



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

## **Copyright Notice:**

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit [www.mnhs.org/copyright](http://www.mnhs.org/copyright).

8

AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY FOUNDATION

DEC 8 1933

Secretary's Office:  
452 Post Office Bldg.

Baltimore, Md., December 7, 1933

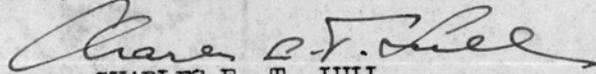
My dear Mr. Buck:

With further reference to your kind expression of interest in the American Military History Foundation, I take pleasure in informing you that since the time of its incorporation in June, it has developed in a very satisfactory manner and I enclose herewith a mimeographed list of its present membership.

Plans are now maturing for the initiation of certain projects by which the Foundation hopes to be of real service to historians and the students of military history. Valuable contacts are being made and it is hoped that actual work can be started early in 1934.

I note that you have not so far indicated your willingness to become a member of the Foundation. By action of the Board of Trustees, all persons joining prior to January 1st will be enrolled as charter members and the Board would be very glad to see your name added to the charter list. With this in view I take the liberty of enclosing a new membership blank which you will notice is to be returned to the undersigned as Secretary here in Baltimore. In this connection may I state that in determining charter membership, the date on which the form is mailed will be considered as the date of enrollment.

Very sincerely,



CHARLES E. T. LULL  
Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army  
Secretary.

Mr. Solon J. Buck,  
The Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY FOUNDATION

List of Active Charter  
Members as of December 6, 1933

Ahern, George P., Col.	Lincoln, Robert A.
Albion, Robert G.	Lull, Charles E. T., Lt. Col.
Allen, Henry T., Major	Lutz, Ralph H.
Barrows, David P., Maj. Gen.	Madsen, Christian
Barrows, Frederick M., Lt. Col.	Maguire, Hamilton E., Major
Beard, Charles A.	Martin, Thomas P., Dr.
Bemis, Samuel Flagg	Mason, Charles H., Lt. Col.
Benson, Clarence C., Major	Mattfeldt, C.O., Capt.
Betts, Thomas J., Capt.	McAfee, Loy, Dr.
Bishop, Ralph C.	McDonald, John N., Major
Doak, A.E.R.	McGillicuddy, T.V., Dr.
Boyd, Allen R.	McGregor, Tracy W.
Boyd, F. L., Capt.	McWhorter, L.V.
Brinninstool, E.A.	Miller, Lewis B., Dr.
Brown, William C., Brig. Gen.	Mitchell, W. A., Col.
Bruce, Raymond L.	Musser, John
Codd, L.A., Major	Nankivell, J.H., Major
Cole, Philip, Lt. Col.	Newhall, Richard A.
Cole, Philip G., Dr.	Newman, Hartley S., W.O.
Collins, Charles H., W.O.	Nickerson, Hoffman
Conger, A.L., Col.	Ostrander, A.B.
Crimmins, Martin L., Col.	O'Sullivan, Curtis D., Lt. Col.
Daugherty, Irene	Packard, Lawrence E.
Deutsch, Harold C.	Paltsits, Victor Hugo
DeWeerd, H.A.	Patterson, Charles H., Lt. Col.
Dustin, Fred	Patterson, Russell E., Major
Edwards, W.M., Lt. Col.	Paxon, Frederic L.
Ellison, R.S.	Reynolds, Charles E.
Fisher, Irving,	Richards, Joseph S., W.O.
Fiske, John F., 1st Lt.	Ricker, C.W., Capt.
FitzGerald, Francis V.	Roberts, Martin Arnold
French, Allen	Sawbridge, B.M., Capt.
Gleason, F.W.F.	Scammell, J.M., Lt. Col.
Gould, Ralph P.	Schmidt, Bernadotte E.
Greenburg, D.W.	Scott, H.L., Major General
Grinnell, George B.	Scott, James Brown, Dr.
Gruber, Ellsworth, 1st Lt.	Siebert, Wilbur H.
Hanna, Alfred J.	Simonds, George S., Major Gen.
Hanson, Joseph M.	Smith, W.H., Col.
Hebard, Grace R., Dr.	Spaulding, Oliver L., Col.
Hughes, Rupert	Stewart, James, Col.
Kelley, Henry O., 1st Lt.	Stith, Roy L.
Kerner, Robert J.	Tatsch, Hugo J.
Kershaw, C.G., Capt.	Taylor, A.A.
Knauff, Francis H., Major	Taylor, John R.M., Col.
Knowles, Ellis	Vestal, Samuel C., Col.
Knox, Dudley W., Capt.	Webb, George W.
Kocher, Theodore M., Lt.	Wilbur, W.H., Major
Krause, Martin W., 1st Lt.	Willoughby, C.A., Major
Langer, William L.	Wright, John W., Col.

AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY FOUNDATION  
Room 452, Post Office Building  
Baltimore, Maryland

The Board of Trustees of the American Military History Foundation cordially invite you to become an active charter member of the Foundation. Should you care to join us, please fill out the form below and return to the secretary.

.....

The Secretary,  
American Military History Foundation,  
Room 452, Post Office Building,  
Baltimore, Md.

Please enroll me as an active (annual  
life member of the  
founder  
American Military History Foundation.

I enclose herewith \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover initiation fee  
and annual dues.

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Note: Under the provisions of the by-laws, the dues of active members shall be: Annual members, one dollar initiation and one dollar per year; life members, an initial payment of twenty-five dollars with no annual dues; founders, a contribution of one hundred dollars or more. Please make checks payable to the American Military History Foundation.

.....

The Board of Trustees will welcome nomination by you of any persons to whom, in your opinion, invitation to membership would be appropriate. Please indicate names and addresses below.

Yours very truly,

*Charles E. T. Lull*  
CHARLES E. T. LULL  
Secretary.

FFH  
Return to  
IN REPLY REFER TO  
4

THE ARMY WAR COLLEGE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 10, 1933

Dr. Solon J. Buck,  
5839 Darlington Road,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dear Sir:

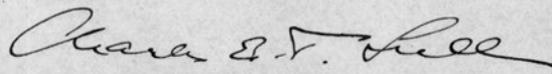
Upon the suggestion of Mr. Conyers Read, of the American Historical Association, I am sending you herewith a copy of an article by Major C. C. Benson on American Military History. This article is being published in whole or in part by ten military magazines as the initial effort of a campaign for the establishment of an American Military History Foundation.

The purposes of the proposed Foundation, as set forth near the end of Major Benson's article, indicate the strictly scientific character of the work that is to be undertaken. It is apparent that the cooperation of trained historians throughout the country will be essential to the successful development of this long-neglected historical field. The success of our efforts will depend, in large measure, upon the extent to which we are able to secure their cooperation. Though favorably situated to reach those in the military service who are particularly interested in serious historical work, we are not so fortunate in our contacts with civilian historians. May I, therefore, request your assistance in bringing this matter to the attention of your associates?

As soon as proper arrangements can be made, probably during the first week in June, an organization meeting will be held at the Army War College in Washington, D. C. You are cordially invited to attend that meeting and to become a charter member of the new organization.

Before this meeting can be held, it will be necessary to perfect the plans that we have tentatively drawn up. The American Historical Association is cooperating with us in the further development of these plans, and all the necessary preliminary work should be completed by the middle of May. If you so desire, I shall be pleased to keep you informed as to our progress.

Very truly yours,



CHARLES E. T. LULL,  
Lieut. Colonel, C.W.S.,  
Chief, Historical Section, A.W.C.

# American Military History

## *A Plan to Meet A Real Need of the National Record*

By C. C. Benson\*

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, speaking about American military history at Boston on December 28, 1912, said: "I know my fellow countrymen, and I know that no matter what general resolutions they come to in advance, no matter what the lack of preparations, they would go to war on the drop of a hat if the national honor or the national interest was seriously jeopardized. The way to prevent the possibility, therefore, is to keep ourselves, our whole military system, the Army and Navy as part of the whole military system, in such a condition that there won't be any temptation on the part of anyone else to go to war with us. You can't do that unless you make our people wake up to the real meaning of our past history."

