

THE GILDER LEHRMAN  
INSTITUTE *of* AMERICAN HISTORY

*Inside the Vault:  
Highlights from the Gilder Lehrman Collection*

May 6, 2021

*The session will start shortly. Please note:*

- Your video and audio will automatically turn off.
- You can participate through the Q&A function.
- If you have technical difficulties, please email [collectionprograms@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:collectionprograms@gilderlehrman.org) so we can assist you.

# *Gilder Lehrman Staff*

## Panelists

- Sandy Trenholm - Collection Director
- Ron Adkisson - 2012 Kentucky History Teacher of the Year
- Samantha Pollino - Ensemble in the Philip Tour of *Hamilton*
- Zoya Siddiqui - Curatorial Intern
- Allison Kraft - Assistant Curator

# Virtual EduHam

THE GILDER LEHRMAN  
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY



- **Wednesday, May 12 at 7 p.m. ET (4:00 p.m. CT)**
- Exclusive Q&A session with a panel of *Hamilton* cast members for individuals registered for EduHam Online
- Opportunity to ask *Hamilton* cast members about their role in the musical
- Moderated by GLI Master Teacher Keisha Rembert
- To register for EduHam Online, please visit [hamilton.gilderlehrman.org](https://hamilton.gilderlehrman.org)

# *During the Session*



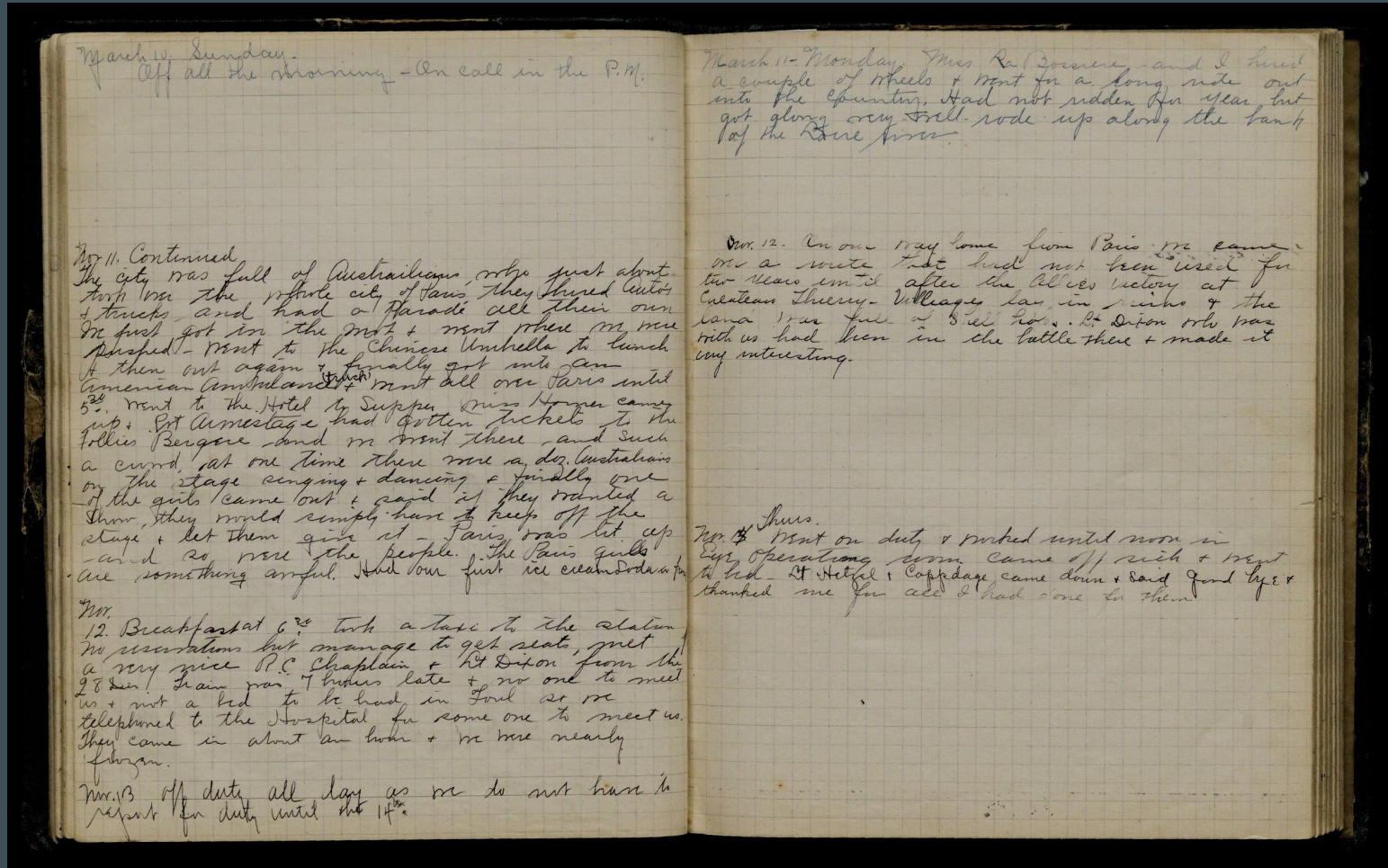
- If you would like to ask a question, you can **use the Q&A feature.**
- We will be answering audience questions throughout the session.

