

## Spring 2021 Digital History Final Project

Due April 30th

- Choose a digital tool or method to extend the CWRGA project. Can you imagine ways to use the governors' papers that we did not encounter this semester? This option allows you to build an example of the possibilities you see using your Reclaim hosting account. In addition to the digital project, you will provide a 1,000-word essay that explains your methods and how your example extends the scholarly and/or public uses of the papers. You'll need to conduct additional research on your cases to be able to explain more about the people involved and about this time period in Alabama history. You'll also need to submit a bibliography of the primary and secondary sources you consulted.
  - Possibilities:
    - **Build a Scalar site** that focuses on and provides historical context for the cases in your folder. Scalar can pull Omeka items into its software, so it might be an interesting and more aesthetically pleasing way to showcase your cases..
    - **Create a mapping project** that visualizes the geography of the cases represented in the folders. You can use any number of tools for a mapping project: Tableau, ARCGis StoryMaps, and even Omeka. In your essay, please reflect on what kinds of questions we can ask and conclusions we might draw about the cases when we render them visually.
    - **Create a 15-20 minute podcast episode** about your cases. This undertaking would require some creativity as there isn't audio media to go along with this time period (though you could reproduce it!). You might have friends work as actors, reading the documents; interview History faculty; and certainly can pull from the Free Music Archive for sound.
    - **Conduct additional text analysis using the documents.** If you're more inclined toward computational analysis of the sources you can work with a variety of tools to explore the documents as a dataset.
- Write a traditional research paper on the cases in your folder (or in other folders): This is an option for those who want to undertake traditional historical research and writing. Write a 10-pp. paper (with citations and a bibliography) that explores the cases in your folder (or other cases in other folders) and puts them in the context of Alabama in the late 1850s. What can these cases tell us

about crime and justice in the antebellum South? I will likely ask permission to showcase your research on the CWRGA site.

- Design a digital history project based on your original research. Each of you doubtless has a specific research interest in history. For this option, complete a 2,000-word essay that explores the ways that digital tools allow for a re-examination of sources and topics you are familiar with; new modes of analysis; or alternative ways of interpreting your research for a specific audience. The essay should illustrate your command of best practices and principles in historical research and digital history work learned through the course, and should take into consideration issues of usability and accessibility.
  - Requirements:
- Propose your own project. Just as it sounds!