, Digital Apprentice

THE OI EDITORIAL APPRENTICE PROGRAM HAS BEEN A HIGHLIGHT OF MY DOCTORAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE AT WILLIAM & MARY. FROM THE STAFF'S PROFESSIONALISM TO MY SHARPENING EDITORIAL SKILLS, THE POSITION WILL SERVE ME WELL AS I MOVE FORWARD WITH DISSERTATION AND PUBLISHING PHASES.

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KELLY CONWAY  
PHD CANDIDATE IN AMERICAN STUDIES



# BEN FRANKLIN'S WORLD UPDATE

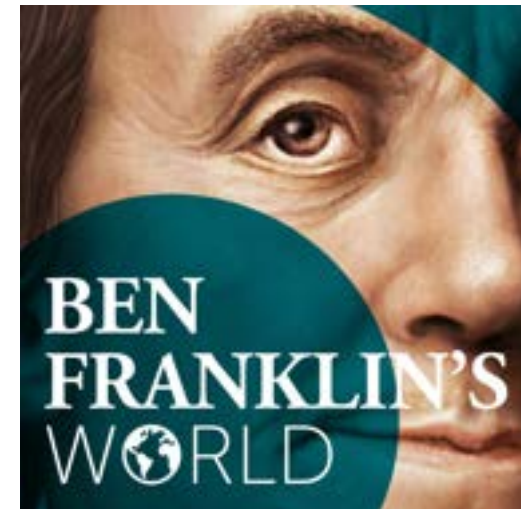
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Liz Covart  
Digital Projects Editor

The OI's Digital Audio team released 27 episodes in 2021. Within these episodes, the Digital Audio team produced a two-episode narrative series about the history of inoculation and vaccination in response to society's growing demand for information about vaccines. The team also produced a special narrative episode for the Fourth of July in partnership with Humanities New York. This episode featured three scholars exploring the memory and power of the American Revolution's enduring symbols, in this case the horse's tail, a remnant of the grand equestrian statue of King George III that New Yorkers commissioned and put up in Bowling Green.

In partnership with OI Books, the Digital Audio team created a new, more regular podcast series called "OI Reads." "OI Reads" episodes feature OI-published authors and introduces these authors, their books, and their ideas to the public audiences of *Ben Franklin's World* in short episodes.

2021 also proved to be a big year in terms of the business of podcast publication at the OI. In efforts to continue to build the audience of *Ben Franklin's World* and to continue its work to ensure the sustainability of its audio production, *Ben Franklin's World* joined the Airwave Media Podcast Network in May and in October, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation joined the Omohundro Institute as a primary production partner of *Ben Franklin's World*.





