

MICHAEL DAVID COHEN

mdcohen@american.edu

CURRENT POSITION

American University, Washington, DC

Editor/Project Director, Correspondence of Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore 2020–present
Research Professor, Department of Government 2020–present
Faculty Fellow, Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies 2019–present

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

PhD, History, 2008

Carleton College, Northfield, MN

BA, *summa cum laude*, History and Mathematics, 2002

PREVIOUS EDITING & RESEARCH POSITIONS

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Research Associate Professor, Department of History 2016–2019
Research Assistant Professor 2009–2015
Editor, James K. Polk Project 2015–2019
Assistant Editor 2009–2015

Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ

2008–2009

Postdoctoral Fellow in Historical Editing, Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony

American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA

2001, 2002

Summer Intern, Graphic Arts Collections

Carleton College, Northfield, MN

2000–2001

Research Assistant, Department of History

EDITED & AUTHORED BOOKS

Editor, *James K. Polk and His Time: Essays at the Conclusion of the Polk Project*. Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 2022.

Editor, *Correspondence of James K. Polk*, vol. 14, *April 1848–June 1849*. Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 2021. [Published online, Charlottesville: Rotunda, eds. by Univ. of Virginia Press, 2022, <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/POLK.html>. Advance edition published online, Knoxville: Newfound Press, 2019. <https://newfoundpress.utk.edu/correspondence-of-james-k-polk/>.]

Editor, *Correspondence of James K. Polk*, vol. 13, *August 1847–March 1848*. Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 2017. [Published online, Knoxville: Newfound Press, 2019, https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_polk/14/, and Charlottesville: Rotunda, eds. by Univ. of Virginia Press, 2021, <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/POLK.html>.]

Coeditor, *Correspondence of James K. Polk*, vol. 12, *January–July 1847*. Edited by Tom Chaffin and Michael David Cohen. Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 2013. [Published online, Knoxville: Newfound Press, 2015, https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_polk/3/, and Charlottesville: Rotunda, eds. by Univ. of Virginia Press, 2021, <https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/POLK.html>.]

Assistant editor, *The Selected Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*, vol. 6, *An Awful Hush, 1895 to 1906*. Edited by Ann D. Gordon. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers Univ. Press, 2013.

Reconstructing the Campus: Higher Education and the American Civil War. Charlottesville: Univ. of Virginia Press, 2012.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

“Campaigning on the Constitution: Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore, and the Presidential Election of 1848.” *University of St. Thomas Journal of Law & Public Policy*, forthcoming.

“My *manusc[r]ipt papers . . . are safe*”: The Correspondence of James K. Polk, 1816–2021.” In *James K. Polk and His Time: Essays at the Conclusion of the Polk Project*. Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 2022.

“School for Suffrage: The American Woman’s Republic.” *The Good Society* 25, no. 2–3 (2016): 209–30. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5325/goodsociety.25.2-3.0209>.

“James K. Polk and the Mystery of Amor Patriæ.” *New England Quarterly* 86, no. 2 (June 2013): 266–92. <https://polkproject.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/NEQ-Article.pdf>.

“‘What Gender Is Lex?’: Women, Men, and Power Relations in Colleges of the Nineteenth Century.” *Perspectives on the History of Higher Education* 24 (2005): 41–90.

“Bartlett’s *Familiar Quotations*: ‘A Glancing Bird’s Eye View’ by a ‘Morbid Scholiast.’” *Harvard Library Bulletin*, n.s., 14, no. 2 (Summer 2003): 55–74. <https://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/42673641>.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *Daniel Webster and the Unfinished Constitution*, by Peter Charles Hoffer. *Journal of the Early Republic* 42, no. 2 (Summer 2022): 313–16.

Review of *Slavery and the University: Histories and Legacies*, edited by Leslie M. Harris, James T. Campbell, and Alfred L. Brophy. *American Historical Review* 125, no. 1 (Feb. 2020): 231–32.

Review of *Athens of the New South: College Life and the Making of Modern Nashville*, by Mary Ellen Pethel. *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 117, no. 3–4 (Autumn 2019): 618–20.

Review of *Uncompromising Activist: Richard Greener, First Black Graduate of Harvard College*, by Katherine Reynolds Chaddock. *Black Perspectives*, Oct. 4, 2018. <https://www.aaihs.org/richard-greener-first-black-graduate-of-harvard-college>.

Review of *Educational Reconstruction: African American Schools in the Urban South, 1865–1890*, by Hilary Green. *Journal of American Studies* 52, no. 3 (Aug. 2018): 852–53.

Review of *Reparation and Reconciliation: The Rise and Fall of Integrated Higher Education*, by Christi M. Smith. *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 116, no. 1 (Winter 2018): 128–30.

