

END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT
LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

Primary Applicant(s): William Benemann
Campus: Berkeley
Email: wbenemann@law.berkeley.edu
Telephone: 510-642-8722

TITLE OF PROJECT: Covering the Waterfront: Using Military, Governmental and Academic Archives to Trace Homosexuality During the Age of Sail

Time Period of Grant: 2014-15
Amount of Award Received: \$2993
Original Abstract as Submitted:

During my visit to the Washington DC area I will visit three archives where I have identified material of potential interest.

U.S. Naval Academy

One chapter of my book will explore the lifelong friendship of Alfred Mahan and Samuel Ashe, who met when they were both members of the Class of 1859 at Annapolis. In 1931 a selection of their correspondence was published that, though heavily censored, indicates a particularly passionate friendship. The complete correspondence is now held by Duke University, and I have already purchased a scan of the 700-plus letters in the collection. Ashe left the Naval Academy before graduating, under a cloud of suspicion that has never been fully explained. I would like to research the circumstances of his early exit.

I would also like to research first-person narratives of participation in the Neptune Ceremony, the homoerotic ritual sailors undergo the first time they cross the equator.

Library of Congress

Last year I spent a week in London at the National Archives, Kew, researching the records of American sailors held in Britain as prisoners of war during the War of 1812. At the Library of Congress I would like to complete the American side of that research.

University of Virginia

The Alderman library holds the diary of Tobias Lear, the American diplomat who traveled to Algiers to negotiate the release of American sailors held by the Barbary regents. According to the catalog record description, "Lear writes at length about his diplomatic mission to Algiers to negotiate a treaty with Tripoli." From random quotes from the diary that have made it into print, I surmise that Lear was a particularly astute and extremely frank journal-keeper.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

- Describe what was achieved during the time period of the grant.
- What aspects were completed as proposed? If your study could not be completed as proposed, explain how your plans were altered.
- Did the project accomplish what it intended? Did it make a difference?
 - Include any relevant quantitative data, if applicable (e.g. How many individuals have benefited from this project? In what way? This may include various output measures such as circulation, reference transactions, program attendance, survey responses, etc. as appropriate.)
 - Include any anecdotes, if applicable.

I began my research at the Nimitz Library at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. I was fortunate to schedule my visit during a slow period at the archives, so that Jennifer Bryan, Head of Special Collections, was able to provide extra service that otherwise might not have been available. I was able to view all of the records I hoped to consult, and to make copies of the important passages using my camera. Ms. Bryan was particularly helpful in tracking down additional information while I reviewed the volumes in hand.

In my grant proposal I planned for a visit to the Library of Congress. In preparing for the trip, I realized that the National Archives would be a better place to start (with the Library of Congress as a follow-up if time allowed).

I visited the National Archives on the Mall in Washington DC, using both the Archival Research Room and the Microfilm Research Room. In the Archival Research Room I uncovered the single most significant document I have ever run across in my decades of research into early American LGBT history: a legal deposition from 1815. The document in the National Archives is a notarized copy, apparently made by the water press method, which created an exact though faint copy of the original. Pasted to the document is a manuscript note from the notary in New Orleans testifying to the accuracy of the copy. In the intervening 200 years the deposition has faded even more, and parts of it are almost illegible. I was able to take many images with my camera, and I am in the process of using PhotoShop to enhance the images by increasing the contrast. So significant is this deposition, and so much of it has faded to the point that it is almost lost, that I have decided to provide a complete transcription as an appendix to the book I am writing, to make sure that its contents are available for future historians.

The final part of my research trip was spent at the University of Virginia, at the Small Special Collections Library. School was in session at UVa and the library was very busy, but when I discussed my research project with one of the archivists, Tiffany Cole, she was so enthusiastic that she provided me with an important breakthrough in my research. She informed me that a diary that I had consulted from the Library of Congress several years ago was only one of many that the person had kept. She led me to two more volumes held by the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia. I had never heard of that archive, and had no idea that the volume I had consulted was not the only one in existence. My personal visit to the archives made a tremendous difference in the direction of my research.

- What would you do differently next time, if anything? I think the research trip was well planned and executed.
- What advice do you have for others applying for LAUC research grants? Nothing that would apply to this particular grant more than any other. This is probably not the proper forum to discuss this question at length.