*Liz Covart*

# DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

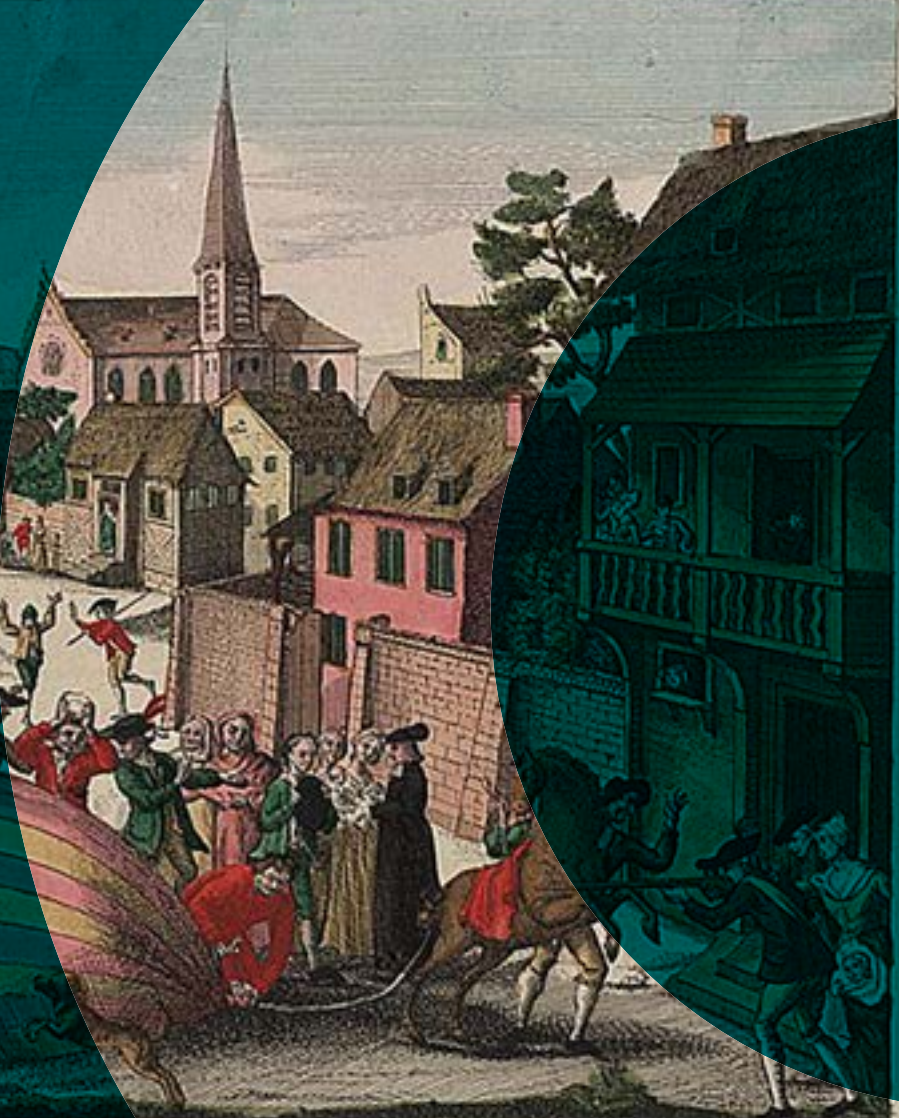
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Joshua Greenberg  
Editor

*Commonplace* began this year having just finished a yearlong phase one project to reformat and refresh the entire back catalog (1295 articles) and post it to the new URL (Commonplace.online). Our continued audience growth can best be seen through our year over year analytics. From September 1, 2019 to September 1, 2020, we saw 131,951 pageviews from 71,084 users. From September 1, 2020 to September 1, 2021, those rose to 225,213 pageviews from 144,674 users. The success of the new site has been a springboard to launch phase two of the project, publishing new content.

This past year has been spent creating the editorial structure and working toward the release of original material. After a vigorous, broad search, we hired Jordan Taylor as a production editor and assembled a new, fifteen person editorial board of historians, literature scholars, art historians, and secondary educators. In the first six months the editorial team has reviewed 27 submissions with 15 accepted for publication. On September 14th, we ran our first new piece in a year and a half. It was an editor's note that detailed the 20 year history of *Commonplace* and discussed its place within digital humanities. Moving forward, new articles will be posted to the site biweekly.





L'alarme générale des habitans de Gonzesse, occasionée par la chute du ballon aérostatique de M. de Montgolfier, le 19 Juin 1783. Le ballon, qui s'éleva le 15 Juin, se cassa le 19, et tomba dans le Champ de Mars. Les habitans accoururent en foule, et deux hommes furent tués par la chute du ballon. Les autres furent blessés. Les habitans de Gonzesse furent très étonnés de voir un ballon s'élever dans le ciel, et de le voir tomber dans le Champ de Mars. Les habitans de Gonzesse furent très étonnés de voir un ballon s'élever dans le ciel, et de le voir tomber dans le Champ de Mars. Les habitans de Gonzesse furent très étonnés de voir un ballon s'élever dans le ciel, et de le voir tomber dans le Champ de Mars.