Review of *University, Court, and Slave: Pro-slavery Thought in Southern Colleges and Courts and the Coming of Civil War*, by Alfred L. Brophy. *Journal of Southern History* 83, no. 4 (Nov. 2017): 960–62.

Review of *Adventures Abroad: North American Women at German-Speaking Universities, 1868–1915*, by Sandra L. Singer. *Paedagogica Historica*, n.s., 41, no. 6 (Dec. 2005): 788–91.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Taylor and Fillmore Correspondence Blog. 2020–present.
<https://edspace.american.edu/taylorandfillmore/blog>.
- “Polk, James K.” In *America in the World, 1776 to the Present: A Supplement to the Dictionary of American History*, edited by Edward J. Blum, 2:840–42. Farmington Hills, MI: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2016.
- “The First Desegregation of the University of South Carolina–October 10th, 1873.” The Jubilee Project 2013: Commemorating 150 Years of Emancipation and Educational Access in South Carolina, Oct. 10, 2013. <http://jubileeprojectsc.wordpress.com/2013/10/10/the-first-desegregation-of-the-university-of-south-carolina-october-10th-1873>.
- “Schools for Soldiers.” In *The New York Times: Disunion: 106 Articles from the New York Times Opinionator: Modern Historians Revisit and Reconsider the Civil War from Lincoln’s Election to the Emancipation Proclamation*, edited by Ted Widmer, 312–15. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal, 2013. [First published in *Disunion/Opinionator: Exclusive Online Commentary from the Times. New York Times*, July 3, 2012. <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/03/schools-for-soldiers>.]
- “Historian as Editor: The Correspondence of James K. Polk.” *The Federalist: Newsletter of the Society for History in the Federal Government*, 2nd ser., no. 31 (Fall 2011): 1, 3–4. https://polkproject.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Historian_as_Editor.pdf.
- “Belva Lockwood” and “Equal Rights Association.” In *Encyclopedia of Women and American Politics*, edited by Lynne E. Ford, 172–73, 188–89. New York: Facts on File, 2008.
- Contributions to *Baton Rouge Advocate*, *The Conversation*, *History News Network*, and *New York Times’ Disunion*.

INVITED LECTURES

- “A Troubled Partnership: Secretary Buchanan and President Polk.” Presidential Lecture Series, LancasterHistory, Lancaster, PA, May 18, 2023.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIV7DITDRS4>.
- “President James K. Polk and the Expansion of America.” One Day University, June 7, 2022.
<https://www.onedayu.com/videos/president-james-k-polk-and-the-expansion-of-america>.
- “Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore (1849–1853): Meet America’s Lesser-Known Presidents of the Mid-19th Century.” Annual Presidential Lecture, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Mar. 22, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZ5W8clGneI>.
- Lecture on the Civil War’s impact on higher education. Daughters of the American Colonists, Knoxville, TN, Chapter, Mar. 23, 2016.
- “James Knox Polk (1845–1849): Meet America’s Most Important Unknown President.” Annual Presidential Lecture, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Mar. 1, 2016.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IysLOYgNYK4>. Followed by presentation to faculty and staff on digital editing and publication, Mar. 2, 2016.
- “Colleges in and after the Civil War.” Twin Cities Civil War Round Table, St. Paul, MN, Dec. 17, 2013.
- “College Women and Men in the American Civil War.” Wesleyan College, Macon, GA, Apr. 23, 2013.
- “The Civil War and the Transformation of American Higher Education.” University of Georgia, Athens, Apr. 22, 2013.

“How Did the Civil War Affect Colleges?” Carleton College, Northfield, MN, Feb. 6, 2013.
<https://apps.carleton.edu/curricular/history/news-events/speakers/cohen>.

“Colleges and the Civil War.” Worcester State University, Worcester, MA, Nov. 15, 2012.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Participant in “Still Important Today: Recognizing Historical Patterns in the Present.”
Roundtable, Association for Documentary Editing, Washington, DC, June 22–25, 2023.
<https://youtu.be/Y-EsmTeA118?si=kVqb3XT24G0sKQxO>.

“Constitutional History of the Presidency; Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore.” University of
St. Thomas Symposium on Constitutionalism, Minneapolis, Nov. 18, 2022.
<https://youtu.be/uoRuLWoZ8tIs>.

Participant in “Editing Documents in US Political History.” Roundtable, American Political
History Conference, West Lafayette, IN, June 9–11, 2022.
https://youtu.be/pXfPTVkn_7M.

“James K. Polk and the Freedom of Religion.” Presidential Politics Conference of Iowa, Sioux
Center, Oct. 24–26, 2019.

