SMH Candidate Worksheet

Name:

Ricardo A. Herrera

Present position and affiliation:

Senior Historian, George Washington Leadership Institute, George Washington Presidential Library, Mount Vernon, VA

Education:

Ph.D., U.S. History, Marquette University (1998); M.A., U.S. History, Marquette University (1994); B.A., History, University of California, Los Angeles (1984)

Area(s) of historical specialization:

American War for Independence; Mexican War; War and Society

Relevant special appointments:

War Council (Academic Advisory Council), Fort Ticonderoga Advisory Board, 2025-Present

Non-Resident Asness Fellow, The Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy, National World War II Museum, New Orleans, September 2025-August 2026

Historical Consultant, *Finding Your Roots*, 2024, 2025

Faculty Affiliate, Civil-Military Relations Center, U.S. Army War College, 2022-2025

Board of Advisors, New York City Revolutionary Trail, Gotham Center for New York City History, City University of New York, 2022

Representative, School of Advanced Military Studies to Department of the Army Historical Advisory Sub-Committee, 2016-2019

Representative, School of Advanced Military Studies to "Tan Books" Symposium (History of the U.S. Army in the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq), U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2018

Director of Honors, Mount Union College, 2005-2006

SMH conference attendance, participation, and committee service:

I have participated in twenty-three or more SMH conferences as a presenter, commenter, or chair since 1998

Book Award Committee, 2025-2028

Chair, Nomination Committee, 2023-2025

Nomination Committee, 2010, 2020-2022

Excellence in Teaching Military History Committee, 2016-2020

Conference Program Committee, Ottawa, Canada, 2016

Trustee, 2013-2017

Inaugural Team Lead, Facebook/Twitter Management Team, 2012-2015

Conference Program Committee, Virginia Military Institute, 2010

Finance Committee, 1999-2002

Significant publications:

A Most Uncommon Soldier: The Life, Letters, and Journal of Edward Ashley Bowen Phelps, 1814-1893 (proposed title). Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, forthcoming

New York Campaign, 1776. Washington, DC: Center of Military History, 2025

Feeding Washington's Army: Surviving the Valley Forge Winter of 1778. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2022. Finalist, Inaugural American Battlefield Trust Book Prize for History

For Liberty and the Republic: The American Citizen as Soldier, 1775-1861. New York: New York University Press, 2015

"History, Mission Command, and the *Auftragstaktik* Infatuation." *Military Review* 102, no. 3 (July-August 2022): 53-66.

"'[O]ur Army will hut this Winter at Valley forge': George Washington, Decision Making, and the Councils of War." *Army History*, no. 117 (Fall 2020): 6-26. Awarded Distinguished Writing Award, Army History Foundation

"'[T]he zealous activity of Capt. Lee': Light-Horse Harry Lee and *Petite Guerre*." *The Journal of Military History* 79, no. 1 (January 2015): 9-36. Awarded Moncado Prize, Society for Military History

"Foraging and Combat Operations at Valley Forge, February-March 1778." *Army History*, no. 79 (Spring 2011): 6-29. Awarded Distinguished Writing Award, Army History Foundation

"Self-Governance and the American Citizen as Soldier, 1775-1861." *The Journal of Military History* 65, no. 1 (January 2001): 45-76

"Taking the Classroom to the Battlefield: The Staff Ride." *Military, War, and Society in the Modern United States: Teaching Military History*. Edited by Beth Bailey and Andrew Preston, 151-165. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2026

"Imperial Collisions: War Times and Societies in Colonial America." *Cambridge History of War and Society in America*. Edited by Andrew J. Huebner and Jennifer D. Keene. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2026

"Scouting the Field: Reconnoitering the Military History of the Declaration of Independence." *America's First War: The Military History of the Declaration of Independence.* Edited by Christopher P. Magra, 9-26. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2026

"The Citizen-Soldier is Dead. Long Live the Citizen-Soldier." *The Revolution at 250: Twenty-Four Historians Reflect on the Founding*. Edited by Francis D. Cogliano, 194-205. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2026

"The Citizen Soldier." *The Oxford Handbook of American Military History*. Edited by Samuel J. Watson, 205-219. New York: Oxford University Press, 2025

"The King's Friends: Loyalists and British Strategy in the War for Independence." *Strategy in the American War of Independence: A Global Approach*. Edited by Donald J. Stoker and Kenneth J. Hagan, 100-119. London: Routledge, Cass, 2009

"Brave Rifles at Tall 'Afar, September 2005." *In Contact!: Case Studies from the Long War,* vol. 1. Edited by William Glenn Robertson, 125-152. Ft. Leavenworth: Combat Studies Institute Press, 2006

Personal statement:

The Society for Military History has been my home for nearly thirty years. The annual meeting is the highlight of my professional life and a joy in my personal life—for me and for many of us, our meetings are reunions of old friends and opportunities for making new ones as we exchange new ideas about our field. Moreover, the SMH has given me the great opportunity to be of elective and appointive service. I have worked as trustee, which enabled me to participate in matters of governance for four years. Appointive positions have included three different terms on the Nominations Committee, two conference program committees, plus Finance, Excellence in Teaching, and Book Awards.

Over the span of my membership, the SMH has grown in size, intellectual inclusivity, diversity, and opportunity. It has changed to reflect and incorporate the vast and evolving breadth of military history and needs of its members. The SMH has also responded to its members' professional requirements and some of the challenges facing military historians. Too many to list, they include the Summer Seminar in Military History and efforts in maintaining and archiving links to formerly open access websites like DTIC and unclassified documents. These worthy efforts should be continued. As with all healthy institutions, however, there are more opportunities and challenges.

Of the many opportunities and challenges that face the SMH, three stand out for me: first, finances. As with war, money is the sinews of so much. A sustained capital

campaign dedicated to seeking out donors and helping invigorate the SMH's financial health is vital to our mission. With greater resources, the council can address meeting registration, membership dues, and more. This is a long-term matter that has the potential to benefit our rising and future generations of members. Second, communications. Spreading the word about what we do as military historians is vital to the health of military history and the SMH. Compiling and advertising a roster of speakers available to address educational, civic, and other institutions may help further individual members' careers as it helps further military history in general and the SMH in particular. Speakers are important actors in recruiting new or lapsed members and getting the word out about our field and our SMH. Finally, and most importantly, maintaining our culture of collegiality. The SMH is among the most welcoming of learned societies. Its membership is unique. It cuts across traditional academia, professional military education, official history, public history, and the public who share an interest in the very best in scholarly military history. I believe that addressing these three lines of effort will benefit all members of the SMH, present and future. I would look forward to continuing my service to the SMH and contributing to its ongoing vitality, engagement, and members' needs.