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A View of the Lines and Fort of Scianderoga taken from a hill on the side of  
South Bay in 1759



Map Division  
Library of Congress

# SHARP GRANT FOR HUMANITIES ORGANIZATIONS BENEFITS OF DIGITAL PROGRAMMING

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A \$200,000 grant from NEH SHARP Humanities Organizations will support the OI's audio and digital programming and will enable the OI to sustain audio and digital programming and resources that were expanded during the pandemic.

The NEH SHARP grant ensures that the OI will be able to continue to provide and further enhance its audio and digital programming, including its podcast, *Ben Franklin's World*, and its new online events site where the OI hosts extensive scholarly and public programs, including book talks, panel discussions, interviews, workshops, and a variety of new seminar series that have proven extremely popular.

These new formats for our scholarly and public programs throughout the pandemic have helped serve a broader public and scholarly audience. Our experience with both digital scholarly and public platforms and programs served as a base for this outreach to become both an effective short- and long-term strategy for meeting our mission, and the NEH SHARP grant allows us to continue these programs and strategize about the blend of in-person and virtual programs for the OI going forward.

"The American Rescue Plan recognizes that the cultural and educational sectors are essential components of the United States economy and civic life, vital to the health and resilience of American communities," said NEH Acting Chairman Adam Wolfson. "These new grants will provide a lifeline to the country's colleges and universities, museums, libraries, archives, historical sites and societies, save thousands of jobs in the humanities placed at risk by the pandemic, and help bring economic recovery to cultural and educational institutions and those they serve."

The OI is among only a few institutions to receive grants in both National Endowment for the Humanities Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan grant categories in Fall 2021 and is very grateful to NEH for its investment in the OI and our community of early American scholars. You can read about the other grant we received, in support of underemployed postdoctoral scholars, on page 58.



# FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED IN 2021

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We awarded the following fellowships in 2021 with the understanding that fellows would either wait and travel to the site in question when possible or that they would use the funds awarded for research reshaped by the current situation. We commend each of the scholars listed in these pages both for the award of a fellowship as well as for meeting the difficulties imposed by the global pandemic with creativity and diligence. We also thank our partners for continuing to fund this important scholarly research with us.

### 2021 DIGITAL COLLECTIONS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

**James Ambuske** (The Fred W. Smith Library for the Study of George Washington at George Washington's Mount Vernon), **Randell Flaherty** (University of Virginia Law Library), and **Loren S. Moulds** (University of Virginia Law Library) with The Centre for Research Collections at the University of Edinburgh for "The Scottish Court Session Digital Archive Project an ongoing effort to construct a digital archive and research platform centered on Session Papers, the printed documents produced during litigation before Scotland's supreme civil court in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

**Molly Kerr** (History Revealed, Inc.) and the New York Public Library for "Digitizing the Alexandria, Virginia account books," the second phase of the Shopping Stories project. The project uses store ledgers to uncover consumer interests, lives, and the larger community of people who resided in eighteenth century. The first phase of the project involved a crowd-sourced effort to transcribe eleven ledgers from the two John Glassford & Company stores from 1758-1769. Phase two will focus on Colchester and Alexandria, Virginia. *Read more about this project in the following pages.*

**Kaitlin Tonti** (Indiana University of Pennsylvania) was awarded an OI-Mount Vernon Digital Collections Fellowship to work with the New York Public Library to digitize the poetry of Hannah Lawrence Schieffelin, including the poem "George Washington."

### 2021 OI AUDIO FELLOWSHIP

**Adam McNeil** (Rutgers University) was awarded an OI Audio fellowship in order to explore podcast research and production methods.