II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED? Yes No

If No, what is needed to complete the project? Is more time needed? Or more funds?

III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Please explain how the funds received were spent. Attach your original budget and indicate how well your estimates matched with actual expenditures. Receipts are not necessary.

Please see accompanying reimbursement request form, which details how the money was spent. To date I have spent \$2882.53. I have ordered a CD of a nineteenth century court-martial from the National Archives, and paid for it myself. I will be submitting the invoice for reimbursement when the CD arrives, and that will expend all the money in the grant.

IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS

What are your plans for disseminating the results of your work? If it will be a web page or product, or published article or book, when will it be available to the public? Include citations/URLs if known.

I am currently working a book which will include the information gathered in this research trip. I hope to complete the book by the end of this year.

V. NOTE

Information included in this report may be reprinted or posted on the web for dissemination to UCOP, other UC Libraries, and future potential LAUC grant applicants.

Because I was aware that the report might be posted online, I have been intentionally vague about some of the information I gathered. I would like to keep that information confidential until my book is published.

Date Initiated: 5/11/2015 7:54:43 AM
 Date Submitted for Review: 5/12/2015 11:05:00 AM

TRV000399295



University of California, Berkeley

BENEMANN,WILLIAM E
 I am a US Citizen
 I am a UC Employee/UC Student
 Vendor ID: E010602653

Liability Insurance: Yes
 License Number: 6RPU602
 City of Residence: SAN FRANCISCO,C

Preparer Name: MARSHALL, Brenda
 Preparer Phone: +1 510 664-4056
 Preparer E-Mail: brendajm@berkeley.edu
 Processing Unit: CLLAW

Trip Purpose: REQ61722567. Grant-funded research. Hotel meals were included twice on Law Travel Report Form.
 Department Description: Grant-funded research, DC area, 04/12-22/2015
 Washington DC area from 4/12/2015 5:00:00 AM until 4/22/2015 5:00:00 PM

Travel expenses for Washington DC area

Form of transit	Miles	Remarks	Amount
Airfare		includes \$50 baggage fee; 25 each way	\$654.20
Rental Car			\$467.76
Parking		hotel Apr 19-22	\$45.00
Transportation Expenses Subtotal(CTS Not Included):			\$1,166.96

Miscellaneous Expenses Subtotal: \$0.00

Daily expenses from 4/12/2015 5:00:00 AM until 4/22/2015 5:00:00 PM

4/12/2015	Meals and Incidentals: \$18.78	Lodging: \$132.09
4/13/2015	Meals and Incidentals: \$26.95	Lodging: \$132.09
4/14/2015	Meals and Incidentals: \$23.87	Lodging: \$132.09
4/15/2015	Meals and Incidentals: \$23.98	Lodging: \$132.09
4/16/2015	Meals and Incidentals: \$24.74	Lodging: \$132.09
4/17/2015	Meals and Incidentals: \$32.90	Lodging: \$132.09
4/18/2015	Meals and Incidentals: \$32.09	Lodging: \$132.09
4/19/2015	Meals and Incidentals: \$39.66	Lodging: \$165.45
4/20/2015	Meals and Incidentals: \$28.13	Lodging: \$165.45
4/21/2015	Meals and Incidentals: \$28.13	Lodging: \$165.45
4/22/2015	Meals and Incidentals: \$14.36	Lodging: \$0.00
Meal and Incidentals Subtotal: \$293.59		Lodging Subtotal: \$1,420.98
		Daily Expenses Subtotal: \$1,714.57

Business	Account	Fund	DeptID	Program	ChartField1	ChartField2	Charge
1	57212	69085	11925	44	CLOTHR	CLBW2	\$654.20
1	57214	69085	11925	44	CLOTHR	CLBW2	\$2,227.33

Voucher Total: \$2,881.53
 Voucher Reimbursable Amount: \$2,881.53
 Advance #: \$0.00
 Check Amount: \$2,881.53

I certify that the above is a true statement, that the expenses claimed were incurred by me on official University business on the dates shown, and that I have attached original receipts for each expense of \$75 or more, as required by University policy.

 Authorizing Name and Title (Print)

 Traveler Signature Required

 Date

 Authorizing Signature Required

 Date

Traveler's Copy

Department Copy

Employee's Copy