## **For Security and Privacy**

- Your microphone is automatically muted.
- Your camera is automatically turned off.

# Today's Document

- WWI diary of nurse Ella Jane Osborn



March 11 - Sunday.  
Off all the morning - An call in the P.M.

Mar. 11. Continued  
The city was full of Australians who just about  
took over the whole city of Paris they hired taxis  
& trucks and had a parade all their own  
we just got on the mob & went where we  
pleased - Went to the Chinese Umbrella to lunch  
& then out again & finally got into an  
American ambulance & went all over Paris until  
3<sup>30</sup> went to the Hotel by Supper Miss Hooper came  
up & got Armistage had gotten tickets to the  
Follies Bergere and we went there and such  
a crowd! at one time there were a doz. Australians  
on the stage singing & dancing & finally one  
of the girls came out & said if they wanted a  
show they would simply have to keep off the  
stage & let them give it - Paris was lit up  
- and so were the people. The Paris girls  
are something awful. Had our first ice cream today.

Mar. 12. Breakfast at 6<sup>30</sup> Took a taxi to the station  
no reservation but manage to get seat, got  
a very nice P.C. Chaplain & Lt Dixon from the  
28<sup>th</sup> Div. Train was 1/2 hour late & no one to meet  
us & not a bed to be had in Ford so we  
telephoned to the Hospital for some one to meet us.  
They came in about an hour & we were nearly  
lucky.

Mar. 13 off duty all day as we do not have to  
report for duty until the 14<sup>th</sup>.

March 11 - Monday Mrs. Re. Spruere and I hired  
a couple of wheels & went for a long ride out  
into the country. Had not ridden for year but  
got along very well. rode up along the bank  
of the Seine river.

Mar. 12. On our way home from Paris we came  
on a route that had not been used for  
two years until after the Allies victory at  
Creteaux Thierry. Village was in ruins & the  
kana was full of shell holes. Lt Dixon who was  
with us had been in the battle there & made it  
very interesting.

Thurs.  
Mar. 14. Went on duty & worked until noon in  
Exp. Operations room. Came off with & went  
to bed - Lt Hefel & Coffrage came down & said good bye &  
thanked me for all I had done for them.

# World War I

## January-March 1917:

Britain intercepts the Zimmermann Telegram while Germany torpedoes multiple US merchant ships. Both lead to increased US support for joining the war effort.

**1917:** Wilson calls for a draft, the Selective Service Act is passed in May. American destroyers are crucial in shifting the naval war for the Allies.

## September 1918:

The Allies launch the Meuse-Argonne Offensive led by US General Pershing as part of their Hundred Days Offensive.

## June 28, 1919:

The Treaty of Versailles is signed, officially ending the war and forming the League of Nations. In less than a year, 100,000 Americans died in WWI. Collectively, WWI caused over 37,000,000 dead, missing and wounded.

## April 2-6, 1917:

Wilson delivers his war message to Congress on April 2. On the 6th, Congress passes a declaration of war.

