

## Video Transcript

Jon Deiss: I guess what makes a discovery like this so significant is that, you can draw a direct analogy to the way that so-called citizen scientists now are discovering new celestial objects utilizing the Internet and utilizing telescopes at a distance, reserving time on them, taking sequences of digital pictures. That's how they're discovering new planets and new stars. And they're just typical interested citizens. Sort of like me, who's been to the archives a great many years but I've still, you know, I'm not an archives employee; I'm just a citizen doing this for client research. And you can still find stuff like this. I mean, I'm a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, I'm a former employee of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, so I'm well-versed in Revolutionary research. So finding something like this is a huge, huge discovery. Diaries just don't exist from this period. There are some but they're so few and far between, and most of them belong to very famous people and they've been read a million times and over-analyzed. So this is something really new; it's fresh. It's been sitting here since it's been in the archives since 1838. Well not in the archives, but it's been sitting in the records since 1838; it's been in the archives here since the 1930s probably. And it hasn't been recognized for what it is. It's been processed, but not recognized for what it is. So if a common person like me with the right knowledge can identify the right kind of objects, it just highlights that there's still treasures to be found in the archives, there's still lots of great stuff here, and that the final word has not yet been written on history, especially the Revolution. So that's exactly what's exciting to me about this type of discovery.