To "make our people wake up" to the real meaning of our military history is especially difficult. Many of our citizens are satisfied with histories that recount only our ultimate success in every war in which we have engaged. There are others, of pacifistic tendencies, to whom military history is a subject for avoidance rather than study. They may consider the study of military history to be antagonistic to their aims; but it would appear that, under present world conditions, efforts to promote peace must take into account the facts about war. The human factors that make for war have not disappeared; they recur in both hemispheres as strongly today as at any time in the course of recorded history. Many nations are crowding each other in their struggle for existence; some are seething with revolution. Wars are now in progress in various parts of the world, and have been continuously since the close of the Great War which was to have ended war. War is not a latent disease; it is a virulent pestilence. To limit its ravages, and to avoid having our nation subjected thereto, are the heartfelt wishes of every American. Despite the fact that war would bring to our professional soldiers opportunities for increased rank, pay and reputation, those who have experienced the horrors of war sincerely desire peace. Both military and nonmilitary advocates of peace are here on common ground. If both can find secure footing on this common ground, there is hope that peace movements will develop along lines that hold the greatest promise of success.

The surest way to guarantee continued peace for the United States is to develop in the American people a broad knowledge of the facts of our military history, and an appreciation of their true significance. Let them know how close this nation has come to the brink of disaster; in addition to exploiting our triumphs, dwell on the humiliating defeats that we have suffered. Failure to investigate thoroughly our military history, and to apply its teachings, has added to our public debt billions that might otherwise have been devoted to the maintenance of peace. Before, during and after each great national emergency, we have repeated many of the costly errors that could have been avoided had experience been our guide. If our people could but know the truth, it would constrain them to recoil from war until there is, with

honor, no alternative. All the peace societies in the world could do no more. Instead of antagonism between students of American military history and those who advocate peace at any price, there should be close cooperation.

It is essential that we know the strength and weaknesses revealed by our past military experience. This experience should be studied, in its proper relation to economic, social and political factors, as an integral part of our national life. It involves not merely the strategy, logistics, organization, training and tactics of military forces; it involves an analysis of our national growth, and of the attitude of our people towards their federal government, towards their national military system, and towards foreign nations whose interests have conflicted with our own.

The work necessary to the proper study of our military history includes four distinct operations: (a) assembling historical evidence; (b) preserving the evidence; (c) writing history; (d) publishing and distributing historical material. No one agency, official or otherwise, is capable of performing efficiently all of these operations; nor is it desirable that any one of them should undertake the whole task.

TO establish historical facts, it is necessary to assemble evidence, evaluate it, and then, from a study of all available data, to deduce the truth. The evidence required may be in the form of an authentic contemporary written document, map, photograph, an article of uniform or equipment, field fortifications, and so on in endless variety. The important thing is to bring together in one place as much evidence as possible, in order that personnel trained in modern historical methods may evaluate it, index it, and prepare it for the use of students and historians.

It might be supposed that the evidence necessary to cover the comparatively brief period of our national life would be readily available; but that is not so. In the Congressional records, the printed official records of our Civil War, and in many unofficial publications pertaining thereto, we have a wealth of documentary source material for that war. And there are, in various publications and museums, fairly complete and reliable data on the Revolution. The same can not be said about our Hundred Years War with the Indians, the War of 1812, the War with Mexico, the Spanish-American War, or the World War. Until the evidence relating to each of these wars is assembled, evaluated, and made available for research, the facts can not be established, nor can the lessons of our past wars become known.

How necessary it is to assemble the evidence is indicated by the efforts of the 1st Division Association to complete the World War records of that division. Soon after arrangements were made in 1927 for representatives of this association to examine the official files, it became evident that there were great gaps in the records. Important field orders, situation maps, operations reports, and similar documents were missing. They were found, after diligent and systematic search, in other official files; among the current records of

\*Historical Section, General Staff. Major, Cavalry, U. S. Army.

1st Division units; and in the possession of individuals. The search was made by former members of the 1st Division who were well acquainted with its war-time personnel and operations. They wrote thousands of letters and made hundreds of personal visits. Curiously enough, sergeants who had served at battalion and regimental headquarters were able to produce carbon copies of many documents for which no originals could be found. The official 1st Division files originally filled nine filing cabinets; when the job was done, there were nineteen.

The experience of the 2d Division Association parallels that of the 1st. Their initial efforts along this line preceded those of the 1st Division, and blazed the trail. One brigade of the 2d Division was composed of Marines; consequently, it was necessary to search the historical files of the Navy Department and the Marine Corps files at Quantico, Virginia, where this brigade was demobilized. Had the former members of the 2d Division not been determined to complete their records, and willing to support the project with approximately \$5,000, the work could not have been carried on.