### 2021 OI-FOLGER INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

**Dyani Johns Taff**, Ithaca College — "Gendered Seascapes and Monarchy in Early Modern English Culture"

### 2021 LAPIDUS-OI FELLOWSHIP FOR GRADUATE RESEARCH IN AMERICAN PRINT CULTURE

**Chip Badley**, University of California, Santa Barbara — "The Practiced Eye: Painting and Queer Personhood in Nineteenth-Century American Literature"

**Elyse Bell**, Queen's University — "Home and Belonging in the British Atlantic World, c. 1750-1830"

**Heesoo Cho**, Washington University in St. Louis — "The Pacific Ocean in Print: The Transatlantic Making of Pacific Knowledge in the Early Republic, 1783-1820"

**Emily Clark**, Johns Hopkins University — "Laboring Bodies: Dispossessed Women and Reproduction in Colonial New England"

**Devin Leigh**, University of California, Davis — "The Origins of an Archive: Enslavers and the Geopolitics of Knowledge Production in an Age of Abolition"

**Alexandra Macdonald**, William & Mary — "The Social Life of Time"

**Adam McNeil**, Rutgers University — "'I Would Not Go With Him': Black Loyalist Women's Revolutionary Fight for Freedom during the American Revolution"

**Teanu Reid**, Yale University — "Hidden Economies and Finances in the Early Anglo-Atlantic World"

My Daughter holds without pain  
Strong Confidence ret Duty in opening  
the good long intended for Happiness & living  
told to have given a & have sent  
5<sup>over</sup> wise the best of my children put rights &  
with best them & mind what they say  
they have instructions gave all things  
only required, so a good discharge of War  
rely against or rely upon me &  
what french Power should tell IIC he was  
on an enemy between & best  
him the takes place of his  
I'll send him such Messages from my as I make

# SHOPPING STORIES: WORKING WITH 18TH-CENTURY LEDGERS

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**MOLLY H. KERR, HISTORY REVEALED, INC.**

When I began working with 18th-century store ledgers in 2012, my attraction was to their ability to provide context for archaeological collections. The idea of connecting someone's purchases to artifacts found on sites in the 21st century fascinated me. While that concept remains appealing, I have also learned to appreciate ledgers for more than just what they tell about items bought and sold; I discovered they also reveal more fully whom the people were, where they came from to shop, how they were related to one another, when purchases were made, why those purchases may have been important in their lives, and more. What is especially exciting is learning more about the lives of less recognized residents of a community, like women and the enslaved, through accounts showing purchases by and on behalf of them by others. The nuances found in these store ledgers do much more than bring a community to life; they weave the community together and show the relationships between and within these people, places, and things documented.

On behalf of History Revealed, Inc.'s Shopping Stories project, I coordinate the transcription and exploration of the ledgers of the John Glassford and Company stores in Alexandria and Colchester, Virginia (1758-1769). Working with history students at the University of Central Florida, our research to date has focused on the 1760/1761 Colchester store ledger with essays published on their website, *Economy of Goods*, and on History Revealed's blog and social media. The ledger provides a window into lives not often highlighted in the historic record, like those enslaved by the store: Allan, Betty, Milford, Glasgow, and Celia.

Glasgow and Celia's stories are particularly poignant because the accounts tell not only when they were bought (July 25, 1759) from Colchester merchant Benjamin Grayson, but also when they were sold. In addition to their clothing provisions, fees were paid to the sheriff in September 1760 for their ages

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Molly H. Kerr was a recipient of a 2021 Lapidus Initiative Digital Collections Fellowship. The following is a report of the work she undertook thanks to the grant.

to be adjudged at 10 years old. Glasgow's description as being four feet, one and one-half inches tall reveals his youth; he was sold to Glassford's Quantico store in 1762. On July 28, 1764, Celia and her child were sold to James Cleveland, an overseer for George Washington. She would have only been about 15 years old. Whether they lived on Washington's River Farm or elsewhere may never be known.

