Kelly Fleckenstein
Graduation Year: Junior
College: Business
Major(s): Finance, History
Minors(s): N/A
Scholar Group Membership: No

Did you received other funding for this project?: No
Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding? No
More details on CUSE funding assistance?

Project Title: Confederate Financial Policies: Prolonging the War Despite Overwhelming Odds
Project Location: National Archives at Washington, DC and University Park, MD
ND Faculty Mentor: Professor Ocobock
Project Type: Research

Why did you undertake this project/experience? Research/experience necessary for senior thesis or capstone project

Did your funded experience help you:
[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]: Very Much
[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]: Very Much
[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]: Very Much
[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]: Very Much
[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:Very Much

Tell us about your experience.
I researched the Confederate Treasury department from personal letters to balance sheets of various accounts. The data I found directly related to previous works that I have read in regards to the financial state of the Confederacy. I learned about the Erlanger Loan the Confederates had from England and about the cotton-backed securities.

Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.
This was an individual research endeavor for my senior thesis. As a student, I learned how to properly research and found a new respect for document collection and archives.

Describe how this experience is connected to your plans as a student or future professional.
This research directly relates to my senior thesis on the finances of the Confederacy. The documents I found were invaluable resources that will provide numerical evidence of my argument.

What advice would you give other students who are planning to pursue similar projects?

I would advise students to prepare ahead of time in order to get the most out of their research. The pull times were restrictive deadlines for me, and if I understood the system better, I could have been more efficient in my research.

I acknowledge that this form has been filled out truthfully and to the best of my ability. I understand that this information will be shared with many different CUSE constituencies. As such, I have provided as much useful information as I was able. I understand that CUSE will not complete my award disbursement until this form is successfully completed. If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact CUSE before submitting this form. To illustrate that you understand all of these points, please enter your Notre Dame email in the box below.
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