THESE examples have been cited to show the unsatisfactory condition of the official historical records of typical World War units. The assembling of World War records is still practicable because so many of the participants are living. They can be reached by mail or personal visit; and, on the whole, are seriously interested in helping to preserve the history and traditions of their units. Even for the World War, however, the situation is rapidly changing for the worse. The papers of deceased veterans fall into unappreciative hands, are mislaid, consumed by fire, eaten by mice, are simply thrown away or otherwise destroyed. It will not be long before the great mass of the documents in the possession of individuals has passed beyond the hope of recovery. That condition now applies to many of the scattered records of our prior wars.

Although official records will usually provide the backbone of our military history, much additional evidence must be assembled. Official documents are generally too restricted in scope to meet the historian's needs; an order, for example, states what certain troops are to do, but the commander's reason for issuing the order must be sought elsewhere. It may be found in his diary, in personal correspondence, or in the private papers of officers who were on duty at his headquarters. For periods in which small groups of observant educated people lived in isolation on the frontier, as Army garrisons commonly did during our Indian Wars, the casual letter of an officer or lady may establish facts of great value to historical research. The private correspondence of George Washington is invaluable as historical evidence on many matters connected with our early military history. Similarly, the letters of Gen. Robert E. Lee to his wife throw much light on certain events of the Civil War. The diary kept by Gen. Charles G. Dawes, and published in 1921 under the title "A Journal of the Great War," contains historical material of primary value that can not be found in official documents.

The assembly of this nonfederal but none-the-less authentic evidence presents a serious problem. This material includes letters sent and received, diaries, account books, drafts of reports and studies on military and nonmilitary subjects, miscellaneous notes and memoranda. Some of it is probably assembled now, in the archives of state and other historical societies in this country, where it could be reproduced or consulted; but no one knows exactly where to look for the re-

mainder. Even when found, the present owners may be reluctant to part with it, or to permit the unrestricted use of documents that reveal the intimacies of family life. These obstacles can often be overcome by returning original documents after true copies have been made; and by safeguarding certain papers through suitable restrictions. Typical restrictions that might properly be imposed are that ownership is not relinquished; that examination will not be permitted during the lifetime of the donor; that the documents may be examined only by serious scholars or upon specific authorization of the donor. Persons who are justly proud of the achievements of their ancestors should regard it as both a duty and a privilege to deposit historical papers where they will be preserved for the future use of historians. The principal difficulty is the lack of a responsible central agency of unimpeachable standing that could undertake to assemble this non-federal material.

Little can be said, without over-extending this discussion, about evaluating evidence and making it available to students and historians. These additional steps must be taken to complete the assembly. When the Historical Section, Army War College, completes its present primary task of assembling, collating and indexing the official historical records of World War organizations, it will know what records are missing and will have ready for use a directory for all the important documents that are now in the files. The experience of the Historical Section in evaluating evidence contained in organizational records, shows that this work should be done by those who have a broad background of military experience and knowledge—in general, by officers who are qualified for duty on the General Staff. Their work on official records should be supplemented, in the nonfederal field, by that of qualified civilians and retired officers who are especially interested in our military history. Anyone who has attempted to dig out facts on a particular subject from a mass of documents, will appreciate the value of having all the pertinent evidence indexed in advance.

The task of assembling this evidence falls naturally into three parts. That connected with the official service records of individuals belongs exclusively to The Adjutant General. That which deals with the official historical records of organizations is, as stated in Army Regulations 345-105, the particular concern of the Historical Section, Army War College. The assembly of all nonfederal evidence relating to important individuals and to organizations, must be entrusted to a non-governmental agency which has yet to be created. To insure progress there must be complete cooperation between responsible and competent agencies. The most urgent historical task that now confronts these agencies is to assemble such evidence as is readily available, and then to search out more, before it is destroyed.

THE necessity for preserving the evidence needs no discussion; this is simply a question of who is to do the work. The Adjutant General is the legal custodian of official War Department records, and should remain so. The Historical Section, Army War College, is made responsible for assembling the official historical records of organizations, because this work can best be done by an agency which makes it a primary function. These records must be set-up separately from those pertaining to routine administration and personnel; but they should be kept under the official custody of the Adjutant General. Thus, they are available for both admin-

istrative and historical purposes until they are ready for transfer to the Federal Archives Building.