As a recipient of the 2020 Lapidus Initiative Digital Collections Fellowship, the Shopping Stories project's focus will now expand the timeline through the American Revolution in Alexandria with the digitization of ledgers in the Archives and Manuscripts collections at the New York Public Library (NYPL). The "Alexandria, Virginia account books" collection includes ten ledgers, an invoice book, and a letter book that capture Robert Townsend Hooe's mercantile successes (and failures) from 1770-1802, as well as the personal ledger (1775-1785) for Alexandria merchant John Mills, whose home site is being studied by Alexandria Archaeology. I selected the four earliest ledgers and the invoice book for digitization focusing on the period from 1770-1784/5; these volumes were selected to compare the changes in Alexandria and its consumer interests from the 1760s found in the Glassford ledgers to this evolving community leading up to and through the American Revolution as found in the Hooe ledgers. The fellowship enabled anyone to easily access these five books through the NYPL's Digital Collections.

With the digitization complete, my attention turns to transcribing the documents. Like what I oversaw with the Glassford ledgers, digitization of the Hooe materials allows for a crowd-sourced transcribing endeavor. History Revealed will use From the Page and its recently launched tabular platform to transcribe; it will provide transparency in the review of transcripts by allowing users to see all the results, as well as to participate in the review process. Two of the ledgers are already online with additional ledgers coming soon. A grant received from the Historic Alexandria Foundation helped

fund access to using From the Page sooner than originally proposed, and to digitize three additional books from the NYPL collection.

The goal of Shopping Stories is to publish an accessible, online, searchable database to investigate all these ledgers to better understand individuals and their daily lives through their transactions. History Revealed is working with the University of Central Florida's Computer Science Senior Design classes to create this beta-type database; although the project's website is active, the database is still in development. Our hope is for users to be able to interpret and present the past found in ledgers to better understand artifacts uncovered at archaeological sites, to furnish historic museums and museum exhibits, and to develop a prosopography of a town. The project is only the beginning of the research potential of fully transcribed and organized store ledgers and its impact on our understanding of the past.

*<sup>1</sup> For more information about Celia, see: Alexander Henderson et al. Ledger 1758-1760, Colchester, Virginia folios 52, 56, 59, 100, 112, 152; Ledger 1760-1761, Colchester, Virginia folios 1, 4, 5, 6, 42; and Ledger 1763-1764, Colchester, Virginia a folio 209, from the John Glassford and Company records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC. As well as the Fairfax County Court order book 1756: 421.*

*For more information about Glasgow, see: Alexander Henderson et al. Ledger 1758-1760, Colchester, Virginia folios 3, 52, 59, 100, 112, 152; Ledger 1760-1761, Colchester, Virginia folios 1, 4, 34, 42; and Ledger 1763-1764, Colchester, Virginia folio 208, from the John Glassford and Company records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC. As well as the Fairfax County Court order book 1756: 421.*



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# AN UPDATE FROM OI-NEH POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW JOHN MARQUEZ



My time as an OI Fellow has already been very intellectually exciting and memorable. As a fellow, I began revisions on my book manuscript. Tentatively titled *Freedom's Counterarchive*, the manuscript explores the personal and intellectual histories of Africans and their descendants in the eighteenth-century South Atlantic world as they struggled for and practiced freedom. In October, the OI held an online roundtable for my manuscript with the goals of developing a plan for revisions and enriching the book's central contributions. I was incredibly fortunate to have two experts on the African diaspora and law in Latin America, Professors Herman Bennett (CUNY Graduate Center) and Mariana Dantas (Ohio University), along with faculty experts from William & Mary, participate in a vibrant three-hour discussion on the manuscript. Since the roundtable, I have been reworking a chapter that explores how litigation for freedom in Portugal, often supported by leaders of the city's Black catholic communities, shaped understandings of manumission throughout the wider Atlantic world. As a fellow, I've also revised my article "Afflicted Slaves, Faithful Vassals: *Sevícias*, Manumission, and Enslaved Petitioners in Eighteenth-Century Brazil," which was accepted for publication in *Slavery and Abolition* and will be out in early Spring 2022. The article explores the formation of customary rights to manumission, concluding that enslaved petitioners did more than interpret law: they also constructed it. Looking forward to 2023, I'm excited to continue learning more about and contributing to the OI community.



