

FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the eighth volume of the *Virginia Tech Undergraduate Historical Review*! Our team of undergraduate and graduate editors work to present the best original undergraduate historical research from Virginia Tech and institutions across the United States. The *Review* seeks to provide undergraduate researchers with opportunities to improve their historical skills, to experience the publishing process, and, ultimately, to know the joy of seeing their hard work appear in print.

During the review process, we aim to work diligently with all authors who submit their work and provide them with clear feedback to help them improve their historical knowledge and skills. Our board of undergraduate editors employs a blind review process, scoring each work according to a standardized rubric. This rubric emphasizes the author's engagement with the secondary literature on the topic, ability to create an argument from the primary source base, and capacity to clearly articulate ideas. The excellence of the articles included in this volume stems from our authors' hard work, dedication, and willingness to accept and employ constructive feedback, as well as the long hours of analysis and proofreading on the part of our undergraduate, graduate, and faculty editors.

For volume eight, we have again found new ways to expand the horizons of the *Review* with two articles that shine a spotlight on intriguing undergraduate projects that gave Virginia Tech undergraduates opportunities to explore real-world skills. Of course, as always, we also have several exemplary works of original historical research.

Volume eight starts off with Rebecca Andrews's "The People and Motivation Behind the Traitor: Benedict Arnold, 1741–1801," in which Andrews uses correspondence between colonial military and civic leaders to weave a narrative about Arnold's wounded pride and his journey from revolutionary hero to infamous traitor. Next, Brooks Hayden Romy explores the evolving role of racial thought in the folksong collection and revival movements in "Folksong Collection Practices and the Development of an Anglo-Saxon America." Courtney Ebersohl analyzes the intersection of gender and labor in the lives of freed women in Reconstruction-era Fairfax County, Virginia, in "'She Would Not Go Anyhow': Freed Women in Post-Civil War Fairfax County, 1865–1872." Finally, in "The Wrath

of Kern County: Banning *The Grapes of Wrath* in the Summer of 1939,” Gillian Barth looks at the social and political conditions that led to the banning of the *Grapes of Wrath* in Kern County, California.

Volume eight also features several pieces that demonstrate the variety of ways in which undergraduate historians are engaging in the craft. First, we have the return of our digital history reflection, written this year by Nala Chehade, winner of the 2018 Virginia Tech Digital History Prize. Nala talks about the joys and struggles of turning her research article “Paint & Politics: Analyzing the 2011 Egyptian Revolution Through Graffiti” (which appeared in volume seven of the *Review*) into an interactive online map. This year’s volume also includes a new feature entitled Spotlight on Public History, where we focus in on a public history project completed by undergraduates at Virginia Tech. This year’s spotlight looks at the *Enacting Freedom: Black Virginians in the Age of Emancipation* exhibit at the American Civil War Museum at Appomattox, which was created by a team of Virginia Tech undergraduate and graduate students working under Dr. Paul Quigley. Finally, this year’s volume concludes with Laura Crowe’s article on undergraduate publishing at Virginia Tech, focusing on *Welcome to the Beatles*, a book published by Dr. Robert Stephen’s spring 2018 History Research Seminar class.

We wish to thank the faculty of the History Department for their unwavering support and especially for their willingness to continually push their students to consider publishing their work. Special thanks is due to our faculty editor, Dr. Heather Gumbert, for her tireless work and careful eye. Thanks also go out to the chair of the department, Dr. Mark Barrow, as well as the founder of the VTUHR, Dr. Robert Stephens. This volume would not have been possible without the diligent work of our undergraduate editors and the many undergraduates who chose to submit their work to our publication. Special thanks are also due to the faculty and undergraduates who agreed to be interviewed for our spotlight features. Finally, thanks also go out to you, dear reader, for without you we would be speaking to an empty room. Your support of undergraduate historical research gives us the heart to go on.

HEATH FURROW & TYLER BALLI

Managing Editors

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