Legislation governing the transfer of records to the Archives Building has not yet been enacted; but the building is now under construction in Washington, and we may reasonably anticipate that it will be in operation within two years. Hearings on bills that have been introduced in Congress indicate that deposits will be strictly limited to the official federal records, and that the documents will generally be fifty years old when they become eligible for admission. Once they are in the Archives Building, the official records will be more completely safeguarded than would be possible elsewhere.

Preservation of nonfederal evidence is another matter. Assuming that an assembly of this material is to be made, as it must if we are to know the truth, adequate facilities to preserve it must be provided. It finds no proper place in the files of the Adjutant General; nor will it be admitted to the Archives Building. Some of it might prove acceptable to the Library of Congress where it would be classified, indexed, safeguarded and held under any reasonable conditions that the owner might prescribe. As the funds available to the Library for these purposes must be applied to manuscript collections of outstanding importance, most of the nonfederal evidence pertaining to our military history must be housed and cared for by a nongovernmental agency. Until that agency is properly established, there can be little progress towards this objective.

THROUGH the control that a government has over its archives, it can influence the writing of military history. It may restrict the use of its material so that only facts which support a predetermined viewpoint will come to light. This course has been pursued so consistently by some nations that their "official" histories are now regarded as mere propaganda. No matter what precautions are taken, the truth turns up from some unsuspected source. The action of our government in publishing the records of the Civil War without comment, has been widely recognized as the greatest contribution to the study of military history that any nation has ever made. Our policy has been to make all the important evidence readily available, and to let historians use it as they see fit.

Though many of the more spectacular episodes of our military history have been admirably presented by various historians, no history has as yet been written that adequately covers the whole field. Once the evidence is ready to use, there will be as many different histories written as there are military historians. Many will be written by civilians, and it is highly desirable that this should be so. There are some things that must be said, which would come with poor grace from military men. They can not, with propriety, criticize Congress, the President, the Executive Departments or the American people for their shortcomings. These matters should be left largely to civilian historians.

There are, however, many phases of our military history which must be handled primarily by military men. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 345-105, which require the preparation of organization histories, certain officers have acquired some experience in writing military history. In addition, the Army War College, the Army Industrial College, and the General and Special Service Schools have seriously undertaken the study of military history. These factors operate to educate Army officers in the methods of historical re-

search, and to make them appreciate its high professional value. Thanks largely to a good Army school system, our Army is better prepared to undertake its share of this work than it has ever been before. Some of these historical studies will deal with special and technical subjects; others with broader subjects such as the coördination of land, sea and air forces; the control of manpower, munitions and finance in war; the selection of proper strategic objectives; and methods of coöperating with allies. The responsibilities of those entrusted with these studies will be great, for decisions that control the expenditure of large annual appropriations will result from their work.

The possibility of collaboration by military men and civilians on the most important parts of our military history should not be overlooked. If such collaboration could be arranged, it would provide the most favorable conditions for first class work. Professor R. M. Johnston of Harvard has enumerated four qualifications that he considers essential for the writer of military history, i. e.: technical knowledge of the military art, erudition, critical skill, and literary skill. To find a well-balanced combination of these qualities in an individual, soldier or civilian, is rare; but in a properly organized group, the best qualifications of both elements would be in mutual support. If a group of qualified officers and civilians could be *permanently* organized, with adequate financial resources, it would provide the stability and continuity that are essential to the planning and execution of extensive historical projects. There will be need for just such an organization as long as there is need for an American Army.

