Civil War & Reconstruction
Governors of Mississippi Project

Partners:
Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History
Mississippi Digital Library
University of Southern Mississippi, History Program

Director:
Susannah J. Ural, Ph.D.
USM Prof. of History
Senior Research Fellow, The Dale Center for the Study of War & Society
Learning Intentions

• Connect CWRGM documents with state & national standards

• Show how to find docs easily (with transcriptions)
  - also connect to your local city, town, or county if MS educator

• Introduce Sample Document site
  - docs placed in context
  - lesson plans

• Hands on History – classes can help with transcriptions (optional!)
Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for the Social Studies
US History: Exploration to 1877 (8.8.2, 8.8.4, 8.9.1, 8.9.4, 8.9.6, 8.10.2, 8.10.4)
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE - AND CAREER - READINESS STANDARDS
FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES
US Government (USG.1.1; USG.5.6)
Introductions:

Who’s here & what are you hoping to learn?
Who’s in the CWRGM collection?

- Young & old
- Men & women
- Rich, middling, and poor
- Rural & urban
- African Americans, Native Americans, Asians, immigrants, whites
- This is about everyone writing to the governor; not about the governors themselves
Access to CWRGM

- Freely available online
  - Digitized original docs
  - Transcriptions
  - Annotations
  - Lesson Plans, Special Issues, Podcasts

- nearly 20,000 documents by 2030

- broadly defined Civil War era
  - Start: John J. Pettus administration (1859-1863)
  - End: John Marshall Stone administration (1876-1882)
Charles Thorton was concerned about “northern ‘fanatics,’ and abolishment incendiaries”

Contacts Gov. Pettus one month after John Brown executed for inspiring an enslaved uprising at Harper’s Ferry, (West) Virginia

Charles C. Thorton to Gov. John J. Pettus, December 13, 1859
Impact of Confederacy’s Struggle to Care for Soldiers’ Families

“Half the time we have not bread to eat.... My dear Husband ... sacrificed Everything for his Country.”
— April 16, 1862

“People have never helped me any ... I do not [draw?] at solders markett ... cause they say I came from Yazoo City I had a Little moyney but it is gone now ... you ar all that I can call on for protection I hope you will act a Fathers part towards me....”
— Sept. 6, 1862

Mary A. Jones, Natchez, Miss, to Governor J. J. Pettus
Businessman and freedman Lambert Moore protested the $18.25 tax on the $365 earned “by his individual industry” during the war.

It was already taxed, Moore argued, in regular payments to the man who once owned him.

Featherston, Harris, & Watson
Attorneys for Lambert Moore, Marshall County, Mississippi, to Gov. W. L. Sharkey, September 28, 1865
W. T. Rowland of Tippah County resented loyalty oath demands. He served in the 11th IL Cav 1862 - 1865.

What does it take, he asked Gov. Sharkey, “to constitute a loyal citizen” if not the sacrifices he & fellow Unionist Mississippians made?

A.T. Whitehurst, W.F. Barber, and L.C. Brandon, Pulaski, Tennessee, to W. L. Sharkey, July 15, 1865
"On the night of January 4th/1876, between the hours of 10 and 12 oclock P.M. a party of men shot into the house of Bailess Fairfax a colored man and ran the same Bailess Fairfax away from his presence so that he is a refugee....

The party who done the shooting are a class of people who will create a riot if something is not done."

Mark Joseph, Justice of the Peace & Union veteran, Madison Co., Mississippi, to Hon. Adelbert Ames, January 6, 1876
Finding what you need at CWRGM.org

1. Keyword search

2. Explore 8 categories
   • Events
   • Military Units
   • Occupations
   • Organizations and Businesses
   • People
   • Places
   • Social Identifiers
   • Vital Statistics

3. Lesson plans
Hands on History

- CWRGM.ORG

- FROMTHEPAGE.COM

Union Veterans & wives, a Mississippi chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic

Courtesy: MDAH
Basic Transcription Rules

• Fight the urge to correct spelling!
• Think the spelling is bad? Wait ’til You see the Punctuation,
• Keep keep duplicate words
• Insert an extra space (hit return) at the end of a paragraph or a break in the doc
• Beware of the long “s”
• Enjoy yourself – our research team can fix any typos/errors!
Practice Activity:

1. Pick one event, person, or group that’s covered in standards or that you regularly cover with your students

2. Go to CWRGM.org and find documents tied to that topic

3. Now search just for documents in your county or the town in which your school is located

4. What parts of the 3 sites we explored will be most useful to you?

5. What parts of the 3 sites will be most useful to your students?

6. Any requests for how we can make the site more useful?