

DeGolyer Library Internship

Overall description: DeGolyer Library seeks an intern to assist with preparation for an exhibition in fall, 2020, on American statesman and Republican politician James G. Blaine and the Presidential election of 1884. In addition to research, the intern will also assist DeGolyer staff with selection of objects for display (books, pamphlets, broadsides, posters, ephemera, photographs, manuscripts, and other realia), describe those objects in a standard form concisely and accurately, and prepare a checklist for the exhibition.

Duties will include the following:

- Create an overview of the exhibition's various themes and sub-themes
- Research content areas assigned
- Determine content priorities and final content selection
- Complete drafts of didactic and object labels
- Identify and do research on artifacts needed
- Assist with digitization and preparation of online exhibit

Qualifications:

- Major or minor in History, English, or Political Science desired but not required; interest in the history of the American presidency
- Excellent research and writing skills
- Strong attention to detail
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Ability to work well alone and in a group

Benefits:

- Time travel back to the Gilded Age of American history through primary sources
- Unpaid, but useful experience to add to one's resume, especially for someone interested in graduate school or a career in libraries, archives, or museums
- Possible course credit as history internships (for history majors) or an independent study project
- Estimated 8-10 hours per week

Start date:

Spring semester, 2020; possible extension to summer, 2020, depending on circumstances

About James G. Blaine:

James G. Blaine (1830-1893) was an American statesman and Republican politician who represented Maine in the House of Representatives (1863-1876; Speaker from 1869-1875) and the Senate (1876-1881). He acquired the nickname the "Plumed Knight." He also twice served as Secretary of State (1881, 1889-1892). This exhibit will focus on the 1884 presidential election. Blaine was the Republican presidential nominee and Grover Cleveland the Democratic nominee. This campaign was one of the most memorable in American history. It has also been referred to as "America's 'vilest' presidential, with identifiers such as "Rum, Romanism, and Rebellion," the tattooed man, and the "bastard boy," just to mention a few. Cleveland barely won the election and was the first Democrat elected to the Presidency since the Civil War.