THERE are several routes that a military author's manuscript may take to appear in print. The manuscript must first be submitted to the War Department, and authority obtained for its publication. It may be published privately, in which event the author pays the cost of printing and distributing his product. Military men can rarely afford this luxury. Commercial publication affords another route. To find a publisher who will assume the expense of publication and distribution is difficult. Few worth while books on military history have a sufficiently wide appeal to justify their publication commercially. As commercial publishers must make profits if they are to remain in business, they are seldom eager to publish military histories. The third route to publication is through subsidization. Should an officer write, for example, a meritorious *History of American Cavalry*, he might persuade the Cavalry Association to publish it. Neither the author nor the Association could expect to profit financially; but both would have the satisfaction of having contributed something of value to the service. The fourth route is through the Public Printer, who publishes and distributes "official documents" for all branches of the federal government. Military historical studies may reach him through the efforts of Congressmen or through the War Department. The size of each edition is fixed by law or by the sum that the Department can devote to a particular project. War Department funds for printing are so limited, and current demands for technical and administrative publications are so great, that but few crumbs fall from the table to nourish the publication of historical studies.

The War Department can not issue an "official" history without assuming full responsibility for its contents and the manner in which the material is presented. Whenever it does so, it has to weather a storm of abuse because of the

expressed or implied criticisms that a truthful history is sure to contain. Current War Department instructions to the Historical Section, Army War College, on the writing of historical narratives, prescribe: "The narrative of facts will contain no comment, estimate, comparisons or conclusions." The publication of narratives thus written may serve some purposes; but would it not be better for the War Department merely to publish the official records?

It would appear that the publication and distribution of military histories can best be managed by a noncommercial organization that is entirely independent of the government. Such an organization could collect and disburse funds for historical work, and could integrate specific projects into a broadly conceived plan. What might be accomplished is well illustrated by the "Chronicles of America," published by the Yale University Press. With a definite, coordinated plan of this kind, covering our whole military experience, it should be possible to secure the necessary funds from interested individuals and societies to publish and distribute the books on American military history that the American people should have. Lacking such an organization, progress on this work will continue to be haphazard.

THERE are in the United States hundreds of historical societies, including national, state, county and local organizations. Two of them, the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts, and the Naval Historical Foundation, are of special interest to us. The former, organized in 1876 by the distinguished military historian, John Codman Ropes, has rendered invaluable service to students of our military and naval history. Its publications, library and museum contain materials that greatly facilitate research.

The Naval Historical Foundation was incorporated in 1926 under the laws of the District of Columbia, with its objects defined mainly as: "The collection, acquisition, and the preservation of manuscripts, relics, books, pictures, and all other things and information pertaining to the history and traditions of the United States Navy and Merchant Marine, and the diffusion of knowledge respecting such history and traditions." Supported largely by regular contributions from the United States Naval Institute and occasional sums from interested individuals, it has operated on a modest scale and has gradually built up its resources. Among other things, it has sponsored the preparation and publication of an accurate history of the Revenue Cutter Service, in accordance with the terms of a bequest made with that end in view. Its greatest value has been in providing a rallying point for the diversified activities of those who desire to foster the history and traditions of our Navy.

What is being done for our naval, economic, political, social and religious history, can and must be done for American military history. A permanent nongovernmental organization is essential for this purpose. It might be possible to organize a military history branch of an existing national organization, such as the American Historical Association; but it would probably be better to create an independent society which could later affiliate with that Association. Government agencies, such as the Library of Congress, the National Museum, the Smithsonian Institution and the War Department, have done and are doing military historical work; but no one of them is in position to coordinate this work. Some of the things which can best be accomplished by a permanent nongovernmental organization, may be summarized as follows:

1. To make detailed, comprehensive and coordinated plans for work on all phases of our whole military history.
2. To affiliate with organizations that are willing to cooperate.
3. To consolidate data on the location and contents of deposits of source materials pertaining to our military history that now exist in governmental archives, libraries, museums and historical societies, both in this country and abroad; and to facilitate the use of these materials.
4. To assemble, collate, index and preserve all the pertinent nonfederal historical evidence that can be found.
5. To establish a National Military Museum in Washington, D. C., which would serve as headquarters for the organization, provide proper housing for its archives and educational exhibits, and facilitate the research work of students and historians.
6. To arrange for the collaboration of military men and civilians in the writing of a complete series of first-class military histories.
7. To subsidize the publication and distribution of these histories.
8. To develop in the American people a broad knowledge of the facts of our military history, and an appreciation of their true significance.

