

## Contributors' Biographies

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### **Melissa Franklin**

Franklin is originally from Iron City, Georgia, and graduated from Troy University in December 2015 with a Master's of Arts degree in History. She is a member of Phi Alpha Theta and Phi Kappa Phi. Currently she is employed as a history professor by Bainbridge State College in Bainbridge, Georgia. Her plans are to continue conducting her own research, with particular interest in the Civil War and the Salem Witch Trials.

### **Petra Hokanson**

Hokanson is a senior at Troy University in American and Latin American History with a minor in Social Sciences. She graduated summa cum laude from Enterprise State Community College, where she earned her Associate's Degree in History. Petra is the spouse of an active duty service member and a mother of two and currently accompanies her husband on a tour in Germany. She is a remote member of Troy's History Club, Russian Club, and the Mortar Board Honor Society. Upon her graduation in May 2016, Petra plans to earn a Master's Degree and pursue her goal of becoming a teacher.

### **Megan Phillips**

Phillips attended Ohatchee High School where she graduated as salutatorian. She is currently a senior at Troy University where she majors in American and Latin American history and English. She has presented at the First Annual Troy University Research Conference in 2015 as well as the Alabama Association for Collegiate English Teachers annual conference in Fairhope, Alabama in 2015. She is president of the Troy University History Club and an active member of Phi Alpha Theta. After graduation, she will be attending Samford University's Cumberland School of Law as a Merit Scholar.

### **Casey Ralston**

Ralston is originally from Oak Harbor, Washington, although as the son of military parents, he moved a good deal. Eventually, he settled in New Orleans, Louisiana, which he now considers home. Ralston has his bachelor's degree from the University of New Orleans and an Executive Masters in Business Administration from Colorado Technical University. He is working on his International Relations Master's degree at Troy University, focusing on Eurasia and Russian studies and plans to graduate in 2016. Currently on active duty in the Air Force, he plans to pursue more learning opportunities and focus on either a Doctorate in International Relations or Masters in Cybersecurity.

**Eleanor Self**

Self is a senior at Troy University graduating in May 2016. She is from Birmingham Alabama, where she graduated from Hoover High School. Eleanor is majoring in European History with a dual minor in psychology and dance. She is also president of Phi Alpha Theta, co-editor of The Alexandrian, and a member of the History Club. She is a member of several honor societies including Mortar Board, Alpha Lambda Delta, Phi Kappa Phi, and Omicron Delta Kappa. After graduation, Eleanor plans to teach English as a foreign language in either Europe or Asia, and then apply to work with the United States Foreign Service.

**Kenneth Tallant**

Tallant is a senior anthropology major, German Studies minor at Troy University. He is from Grady, Alabama, and graduated from Montgomery County Academy. He is currently the Vice President of the Pi Gamma Mu honor society, Troy chapter, and was previously the President of Troy University Students for Social Justice. After graduating from Troy this May, Kenneth intends to pursue a Ph.D. in Digital Anthropology at the University of California, Irvine.