## Summer 1918:

The majority of US troops arrive in Europe and organize under General John J. Pershing. They play a crucial role in defending against Germany's Spring Offensive.

## November 11, 1918:

The war ends on what would come to be known as Armistice Day.

# *Women during the War*

- More women joined the workforce than ever before.
- In 1916, President Wilson says the Democratic Party will support women's right to vote.
  - Wilson knew women supported the war more than men.
- More than 20,000 women served as Army nurses, 10,000 of whom were deployed overseas.



US Army Nurses aboard the St. Louis on their way to Europe  
Library of Congress

# *Ella Jane Osborn (1881-1966)*

- Born in East Hampton, New York (Long Island)
- Working at Mount Sinai in New York City when the war broke out
- Volunteered with the American Expeditionary Forces in January 1918
- Assigned to Evacuation Hospital Number 1 in France, seven miles from the Western Front
- Traveled while she was in Europe, going to London, Monaco, etc.
- Returned to New York in March 1919
- Kept a diary from January 1918 to April 1919 documenting her experiences



*Evacuation Hospital Number 1*  
Gilder Lehrman Institute



# *Danger Osborn faced*

“July 15. About 11 P.M. we heard the Anti-Air-Craft guns and the Search light from St Michael Hill flashed across our window. We got up & had a very interesting time the Shrapnel was flying all around us—and a piece went through the roof of one of the canvas tents where the boys were sleeping but no one was hurt. The Bosh come nearer & nearer all the time.”

British anti-aircraft gun on Balkan front during WWI  
Gilder Lehrman Institute



“July 18. Thurs. ... About 11 oclock we were awoken and told to get to the dug out (we never knew there was one before) so up we got, mad because we had to get out, the sirens at Toul started to blow also our own, we went to the dug out but it wasn't very comfortable & we came back & went to bed. The Bosh came right over us but did not drop a bomb near us. later on they came back & the Anti guns fired at them, they dropped several bombs on Toul—The dug out was a long ways off and the girls were a sight going down, some with their hair flying, some in kimonas & some in bed room Slippers & no stockings”

# *Wounded Soldiers and Modern Warfare*

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“May 4 Sat. Saw the trench shooting at a Bosh aeroplane. Lt Antell came to the window & spoke to me & we went for a walk after supper and talked over our day. At Mt. Sinai. Lost such a nice boy today by the name of Fyfe-- he was badly shot up terrible wounds....”

“May 6 Attended the funeral of Fyfe. It was a military funeral with bugle & taps. Some of the boys from his company up the line came down. After wards found a big patch of four leaf clovers.”

“Fri. May 31st ... Nearly 400 of our boys were gased last night and are at 102 field Hosp. some are very bad—some say it was Phosgene gas and others say Mustard.”



*John Singer Sargent's Gassed*  
Imperial War Museum

# *Funerals and services*



Women tending soldiers' graves  
Imperial War Museum

“Mon May 20 ... Major Lufbery of the flying corp was buried today with all military honors, he was considered our best flyer- The Aviators flew over & drop flowers over his grave. The german who shot him was afterwards caught by the French. When the French got wind that Lufbery (whom they were very fond of) had been killed they started out and said they would get the german if they had to go into germany. The Frenchman caught him & ramed right into him with his machine. There were three in the German machine.”

“May 30 Got up at 1 oclock and went over to the cemetery to Memorial services. First memorial services in France for our boys & they were most impressive, Flag was placed on each grave & their were speeches & patriotic songs. Major Coe wrote & recited In Fair Lorraine & The Blue & the Gray. Band concert in the Evening.”

# 2nd Lieutenant Lynn Harriman

“May 27. Mon. I am in the officers ward but like taking care of the boys much better. Admitted Lt Lynn Harriman – he was on duty at the front in France on May 27-1918—Enemy put over a barrage followed by an attack – In the Struggle he was hit by the Enemy's bullet & wounding him in the left shoulder – and passing downward the lung, he lie in the trenches unable to move (paralyzed from waist down) for two hours, while lying there a bunch of germans came along with large clubs & carrying bombs, realizing he could not move he made believe dead and when the Germans had gotten a distance away he opened fire on them dropping one or two & causing the others to flee.”