The establishment and maintenance of such an organization will require ample funds. Some financial assistance may be expected from interested civilians; but the responsibility for initiating and carrying on this work will devolve upon active and retired Army officers. It may be difficult at present to assemble funds for all eventual purposes, but there is no immediate need for large sums. The project can be launched and maintained for the first five years on the income from \$100,000. There will be time enough to seek additional financial resources after the organization has perfected its plans for the future. To provide a definite basis for discussion on this subject, it is proposed that there be established a noncommercial corporation—The American Military History Foundation—whose principal business and objects will be as outlined above.

This proposal has received serious consideration during the past two years from a group of active and retired officers in Washington, D. C. After consulting with a number of distinguished military and civilian historians, they have drawn up tentative articles of incorporation for the proposed Foundation, and have drafted its constitution and by-laws. If the publication of this article evokes sufficient response to warrant the formation of a permanent organization, a meeting for that purpose will be held in the near future. All who desire to cooperate in the further development of this project are invited to communicate with Lieut. Col. Charles E. T. Lull, Chief of the Historical Section, Army War College, Washington, D. C.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brig. Gen. Geo. S. Simonds, Commandant of the Army War College, has issued the following statement in respect of the above article: "In my opinion the proposal with which this article concludes offers a sound and practicable solution of the problem presented which merits the careful consideration and support of officers of the Army and all others interested in a comprehensive and accurate recording of the facts of American Military History." ARMY ORDNANCE adds its commendation to the proposal and hopes that it may speed the day when the long neglected history of American armament, complete in all its details, will be available.

## AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY FOUNDATION

Washington, D. C.

June 15, 1933.

On June 2d, 1933, the American Military History Foundation was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. On June 8th, the incorporators met in compliance with law and adopted the following by-laws:

"1. The name of the organization shall be 'The American Military History Foundation.' Its principal office shall be located in Washington in the District of Columbia.

"2. The objects of the Foundation shall be 'educational, literary, and patriotic, the establishment of the facts and the preservation of the evidence and traditions of American Military History; in particular, to collect, acquire, or locate manuscripts, documents, publications, pictures, relics, and all other things and information pertaining to the military history, colonial and federal, of the United States, to effect the preservation of these objects and information, either in its own possession or by gift or bequest to or deposit with the Archives of the United States, the War Department, historical societies, libraries or other appropriate depositories; and to diffuse knowledge of and to undertake and stimulate research in American Military History and traditions by publication, displays, and otherwise.'

"3. The members of the Foundation shall be the Incorporators and any person elected by the Board of Trustees or by the Association. Members shall be classified as Active Members and Honorary Members. Their privileges shall be as prescribed by the Board of Trustees. There shall be four classes of active members: Charter Members, Annual Members, Life Members, and Founders. The dues of the various classes of active members shall be as follows:

Charter Members ) one dollar per annum and an initiation fee of  
Annual Members ) one dollar.

Life Members ) a single contribution of twenty-five dollars or more.

Founders ) a single contribution of one hundred dollars or more.

"4. There shall be an annual meeting of the members called by the Board of Trustees. Special meetings of members may be called by the Board of Trustees on three weeks' notice and shall be called on the written request of twenty-five members. All meetings shall be held in Washington, D.C., except when the Board of Trustees shall specifically designate another place of meeting. Fifteen members shall form a quorum. Except where voting by proxy is specifically authorized by these by-laws or by the Board of Trustees, questions before a meeting of members shall be decided by the majority votes of members present.

"5. The Board of Trustees shall have the powers provided by the laws of the District of Columbia, and may make rules not inconsistent with said laws and with these by-laws. After the first year of incorporation, the Board shall have the power to increase the number of its members to not exceeding eleven. The incorporators of the Foundation shall elect the first Board of Trustees, to consist of seven members, four to serve for a term of three years, and three to serve for a term of four years. At the expiration of these terms of service, respectively, the term for which their successors respectively and any additional members shall be elected, shall be for three years. Any vacancy on the Board of Trustees may be filled by the Board until the next annual meeting of the members, at which meeting a trustee shall be elected by the members for the unexpired term.

"6. The Board of Trustees may appoint an executive committee from among its members for such term as it may deem proper, not exceeding two years, and (except in cases which it is provided by these by-laws that the vote of the Board of Trustees must be unanimous) may delegate to it such powers as the Board may deem proper and as may be in accord with the laws of the District of Columbia.