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Report from Caylin Carbonell  
OI-NEH Postdoctoral Fellow



As an OI-NEH fellow, I look forward to spending the next six months developing my book manuscript with the support of the OI editorial staff. A history of New England with unfree women and men at the center, my book steps into the region's mixed-labor households to unpack the complicated internal dynamics of these spaces, revealing the intimate contestations and collaborations that shaped New England's early history. I plan to spend much of my time at the Omohundro Institute rewriting and revising, as this project requires considerable attention to narrative voice to flip the perspective of my records and center laboring women and men as subjects. As I do so, I also plan to incorporate my recently expanded research into the material lives and spatial worlds of laboring New Englanders. Additionally, I plan to add a chapter that will explore the intimate relationships formed within households. This chapter will allow me to explore the many different forms of relationships within colonial households and to interrogate the overlapping categories of family, community, and household. This extended time to write will be invaluable for a project that requires a thorough reckoning with the archive, a creative engagement with sources, and a careful writing practice to provide a textured understanding of this world.

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As the OI Material Culture Fellow I aim to coordinate the OI's various material culture initiatives across its platforms and help the OI reach out to the many scholars working in the interdisciplinary field of material culture. I am working on cataloging all the OI's various material culture related projects, including Colonial Virginia Portraits, *Ben Franklin's World* episodes, and *Uncommon Sense* posts. Doing so will help scholars interested in material culture find and interact with the Omohundro Institute as well as provide a resource for educators who wish to use early American objects in the classroom. I have also provided material culture programming through the OI Coffeehouse, "Stuff in Vast Early America." During the fall 2021 semester this group gathered thirteen scholars, public historians, museum professionals, and advanced graduate students in weekly discussions on material culture scholarship and works in progress. For this Coffeehouse I created the call for participants, led the group in discussions, and coordinated a schedule for presentations.

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REPORT FROM MORGAN MCCULLOUGH  
OI MATERIAL CULTURE FELLOW



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Report from Andrew Walker  
OI-NEH Postdoctoral Fellow



As an OI-NEH postdoctoral fellow, I intend to revise my book manuscript in progress, entitled *Strains of Unity: From Emancipation to Separation in Haitian Santo Domingo*. This book explores the 1822-1844 unification of Hispaniola, during which the former Spanish colony of Santo Domingo (today the Dominican Republic) was governed by post-revolutionary Haiti.

The book argues that the unification was built on existing power structures in Santo Domingo, rather than representing an external force.

During my residency period, I hope to open a dialogue with editors, fellows, and other scholars at the OI in order to connect the book's findings to the broader history of racial formations across Vast Early America during the Age of Revolutions. I also intend to draft a final chapter of the book, which will explore how elite clients of the unified Haitian state attempted to consolidate their economic and political power by declaring separation from Haiti and the formation of a new Dominican Republic in 1844.

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As an OI-NEH fellow, I will be revising my dissertation into a book manuscript titled *Atlantic Antidote: Race, Gender, and the Birth of the First Vaccine*. The project traces the circulation of the first smallpox vaccine through the Atlantic World, demonstrating how empire and the transatlantic slave trade catalyzed the need for vaccine technology and made its development and distribution possible. It centers on the Spanish Empire, where vaccination required parental consent. At its heart are the enslaved and free mothers whose children doctors relied upon to incubate and reproduce the live vaccine. Their experiences indicate how vaccination became embedded in struggles over abolition, parental rights, and the very meaning of consent, even as they enacted their own ideas of freedom through mothering and care practices that refused and exceeded rights-based notions of consent and selfhood that colonial officials sought to reinscribe through vaccination. Ultimately, the book argues that both consent and vaccination operated together as forms of amelioration that would act as an “antidote” not only to disease but revolutionary unrest. Doing so raises questions about the use of vaccines to curtail epidemics and the enduring entanglements between race, consent, power, and the purpose of public health.

