

2017

## Glassford & Henderson: Curating 18th Century History from Store Ledgers

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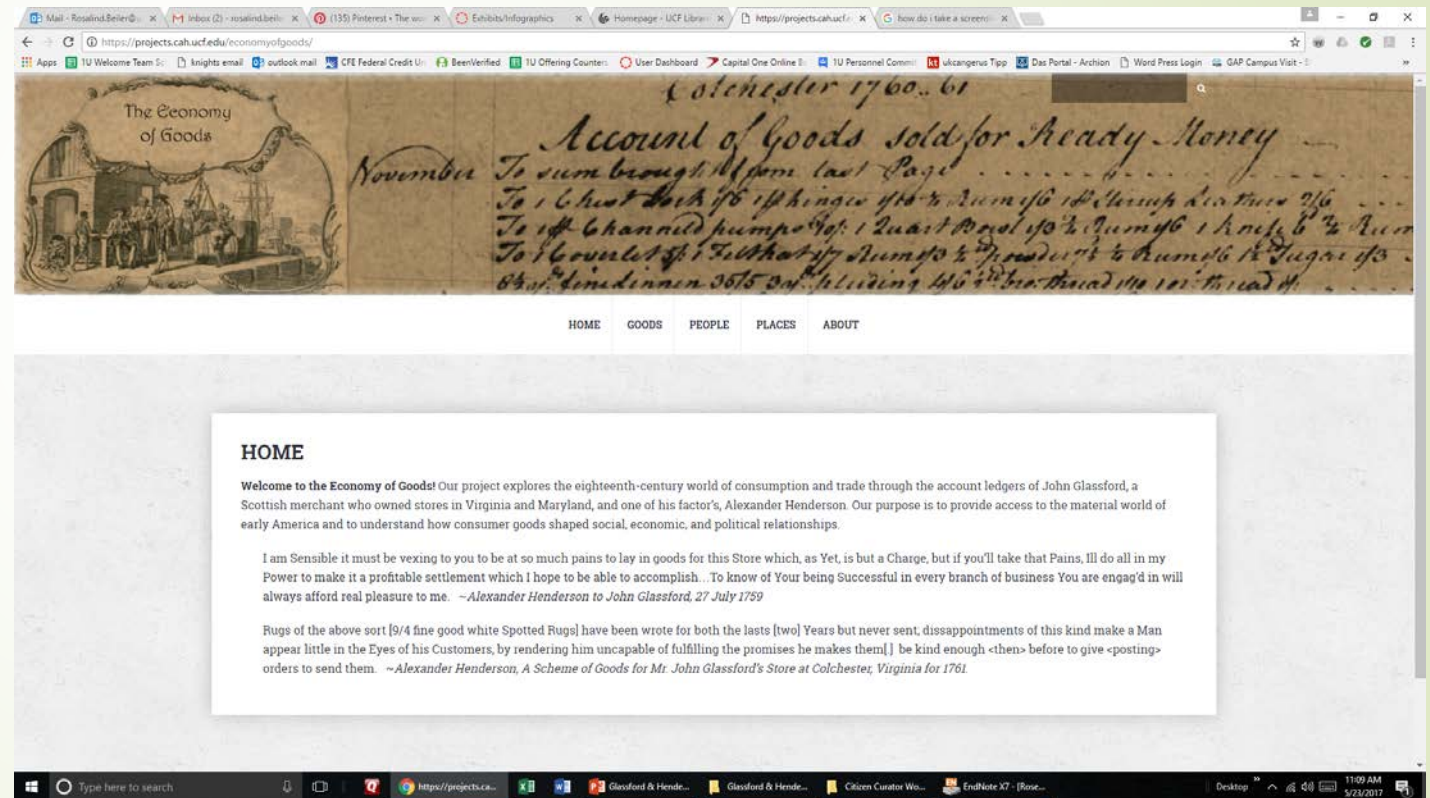



# Glassford & Henderson: Curating 18<sup>th</sup> Century History from Store Ledgers

Rosalind J. Beiler, Department of History

# AMH 4110 – Colonial American History Class Project

- Partnership with History Revealed, Inc.
- John Glassford & Alexander Henderson – proprietors of store in 1750s and 1760s in Colchester, Virginia





# AMH 4110 – Colonial American History Class Project

## ► Learning Objectives:

- Gain first-hand experience as historians of early America interpreting primary sources.
- Learn about how historians read and analyze eighteenth-century sources to understand the material world of people living in the period.
- Learn about the issues historians consider when presenting their research to broad audiences.
- Learn about how to present scholarship in a visual exhibit format.
- Make original contributions to scholarly community as well as the broader public.
- Complete a publication that can be listed on student resumes.

