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et al.: Front Matter

The James Blair Historical Review

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Editor's Note

It has been a year since the vision for the biannual publication of the *James Blair Historical Review* became reality. Now, with a new team of Editors and peer reviewers, I am proud to present the second ever Fall issue of the Review, Volume 9: Issue 1. Included in this volume are the contributions carefully composed by undergraduate authors from a variety of the nation's top undergraduate institutions.

By tradition, the Review does not set a theme to unite the articles we publish. On the other hand, if we were searching for a theme among this issue's disparate approaches to the past, we must find that these authors have all taken it upon themselves to focus on the negotiation of personal identity and agency in extremis. The occasionally unexpected nature of agency is found in the unionist sentiment promoted by citizens of Antebellum Virginia and in the ordinary Englishman's search for religious healing from a Restoration monarch, for example. But it is also found in the mundane decisions made by Revolutionary privateers, the dramatic depictions wrought by French Revolution-era playwrights, and the traumatic descriptions penned by the witnesses of Civil War executions. All these analyses of agency are found in this Volume. These authors have done a fine job to remind us that within broad historical—and historiographical—trends, historical individuals chose for themselves the course of personal actions and reactions.

In this serendipitous theme, Volume 9 Issue 1 of the *James Blair Historical Review* is now published. The publication of this volume, like its incidental unity, is not typical of the Review—we are pioneering a new online publication style, and we have expanded the Editorial Board to support the onerous work of twice-yearly publication. The emphasis this year has been the robustness of our staff, who are almost entirely new to the Editorial Board. The handful of leadership that remains from past Editorial Boards of the Review includes the Layout Editor, Yutong, and myself; I am glad to welcome Ryan Conner, Managing Editor; Luke Campopiano, Submissions Editor; Sonja Sponholz, Publicity and Business Manager; and Taylor Galanides, Website Manager, to the Board.

It must be said that this Volume is mostly the work of others—authors, Editors, and staff. I appreciate all who submitted articles to the Review, and it is a shame that we can accept only five of the dozens of submissions received. Thank you to the authors of the accepted papers for their intelligence and energy in the long editing process. I am grateful to my fellow Editors for their essential assistance; and the Editors collectively would like to thank our peer reviewers for their incisive insight and our faculty advisor for her quality contributions. I would, lastly, like to thank you, the reader, for engaging with this issue of the Journal. I am sure it will not disappoint.

Sincerely,
Jacob C. Manvell
Editor-in-Chief

About the Authors



Audrey Spensley

is a junior at Princeton University majoring in history with minors in Spanish, American Studies, and Creative Writing. Her main research interest lies in nineteenth- and twentieth-century American legal history. She would like to thank Professor Eleanor Hubbard for her assistance and instruction both on this paper and throughout her course on early modern England, as well as Professor Liane Carlson for her seminar on the many and unexpected connections between religious experience and medical treatment.

Jay Feyerabend



hails from Hanover County, Va. He is a senior history major at the College of William & Mary. His research interests include Colonial Virginia, Maritime History, and the Loyalist Press in the American Revolution. During his junior year, Jay spent a semester studying at Leiden University in the Netherlands. In his spare time he works as a youth tennis instructor and cheers on the New York Yankees.



Chela Aufderheide

is a sophomore and history major at the College of William & Mary. She grew up in California before spending secondary school in San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago. Chela's research interests include the modern and early modern periods in global history, comparative literature, and politics of memory. She plans to spend next semester studying abroad in Kraków, Poland, and hopes to one day teach history at the university level. Her included piece is the result of Freshman Monroe Scholar summer research carried out with the guidance of Dr. Giulia Pacini.

Matthew Gittelman



is a fourth-year history major at the University of Virginia. He has a passion for American culture and history. Outside of academics, Matthew gives tours at James Monroe's Highland, the historic estate of the fifth President of the United States. Matthew wrote his included piece with the guidance of professor George H. Gilliam. In addition to sustaining his love for history, Matthew hopes to pursue his dream of writing novels after graduating from U.Va.



Ruofei "Fay" Qu

hails from Beijing, China. She graduated from the College of William and Mary in May 2018 with a BA in Government. She is currently a JD candidate at Harvard Law School. Her academic interests include American and Chinese legal history. She would like to thank Professor Carol Sheriff for her support and guidance during the writing of this paper.

The James Blair Historical Review

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