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Report from Farren Yero  
OI-NEH Postdoctoral Fellow



# NEW IN 2021-2022

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## NEH SHARP HUMANITIES GRANTMAKING AT THE OI

The NEH SHARP Humanities Grantmaking award of \$304,405 to the OI will support underemployed scholars through a new fellowship program aimed at non-tenure-eligible scholars who have been adversely affected by the pandemic.

The OI's NEH funding will give scholars support for 2, 3, or 4 months of research at a stipend of \$5,000 per month as well as access to an extended set of OI online workshops on writing and publishing beginning in summer 2022. There is no residential requirement. The selection committee will award 53 months of fellowship support for terms ranging from 2-4 months for residential and nonresidential fellowships.

“The pandemic, which closed archives for research and stalled out an already stressed job market, has been extraordinarily challenging for emerging and junior scholars across disciplines,” said Cathy Kelly, interim executive director for the Omohundro Institute. “We are so grateful to be able to offer support to early Americanists, whose work is crucial to our field’s continued vitality through the NEH’s grant.” The fellowship program grew out of conversations with the OI community, as well as many others across the early American field.

“We have known for a while that junior scholars who are grappling with structural changes in the job market and the profession need more flexibility in fellowship support. Discussions with our colleagues made clear that in the context of the pandemic, the need for direct research support is especially urgent among contingently-employed scholars and those working outside the academy,” she said.

“NEH is pleased to work with thirteen exceptional grantmaking organizations to distribute American Rescue Plan funding to humanities professionals and cultural and educational institutions suffering

financial hardship as a result of the pandemic,” said NEH Acting Chairman Adam Wolfson. “Their specialized knowledge of specific humanities disciplines, professions, and sectors will ensure that these relief funds reach those most in need of assistance, and strengthen the nation’s humanities infrastructure by investing in forward-looking programs and initiatives that contribute to a robust, resilient, and inclusive humanities sector.”

The OI is among only a few institutions to receive grants in both National Endowment for the Humanities Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan grant categories in Fall 2021 and is very grateful to NEH for its investment in the OI and our community of early American scholars. You can read about the other grant we received, in support of our audio and digital programming, on page 45.



**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES**



# WHY I GIVE

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“The Omohundro Institute is central to the field of early American history and has been for as long as I have been a historian. It has grown from a narrowly Virginia-focused institution in its early days (which were even before I entered graduate school) to being an important resource for the study of early America. More recently, it has expanded its focus: I welcome its more capacious view of its subject—including not only the parts of North America that would become the United States much later than the original 13 British colonies but also the regions that were part of that world through ties of trade, migration, enslavement and rebellion, to name but a few. With its first-rate book program, an excellent journal, and for the last decades a series of important conferences, the OI plays a pivotal role; and its fellowship program has launched many a successful scholarly career as well. I am happy to do what I can to keep the work of the Institute going.”

— Carla Gardina Pestana, Department Chair, Distinguished Professor, and Joyce Appleby Endowed Chair of America in the World, UCLA

“As an undergraduate History major at William & Mary in the mid-1960s, I was introduced to the Institute. I benefited from its work then but especially from the outstanding scholars and teachers who were attracted to W&M at least in part by the OI’s mission. That these distinguished historians also taught undergraduates was an amazing experience. The learning opportunity afforded by the OI fostered a life-long commitment that continued during my fifty-year career in museums including thirty-eight at Colonial Williamsburg. I am proud to support the OI’s work as an Associate and delighted that Colonial Williamsburg has renewed its vital role in the OI’s mission.”

—Albert Louer, W&M, Class of 1967

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# GIFTS

## JULY 1, 2020–JUNE 30, 2021

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The Omohundro Institute appreciates the generosity and dedication of its supporters. Annual gifts from OI Associates as well as gifts directed to support specific projects and programs sustain the OI's mission to support scholars, scholarship, and a dynamic early American history. Thank you.

