SMH Candidate Worksheet

Name: Lesley J. Gordon

Present position and affiliation: Charles G. Summersell Chair of Southern History, University of Alabama

Education:
Ph.D., American History, The University of Georgia, 1995
M.A., American History, The University of Georgia, 1991
B.A., History, High Honors, The College of William and Mary, 1987

Area(s) of historical specialization:
United States Civil War and Reconstruction Era
U.S. Military History
Antebellum South and Slavery

Relevant special appointments:
Charles Boal Ewing Chair in Military History, The United States Military Academy, West Point, New York (2024-2025)

SMH conference attendance, participation, and committee service:
I've been a frequent attendee to the SMH annual conference over the past thirty years. I've also presented papers, chaired panels, provided commentator and/or participated in workshops for the following conference years: 2026; 2025; 2022; 2018; 2014; 2007; 2003; and 1999.

My SMH committee service includes serving as Juror, for the Distinguished Book Awards Committee, 2021-2023; and then Chair of that committee, 2023-2024. I also served as a member of the George C. Marshall Lecture Committee, 2017-19.

Significant publications:
Dread Danger: Cowardice and Combat in the American Civil War. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2025. Finalist, Gilder-Lehrman Lincoln Prize, February 2025.

Race and Gender at War: Writing American Military History. Co-editor with Andrew J. Huebner. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2025.

A Broken Regiment: The 16th Connecticut's Civil War. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 2014. Paperback edition, 2018.

This Terrible War: The Civil War and its Aftermath. Co-author with Daniel E. Sutherland and Michael Fellman. New York: Addison Wesley Longman. 2003; 2nd edition, 2008. 3rd edition, New York: Pearson, 2015.

General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998. History Book Club Selection. Paperback edition, 2001.

"Recruiting Modern Armies: Volunteers, Militias and Conscription in the American Civil War, 1861-1865." In the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Military History*, ed. By Alexander Watson. New York: Oxford University Press, 2026. https://doi.org/10.1093/9780197852705.003.0115

"What is War and Society? A Roundtable Discussion." Coauthor in the *Cambridge History of War and Society,* ed. by Jennifer Keene and Andrew Huebner. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2026, 1-28.

"Civil War Regiments." In the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*, ed. by Jon Butler. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2021. https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.013.925

"'Novices in Warfare': Elmer E. Ellsworth and Militia Reform on the Eve of Civil War." *Journal of Civil War Era.* Vol. 11, No. 2 (June 2021): 194-223.

"Armies and Discipline." In *The Cambridge History of the American Civil War*, 3 Vols., ed. by Aaron Sheehan-Dean. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2019, Vol. II: 159-173.

Personal statement:
I am honored to be nominated to serve as a Trustee for the Society for Military History. As an active member of the SMH, I have benefited immensely from its scholarship, graduate student mentorship, and networking opportunities. I'd bring to this position wide-ranging leadership experience as former editor of *Civil War History*, president of the Society of Civil War Historians, chair of the University of Alabama Press Editorial Board, and through extensive committee work with the Southern Historical Association. As someone strongly committed to professional service, I would welcome the opportunity to dedicate my time and expertise to ensuring the continued growth and success of the SMH.