“Concluding the James K. Polk Project,” part of the roundtable “In Light of the Evidence: End-
of-Project Goals and Reflections.” Association for Documentary Editing, Princeton, NJ,
June 20–22, 2019.

“‘My *manusc[r]ipt papers . . . are safe*’: The James K. Polk Project, 1958–2019.” Valedictory
address, James K. Polk and His Time: A Conference Finale to the Polk Project,
Knoxville, TN, Apr. 12–13, 2019.

“The James K. Polk Project: A President’s Letters in Print and Online.” Poster, American
Historical Association, Denver, Jan. 5–8, 2017.

“Absent Authors and Missing Manuscripts: Editing the Letters of James K. Polk.” Manuscript
Cultures Minicon, Knoxville, TN, Oct. 29, 2016.

“One-Term Wonder: The Strong Presidency and Single-Term Pledge of James K. Polk.” Iowa
Conference on Presidential Politics, Sioux Center, Oct. 29–31, 2015.

“School for Suffrage: The American Woman’s Republic, 1911–1915.” History of Education
Society, Seattle, Nov. 1–4, 2012.

“The Civil War Origins of a Federal Role in Education.” Organization of American Historians,
Washington, Apr. 7–10, 2010.

“Missouri, the Civil War, and the Rise of a Comprehensive University.” History of Education
Society, Philadelphia, Oct. 22–25, 2009.

“College Admission and the American Civil War.” History of Education Society, Ottawa,
Canada, Oct. 26–29, 2006.

“‘What Gender Is Lex?’: Women, Men, and Power Relations in Colleges of the Nineteenth
Century.” History of Education Society, Kansas City, MO, Nov. 5–7, 2004.

“Ballots, Beaux, and Arrows: Gender Relations at Carleton College in the Late Nineteenth
Century.” Northern Great Plains History Conference, Bismarck, ND, Oct. 27–30, 2004.

“Bartlett’s *Familiar Quotations*: ‘A Glancing Bird’s Eye View’ by a ‘Morbid Scholiast.’”
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing, Claremont, CA, July 9–
12, 2003.

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

Humanities advisor for *University of Reconstruction*, documentary about the University of South Carolina under development by Historic Columbia and ETV and funded by National Endowment for the Humanities, 2021–present.

Contributed research to television series *Jeopardy!* for clue in category “A Few Moments with Millard Fillmore,” Mar. 14, 2022. <https://edspace.american.edu/taylorandfillmore/videos>.

Interviewed in “Reconstructing the Reconstruction: The Aftermath of Slavery, and the Continuing Fight for Equal Justice” in cable/web/podcast series *The Legal Edition: Legal, Business & Policy News*, Oct. 20, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6Dnyt4unGs&t=5s>.

Interviewed for and contributed research to podcast documentary about James K. Polk in series *Presidents Are People Too!*, Audible.com, May 2, 2016.

Interviewed in radio documentary about Sarah Childress Polk in series *American First Ladies*, Voice of America, Korean Service, June 19, 2013.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Grants for Taylor and Fillmore Correspondence

- Texas History Grants, Summerlee Foundation, 2021–22, 2022, 2024–25
- Publishing Historical Records in Collaborative Digital Editions Grants, National Historical Publications and Records Commission, 2020–21, 2021–22, 2022–23, 2023–24
- Humanities Grants, Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, 2022–23, 2023–24
- Project Grant, Watson-Brown Foundation, 2021–22
- Special Interest Grant, William G. Pomeroy Foundation, 2020
- Historical Preservation Grant, Delaplaine Foundation, Inc., 2019–20

Grants for Polk Project

- Scholarly Editions and Translations Grant, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2016–19
- Publication Grants, Tennessee Historical Commission, 2015–16, 2016–17, 2017–18, 2018–19, 2019
- Publishing Historical Records in Documentary Editions Grants, National Historical Publications and Records Commission, 2015–16, 2016–17, 2017–18 (assisted in writing five earlier grants, 2010–15)

Book Prizes

- Tennessee History Book Award, finalist/honorable mention, for *James K. Polk and His Time*, Tennessee Historical Society and Tennessee Historical Commission, 2022
- Linda Eisenmann Prize, for *Reconstructing the Campus*, History of Education Society, 2014
- Critics’ Choice Book Award, for *Reconstructing the Campus*, American Educational Studies Association, 2014

Other Grants & Awards

- Scholar of the Week, University of Tennessee, Sept. 16, 2012, Oct. 31, 2014
- History Department Publication Grant, University of Tennessee, 2010
- Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University, 2007–8
- Charles Warren Center Summer Research Grants, Harvard University, 2005, 2006
- Richard A. Berenson Graduate Fellowship, Harvard University, 2005–6
- CBS Bicentennial Narrators Scholarship, Harvard University, 2002–3

