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News - UGA

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News – University of Georgia

The University of Georgia Libraries is part of a new project to digitize more than 80,000 documents relating to the American Civil War in partnership with the Atlanta History Center, the Georgia Historical Society, and the Board of Regents' GALILEO virtual library initiative. Funding for *America's Turning Point: Documenting the Civil War Experience in Georgia* is provided by the National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) for the National Archives.

"Events in Georgia, particularly Sherman's Georgia campaign and the blockade of the coastline, were critical factors in the outcome of the War," said P. Toby Graham, deputy university librarian and head of the Hargrett Library. "This project provides the raw material for building a more complete understanding of Georgia's role in the conflict."

As the nation commemorates the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, the need to provide enhanced access to these materials has never been greater, according to Paul Crater, vice president of research services at the Atlanta History Center and project director. "The records include the diverse experiences and perspectives of military leaders, soldiers, and civilians whose lives were directly impacted by the Civil War," Crater said. "Thousands of first-hand accounts of Union and Confederate soldiers and officers document their hardships and opinions of the war and national politics. Military documents, including orders issued by William T. Sherman, describe the strategy of the Atlanta Campaign. Letters and diaries from Georgia civilians, young and old, male and female, describe in compelling detail the anxiety leading up to the war, the blockade of Georgia's coast, the siege of Atlanta, and General Sherman's subsequent march through Georgia. Financial and military documents reveal details of the buying and selling of slaves by private parties and by governments in the defense of the Confederacy. Letters, questionnaires, and 20th-century photograph collections capture the memories of Civil War veterans and document important Georgia Civil War landmarks a few decades after the conflict."

The digitized documents will be available via the Digital Library of Georgia, a GALILEO initiative based at the University of Georgia Libraries as well as the recently launched Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) Civil War portal (<http://american-south.org>).