"7. The officers of the Foundation shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer, each having the powers and duties usually incident to his office. They shall be elected by the Board of Trustees from among its members and shall hold office for three years or until their successors are elected. The Board may elect other officers and prescribe their duties, and may combine the offices of secretary and treasurer in the same person.

"8. No officer of the Foundation or member of the Board of Trustees shall, while remaining in office, receive any compensation from the Foundation.

"9. The treasurer shall transfer capital fund donations and other capital funds to a trust company, selected by the Board of Trustees, as credits to a "Trust Fund," under a contract approved by said Board. Except by a written approval of three-fourths of the members of said Board, the capital of said Trust Fund shall not be expended.

"10. The Board of Trustees may adopt a form of seal for the Foundation.

"11. These by-laws may be amended by the affirmative vote of a majority of members voting on the question in person or by proxy at a members' meeting."

Under the provision of the by-laws, the following persons were elected as a board of trustees, viz:

Colonel Arthur L. Conger, U.S. Army, Retired,

Dr. Allen R. Boyd, Library of Congress,

Captain Dudley Knox, U.S. Navy, Retired,

Colonel J.R.M. Taylor, U.S. Army, Retired,

Dr. James Brown Scott, Carnegie Endowment,

Lt. Colonel Charles E. T. Lull, Chemical  
Warfare Service,

Major Russell B. Patterson, Cavalry.

The following were elected by the Board of Trustees as officers of the Foundation:

Colonel Conger, President,

Dr. Boyd, Vice President,

Major R.B. Patterson, Secretary,

Lt. Colonel Charles H. Patterson, Treasurer.

The Board of Trustees has now under consideration certain projects to enable the Foundation to initiate and carry on useful activities notwithstanding the limitation of available funds. These projects will depend for their success upon the active collaboration of the members of the association. As soon as the initial projects are perfected, they will be published to the Foundation.

JUN 28 1933

AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY FOUNDATION  
Bldg. E, 6th & B Streets, S.W.  
Washington, D. C.

June 23, 1933

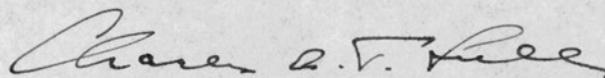
Dear Mr. Buck:

I appreciate very much your kind letter of May 19, 1933, and your approval of the proposed American Military History Foundation. I am sure you will be pleased to know that the Foundation, having been duly incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia, is now an established institution.

Owing to the delays unavoidably incident to any legal procedure, we were unable to go ahead with the organization as soon as we had hoped; and because of the inability of many of those interested to come to Washington at this time, the present uncertainty of everything in Governmental circles and the intense heat of the season, it was thought best to defer any general meeting of the association to a more favorable time. In compliance with legal requirements, however, the incorporators met informally and took action as set forth in the mimeographed statement herewith.

The general response to the idea of establishing such an association and interest in its objectives have been most encouraging and will be an added incentive to success. In the hope that you will join us as an active charter member of the Foundation, I am enclosing a membership blank to be filled out and returned to the Secretary.

Yours very truly,



CHARLES E. T. LULL,  
Lieut. Colonel, C.W.S.

2 encls.

Mr. Solon J. Buck, Jr.,  
The Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

JUN 28 1933

AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY FOUNDATION  
Bldg. E, 6th & B Streets, S.W.,  
Washington, D. C.

The Board of Trustees of the American Military History Foundation cordially invite you to become an active charter member of the Foundation. Should you care to join us, please fill out the form below and return to the secretary.

.....

The Secretary,  
American Military History Foundation,  
Bldg. E, 6th & B Streets, S.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

Please enroll me as an active (annual  
life member of the  
founder  
American Military History Foundation.

I enclose herewith \$ to cover initiation fee  
and annual dues.

(Name) .....

(Address) .....

.....

Note: Under the provisions of the by-laws, the dues of active members shall be: Annual members, one dollar initiation and one dollar per year; life members, an initial payment of twenty-five dollars with no annual dues; founders, a contribution of one hundred dollars or more. Please make checks payable to the Secretary, American Military History Foundation.

.....

The Board of Trustees will welcome nomination by you of any persons to whom, in your opinion, invitation to membership would be appropriate. Please indicate names and addresses below.

Yours very truly,  
*Russell B. Patterson*  
Russell B. Patterson,  
Secretary.