



Newsletter

Winter 2018

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From the President-

Greg Drummond

There were many discoveries that furthered the study of history in 2017, but the one that stuck with me the most was the linking of documents in a Japanese archive to a group of British prisoners that had claimed to have visited Japan on a stolen ship. In 1829 a group of nineteen convicts en route to the British penal settlement of Van Damien's Land in Australia, mutinied and seized the ship *Cyprus*. From there they sailed out to sea, eventually arriving in Canton, China where they were arrested by the British. The group was tried for piracy, with two of the convicts receiving a death sentence for their crimes. After the trial, the leader of the group, William Swallow, wrote an account of the voyage of the *Cyprus*. In this account, Swallow tells of stopping in Japan, because there was no water left on the ship, and being forcibly turned away from the island nation. Japan had a strict isolationist policy at the time, and everyone dismissed Swallow's story as fantasy.

Fast forward to 2017, and Swallow's account has been vindicated. British expatriate Nick Russell, an English teacher and amateur historian based in Japan, had spent three years puzzling over a manuscript by Makita Hamaguchi that described an encounter with a foreign ship. Russell finally was able to match up the story of the *Cyprus* with the account given by Hamaguchi.

The manuscript Russell had been working with had been digitized. Russell had been drawn to it because of a watercolor image of the ship that had been painted by the author he saw on the website for the Tokushima prefectural archive. Digitization of historical papers and sources has allowed us, as historians, to discover new leads into mysteries once thought solved. While there are an untold number of archival documents digitized and available online, there is much more work to be done if we want everything possible to be available. This is why I call on everyone to help the National Archives through their Citizen Archivist program. Citizen Archivist uses crowdsourcing to tag and transcribe documents in the National Archives to make everything more accessible to historians and the general public. Who knows, perhaps the next story of a great archival find that shakes up the world of history will be yours!

Call for Candidates for Special Election

Saber and Scroll is seeking leaders to fill two vacant officer roles.

As an AMU and APU Student Organization Leader, you will gain valuable leadership skills.

Leadership and service opportunities are an important part of your student experience, providing unique opportunities for personal and professional development.

Chapter Officers are . . . volunteer student and/or alumni members who provide leadership, goal planning, and guidance to all chapter members.

Membership Secretary

1. The office of membership secretary shall be elected for a one-year term. It will be his or her duty to keep the roster updated, to provide copies to the officers as needed as well as the school.
2. To create and keep a printable up to date roster for the entire membership.
3. To send messages of well wishes as needed.
4. To send welcome packages to the new members.
5. To act in tandem with the recording secretary as a vote counter for any elections, or votes of any kind presented to the membership.

Treasurer

1. The office of treasurer shall be elected for a one-year term. It will be his or her duty to plan and prepare a budget as required by the school.
2. To oversee the budget.
3. To work in tandem with the officers to ensure that the organization stays within said budget.
4. To prepare and present any paperwork required by the school in regards to the budget.

Newsletter Committee

We are currently searching for Saber and Scroll members to help with the making of the newsletter. If you are interested please contact one of the Saber and Scroll officers.

Service Projects

Red Cross Blood Drive

Throughout the year, Saber and Scroll, in conjunction with Historical Studies Honor Society, The Newman Center, and the Society for Collegiate Leadership and Achievement, hosts a Red Cross Blood Drive team. Download the Red Cross Blood app, search for Saber and Scroll, and join the team! Each donation can save as many as three lives! There are now 16 members who have contributed over 93 pints of blood, saving as many as 279 lives.

Annual Historical Marker Cleanup Project Every spring Saber and Scroll asks its membership to pick a historical marker (or two) and give it a good cleaning. This year's project will begin in late March, weather permitting, so start thinking about what markers you might like to clean.

Member Accomplishments

[Patrick S. Baker](#) had a number of publications in 2017: “Toyota Wars” Modern Warfare Magazine Jan – Feb 2018 • “America’s Special Operators and the Toyota Tacoma” Modern Warfare Magazine Jan – Feb 2018 • “America’s Dune Buggy Battalion” Modern Warfare Magazine Jan – Feb 2018 • “Conquer or Perish: Securing Texan Independence at San Jacinto” Strategy & Tactics Magazine Jan – Feb 2018 • “Fort Frederica: The War of Jenkins Ear in Georgia” Strategy & Tactics Magazine Jan – Feb 2018 • “The Battle of Tours: Islam Halted 732” Strategy & Tactics Magazine, Jan-Feb 2017 • “The Battle of the Boyne” Strategy & Tactics Magazine, Jan-Feb 2017 • “Science Fiction and the Vietnam War” New Myths Magazine, Dec. 2017 • “Star Trek as Cold War Metaphor” New Myths Magazine, Sept. 2017.

[Jon Halfin](#) won third place in the Bay Area Historical Society short article contest for SF Bay Area Historical Society.

[Heather Sowalla](#) has finished her Masters degree in Sustainable Design and Policy from the University of Illinois, Springfield.

[Erickson Huertas](#) has recently fulfilled all requirements for graduation at American Military University, with the degree to be conferred February 15, 2018.

[Victoria Knight](#) is beginning her second term at her town Historic District Advisory Commission, and started working at the museum part time as assistant manager.

[Stuart McClung](#) is an ongoing book reviewer for online and print venues: America's Civil War magazine, Journal of America's Military Past, www.nyjournalofbooks.com, etc.

[Anne Midgley](#) launched the AMU & APU Neman Center, Catholic Campus Ministry, and the first online Newman Center.

[Sharon Powell](#) is finishing a second MA in Political Science at APU and teaching Political Science courses at Mohawk Valley Community College.

Cam Rea has published his new book Mongol Warfare.

Marie Tan graduated with MA (American History) Aug 2017

Jennifer Thompson published a children's book, Journey to Animal Paradise, in October and another book, Depart From Me! in November.

Journal Update

Michael Majerczyk

The Winter call for papers is open to any topic this years. There is still time to submit your work and complete it before the Winter Issue goes to press in late March or early April. If interested, you can submit your work on the Saber and Scroll website under the Journal tab or click on the link <https://saberandscroll.weebly.com/journal-submissions-winter-issue.html>.

Digital Commons Statistics

The total number of downloads for the Saber and Scroll Journal as of 1.31.2018 is 214,469 from 205 different countries.

The top ten counties for downloads are as follows.

The United States: 148,795

The United Kingdom: 13,285

Australia: 10,257

Canada: 7,803

Germany: 2,401

France: 2,244

Russian Federation: 1,973

India: 1,573

Philippines: 1,179

China: 1.150