### LAPIDUS INITIATIVE FOR EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN EARLY AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP

Generously funded by Sid and Ruth Lapidus since 2014, the LI@OI supports digital projects and innovations to engage scholars and other audiences.

### OI-NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR K-12 TEACHERS

In July 2020, the OI received its first-ever grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities' Summer Seminars and Institutes for K-12 Educators for Teaching the History and Culture of Vast Early America (\$146,125) that will immerse 25 teachers in Vast Early America, an approach that captures the diverse experiences, people, and geography across early North America. The two-week institute will bring teachers to the OI and William & Mary in July 2022 to explore early American history and to introduce the participants to tools of historical discovery that will facilitate research projects about the early American history of the places where they live and teach. Lectures, seminars, and primary sources available online, many of them newly available, as well as documents and artifacts found in physical archives and museums in Williamsburg-area collections, will give teachers a powerful platform for connecting the past to the present when they return to their classrooms and communities.

### OI-NEH POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

The OI annually offers residential postdoctoral fellowships in any area of early American studies, which it has done since 1945. The OI gratefully acknowledges the partnership of the National Endowment for the Humanities with its continued support through a \$285,000 grant (January 1, 2021–June 30, 2024) for the OI's residential postdoctoral fellowships from the NEH Fellowship Programs at Independent Research Institutions.

### BEN FRANKLIN'S WORLD SUPPORT

*Ben Franklin's World* podcast received funding for special episodes including a \$7,500 grant from Mass Humanities to fund 2 podcast episodes in December 2020 ("The World of the Wampanoag") and a \$5,000 grant from Humanities New York that supported "The Horse's Tail" July 4, 2021 episode.

### FELLOWSHIPS IN HISTORICAL EDITING

The Fellowships in Historical Editing offer talented William & Mary History and American Studies graduate students who have served as OI apprentices the opportunity to build upon their skills through additional editorial work during William & Mary's winter and summer breaks.

The Colonial Dames of America renewed its annual support for the OI's Fellowship in Historical Editing in 2021 with a gift of \$2,500. Gifts from the Colonial Dames have supported the fellowship program for more than two decades. The Order of Americans of Armorial Ancestry (OAAA) renewed its support for a fourteenth year and provided two \$1,000 OAAA Grace DeuPree Fellowships. An anonymous donor also supported the OI Fellowship in 2021.

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# HISTORY

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## Giving Voice to the Past

The OI is the leading international research center for early American history and scholars exploring Vast Early America.

The OI's mission is to serve the public good by supporting and promoting scholars and scholarship focused on the expansive history of early America via events and programs, fellowships, and publications. OI programs encompass every stage of scholarly production: research support through predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships (launched in 1945); conferences, seminars, workshops, and online lectures and conversations; publications, including the field-leading journal, the *William and Mary Quarterly* and a book series published in partnership with the University of North Carolina Press; and a growing number of audio and digital projects, including an acclaimed podcast *Ben Franklin's World* as well as digital productions such as *Colonial Virginia Portraits* and collaborations including the *Georgian Papers Programme*.

The OI is an independent research organization sponsored by William & Mary and Colonial Williamsburg housed on the William & Mary campus in Williamsburg, Virginia. Founded in 1943 as the Institute of Early American History & Culture, the name of benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Malvern H. Omohundro, Jr., was added in 1996 in recognition of their generous support of the OI.

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Members of the OI's Board of Directors determine matters of policy and have responsibility for the financial and general management and for resource development of the OI. The Board consists of eight members: five elected by the Board and three ex officio members (representatives from William & Mary and Colonial Williamsburg as well as the chair of the OI Council).

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Members of the OI Council are typically drawn from the academic community. Councilors advise the OI executive director and the Board of Directors on policy, programmatic, and professional matters of concern to the OI and serve on one of the Council's three standing committees: the *William and Mary Quarterly* Editorial Board, the Book Publications Committee, or the Program Committee. OI Associates are annually invited to submit nominations for consideration by the Council.

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