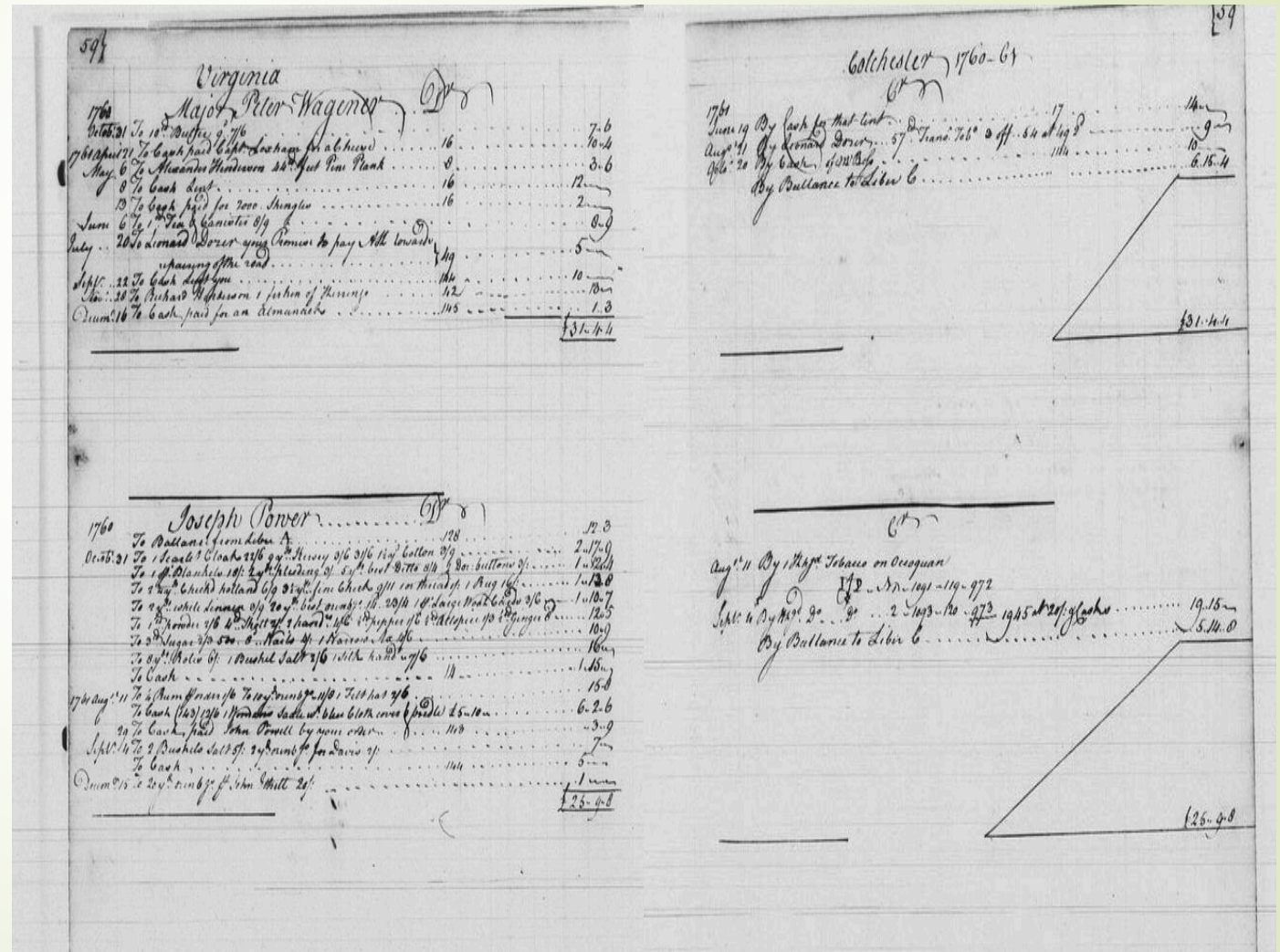


# Parts of the Project

## Transcribe 3 Page Sets

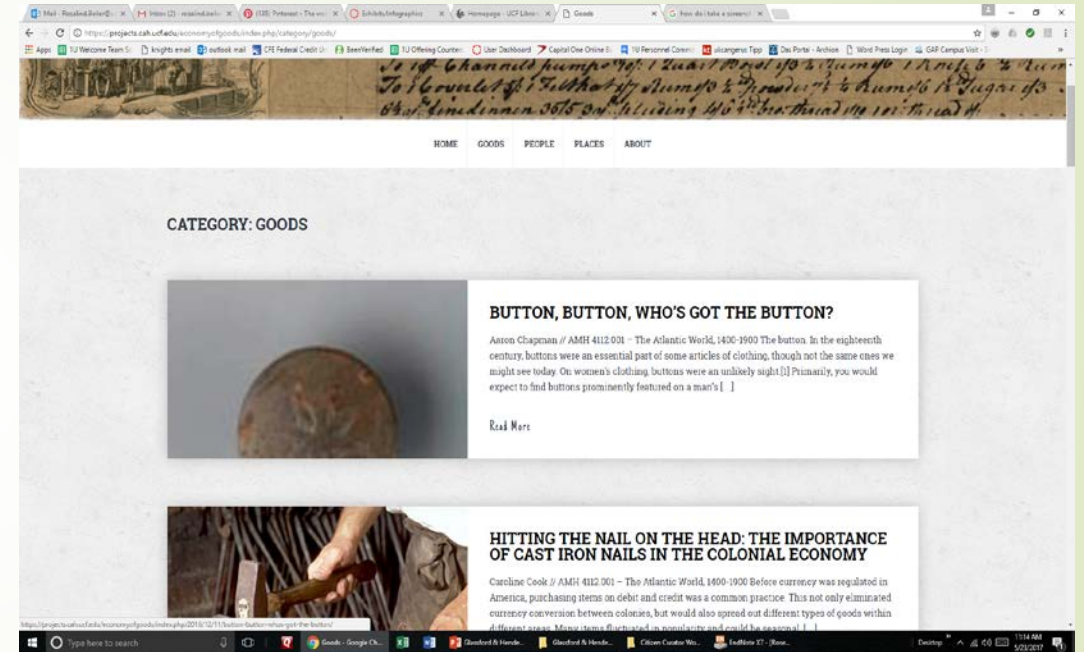
Students learn:

- How trade and the economy worked
- About the consumer world of 18<sup>th</sup> century Virginia
- Practical paleography skills
- Investigative and research skills



# Parts of the Project

- **Research a person, place, object, topic of interest and write a blog post**
- Students learn:
  - To conduct historical research to contextualize 18<sup>th</sup> century texts
  - The challenges of working with first-hand historical evidence
  - To create their own interpretation for public audiences

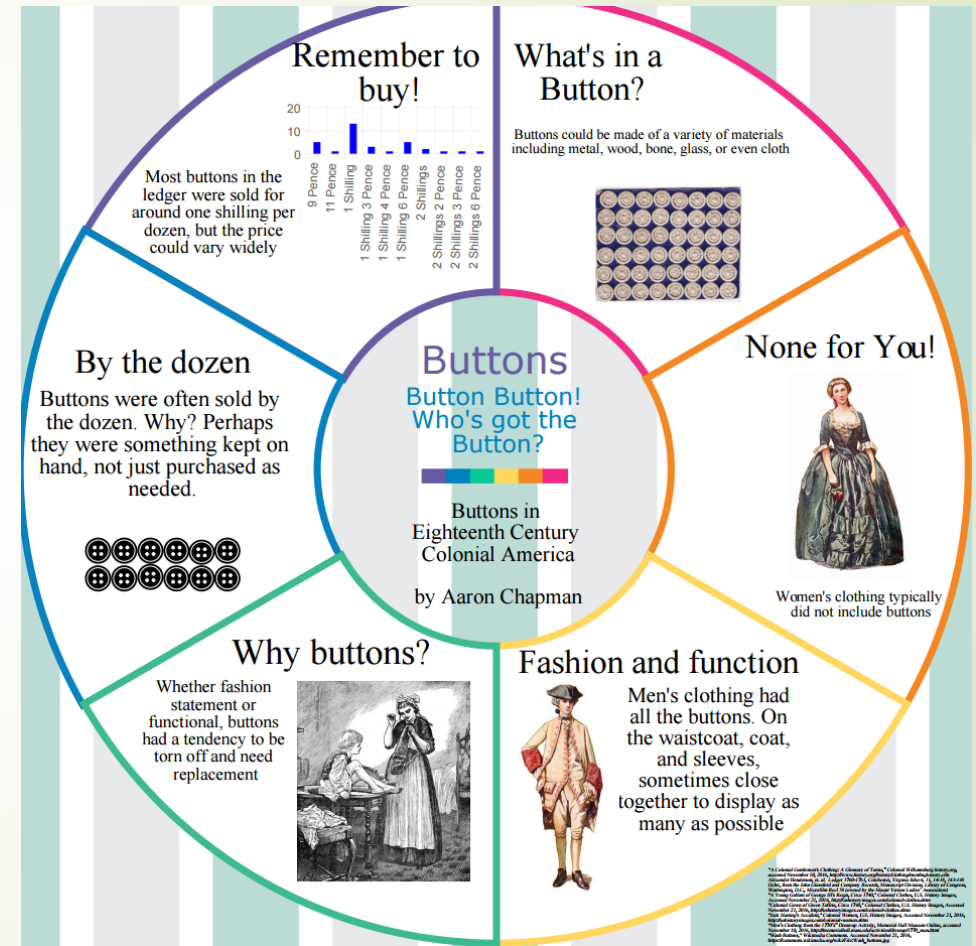


# Parts of the Project

➤ **Create a visual interpretation/exhibit of their research**

➤ Students learn:

- To translate written research into visually appealing exhibits
- To work with infographic/visual design software
- About how local consumer goods fit into the Atlantic world







# Challenges of class project

- ▶ Finding Time - Teaching students how to create visual interpretation of historical research
  - ▶ Class focuses on early American history
  - ▶ Added component – how to conduct research
  - ▶ Now adding another component – how to create visual interpretations
- ▶ Finding images
  - ▶ Appropriate to the eighteenth century
  - ▶ In the public domain





# Take-away from Citizen Curator Workshop

- Copyright issues
  - Library resources for teaching students about them
- STARS as a potential repository for class projects
- Where to look for images in the public domain
- Theories of exhibition to build into project
- Ideas for student workshops