Soldiers in trenches  
Gilder Lehrman Institute

# *Normalcy during War*

“May 7. Tues. Miss Forsythe, Miss Bean & myself had a half day, we started for a walk & along came a truck driven by two privates and asked us to ride, they took us to Manil-le-tour and brought us back; then we went on with them a couple of miles expecting to walk back but along came a Hand Car driven by a Frenchman but four U.S. boys on, they asked us to ride & brought us home. It was great fun, the boys were the 101st Engineers and we were first the American girls they had seen picked Narcissus. Thunder Storm tonight.”

“May 16 Got up early and went for a walk with Miss Lent Found a Crows nest. (a tree with steps up to the top & used for observation) also saw the base for big guns, the woods are full of such mysterious things, found quantities of Lilly of the Valley which grow wild here.”



Crow's nest, France  
Australian War Memorial

# *Normalcy during War*

“May 3 Weather fine- The sun is really shining which is most unusual here, and the wind is something awful. Ward is heavy & we are working hard. Do not suppose we should kick about the rain for when the sun shines and the air is clear the Germans get in a lot of their dirty work, and their aeroplanes come over.”



Place Stanislas, 2017  
Gerard Griffay

“Sat May 18 Was off until nine oclock so went to the movies”

“June 11 Tues Stayed in bed. Miss Forsythe & Miss Bean got my breakfast for me & then I got up & dressed and Miss Forsythe & I went to Nancy Did a lot of shopping had dinner with Lt. Antell and a friend of his at Stanislaus It cost them 16 dollars for the four of us, bought some strawberries paid 80 cts. Per qt.”

# “In Flanders Fields”

- Written by Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae in May 1915
- First published in December 1915 in London-based magazine *Punch*
- The poem became so popular it was used to recruit soldiers and sell war bonds.
- The reference to poppies in the poem is the origin of remembrance poppies as a symbol of soldiers who died in combat.



British Royal Legion

## “In Flanders Fields”

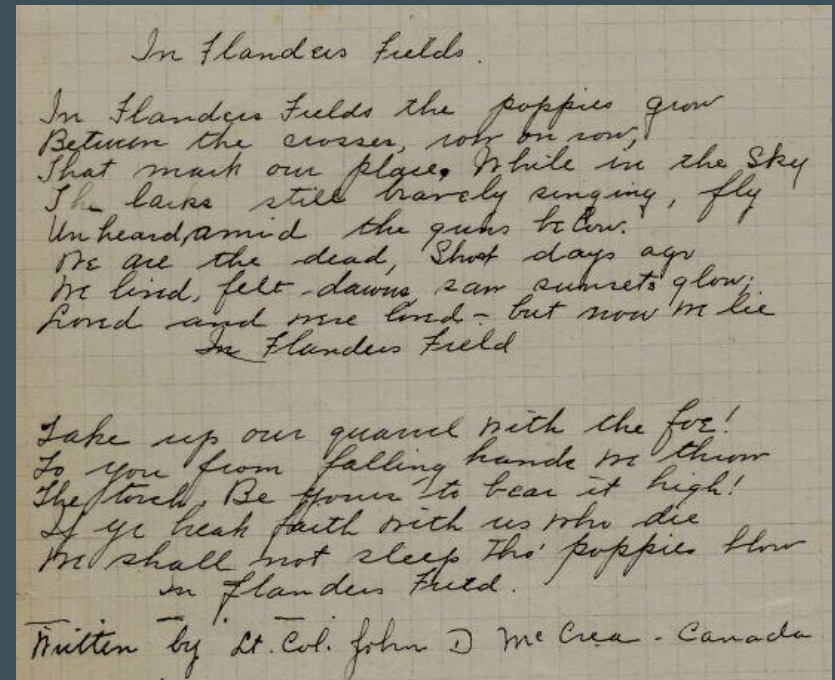
In Flanders Fields the poppies grow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place. While in the Sky  
The larks still bravely singing, fly  
Unheard, amid the guns below.