TEACHING

American University

- Graduate, Undergraduate, and High School Assistant Supervisor, Taylor and Fillmore Correspondence, 2020–present

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

- Graduate Editorial Assistant Supervisor, Polk Project, 2015–16, 2018–19
- Guest Seminar Leader, The Profession of History, spring 2016, fall 2018
- Instructor, History of American Education (independent study), spring 2011

Harvard University

- Teaching Fellow, American Social History Since 1920, spring 2005, spring 2007
- Teaching Fellow and Guest Lecturer, History of American Education, 1636 to 2000, fall 2006
- Head Teaching Fellow, The American Civil War: Waging a War in History and Memory, spring 2006
- Senior Thesis Grader, History, spring 2005, spring 2006
- Tutor and Administrative Tutor, Historical Analysis (sophomore writing), fall 2004, fall 2005
- Tutor, Major Themes in American History, spring 2005
- Senior Thesis Grader/Oral Examiner, Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, spring 2005

Carleton College

- Statistics Computer Laboratory Assistant, 2001–2
- Mathematics and Statistics Grader, 1999–2002
- Designed Survey Course in US History, winter 2001
- Mathematics Skills Center Tutor, spring 1999

ACADEMIC SERVICE

To Association for Documentary Editing

- Chair, US Semiquincentennial Committee, 2023–present
- Strategic Planning Committee, 2023–present
- Program Committee for 2023 conference, 2022–present
- Chair, Local Arrangements Committee for 2023 conference, 2021–23
- Chair, Communications Committee, 2020–22
- Chair, Lyman H. Butterfield Award Committee, 2020
- Councilor-at-Large, 2017–20

As Article or Book Manuscript Reviewer

- *American Nineteenth Century History*
- Fordham University Press
- *Highlights* (children's magazine)
- *History of Education Quarterly*
- Kent State University Press
- *New England Quarterly*
- *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*
- University of Alabama Press
- University of Tennessee Press

As Book Content Consultant

- *Civil War Causes*, by Michael Capek (Minneapolis: Abdo, 2017)
- *The Emancipation Proclamation*, by Judy Dodge Cummings (Minneapolis: Abdo, 2017)

As Conference Leader

- Roundtable Organizer and Moderator, "Editing Documents in US Political History," American Political History Conference, West Lafayette, IN, June 10–11, 2022.
- Roundtable Organizer and Moderator, "In Light of the Evidence: End-of-Project Goals and Reflections," Association for Documentary Editing, Princeton, NJ, June 20–22, 2019
- Conference Organizer, James K. Polk and His Time: A Conference Finale to the Polk Project, Knoxville, TN, Apr. 12–13, 2019
- Program Committee Member, History of Education Society, 2010–15
- Session Chair and Discussant, "Cultures in Conflict and Dialogue," History of Education Society, Nashville, Oct. 31–Nov. 3, 2013; Session Chair at meetings of Nov. 3–6, 2011 (Chicago), Nov. 1–4, 2012 (Seattle)
- Session Organizer, "Federal Expansion in the Civil War Era," Organization of American Historians, Washington, Apr. 7–10, 2010

To Students

- Guest Roundtable Member, Digital Scholarly Editing (course), University of Virginia, Charlottesville, May 5, 2021
- Guest Lecturer, The American Presidency (course), Western Reserve Academy, Hudson, OH, Dec. 10, 2020
- Interview Subject, East Tennessee History Day, 2014, 2018
- Guest Lecturer, Disunion: The Civil War and Reconstruction (course), University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Feb. 14, 2013
- Judge, East Tennessee History Day, Knoxville, Mar. 1, 2010, Mar. 7, 2011
- Chair, Ferguson Prize Committee (best sophomore essay), Harvard University, 2006; Member, 2005
- History Student Departmental Advisor, Carleton College, 2001–2

VISITING AFFILIATIONS

- Visiting Researcher, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2011–19
- Visiting Scholar, Center for Studies in Higher Education, University of California, Berkeley, July 2004
- Affiliate, Nuffield College, University of Oxford, UK, July 2003

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Introduction to TEI for Scholarly Texts, School of Advanced Study, University of London, UK, May 2021
- Conceptualising and Creating a Digital Edition, Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria, Canada, June 2018
- Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents, National Historical Publications and Records Commission and Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, July 2008
- Christensen Discussion Seminar, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University, 2005–6
- Graduate Writing Fellow, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University, fall 2005

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association
Association for Documentary Editing
Organization of American Historians
Southern Historical Association