We are the dead, Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawns, saw sunsets glow:  
Loved and were loved – but now we lie  
In Flanders Field

Take up our quarrel with the foe!  
To you from falling hands we throw  
The torch, Be yours to bear it high!  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep tho' poppies blow  
In Flanders Field

Written by Lt. Col. John D. McCrea – Canada

## *In Flanders Fields*



Gilder Lehrman Institute



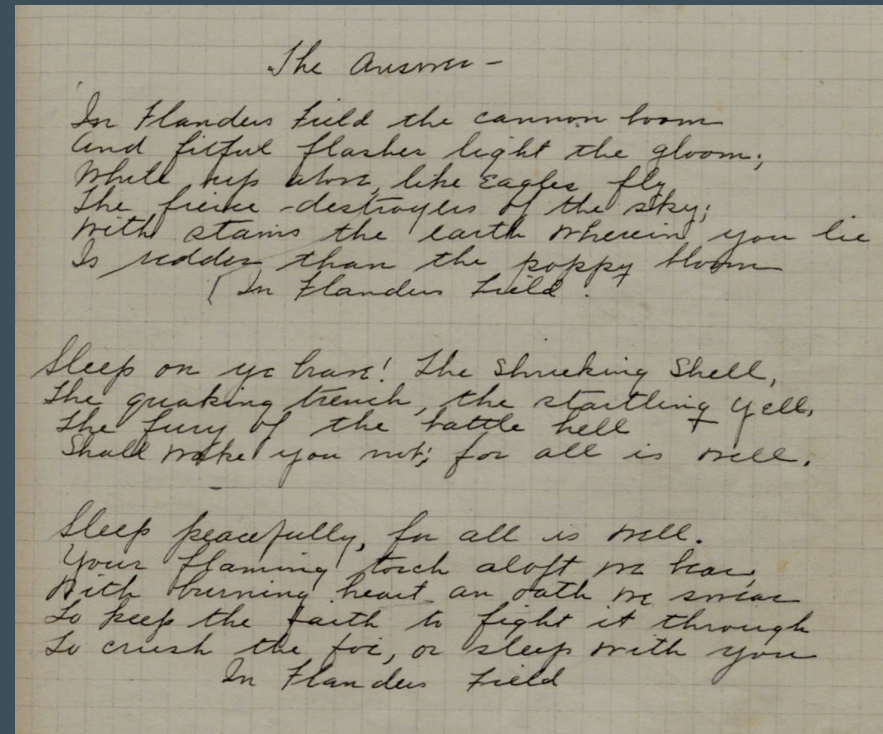
## “The Answer”

In Flanders Field the cannon boom  
And fitful flashes light the gloom;  
While up above, like Eagles, fly  
The fierce destroyers of the sky;  
With stains the earth wherein you lie  
Is redder than the poppy bloom  
In Flanders Field.

Sleep on ye brave! The shrieking shell,  
The quaking trench, the startling yell,  
The fury of the battle hell  
Shall wake you not; for all is well.

Sleep peacefully, for all is well.  
Your flaming torch aloft we bear,  
With burning heart an oath we swear  
To keep the faith to fight it through  
To crush the foe, or sleep with you  
In Flanders Field

## The Answer



# Upcoming Programs

- *Inside the Vault*, Thursday, May 20 at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT)
  - We will be discussing the World War II letters of Lieutenant Robert Stone.
- *Book Breaks*, May 9 at 2 p.m. ET (11 a.m. PT)
  - Martha Saxton discusses her book *The Widow Washington: The Life of Mary Washington*.
- Watch the Lincoln Prize ceremony on C-SPAN 2's program *BookTV*, May 23 at 3:25 p.m. ET (12:35 p.m. PT)
- Sign up for History School classes for elementary to high school students through May 15!
- Help us transcribe Ella Jane Osborn's diary in an ongoing project for our Transcribe! volunteers.

# *Time is almost up to register for Teacher Seminars!*

- Registration closes on **May 14**
- 22 Seminars with leading historians, including:
  - African American History since Emancipation with Peniel Joseph
  - Black Women's History with Kellie Carter Jackson
  - Race & Rights in America with Lucas Morel
- Weekly plenary sessions with renowned historians and National History Teacher of the Year winners
- Open to any member of GLI's Affiliate School network

