



10-16-2018

Running Wires: Digital History in the Classroom and the Field

Ian A. Isherwood
Gettysburg College

Amy E. Lucadamo
Gettysburg College

R.C. Miessler
Gettysburg College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/librarypubs>



Part of the [Digital Humanities Commons](#), [European History Commons](#), and the [Military History Commons](#)

Share feedback about the accessibility of this item.

Recommended Citation

Isherwood, Ian, Amy Lucadamo, and R.C. Miessler. "Running Wires: Digital History in the Classroom and the Field." Presented at the Bucknell University Digital Scholarship Conference, Lewisburg, PA, October 6, 2018.

This open access conference material is brought to you by The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of The Cupola. For more information, please contact cupola@gettysburg.edu.

Running Wires: Digital History in the Classroom and the Field

Abstract

The First World War Letters of H.J.C. Peirs is a digital history project that publishes the letters of a British World War I officer 100 years to the day they were written. By telling the story of one person, we have aimed to humanize a dehumanizing war and supported the effort to commemorate the centennial of the conflict. While the project was conceived with pedagogy in mind, it has grown beyond the letters and crossed boundaries: from the analog to the digital, from the classroom to the public, and from the archives to the field.

Keywords

digital humanities, digital history, world war i, archives, memory

Disciplines

Digital Humanities | European History | Military History

Comments

This presentation was given at the Bucknell University Digital Scholarship Conference in Lewisburg, PA on October 6, 2018.

Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).

RUNNING WIRES

Digital History in the Classroom and the Field

Ian Isherwood, Amy Lucadamo, R.C. Miessler
Gettysburg College

Bucknell University Digital Scholarship Conference
October 6, 2018

#TeamPeirs

Ian Isherwood '00

Assistant Professor

Amy Lucadamo '00

College Archivist

R.C. Miessler

Systems Librarian

Jenna Fleming '16

(2014–2016)

Kevin Lavery '16

(2014–2016)

Melanie Fernandes '17

(2016–2017)

Meghan O'Donnell '18

(2016–2018)

Jesse Campana '18

(2018)

Abigail Winston '19

(2018–Present)



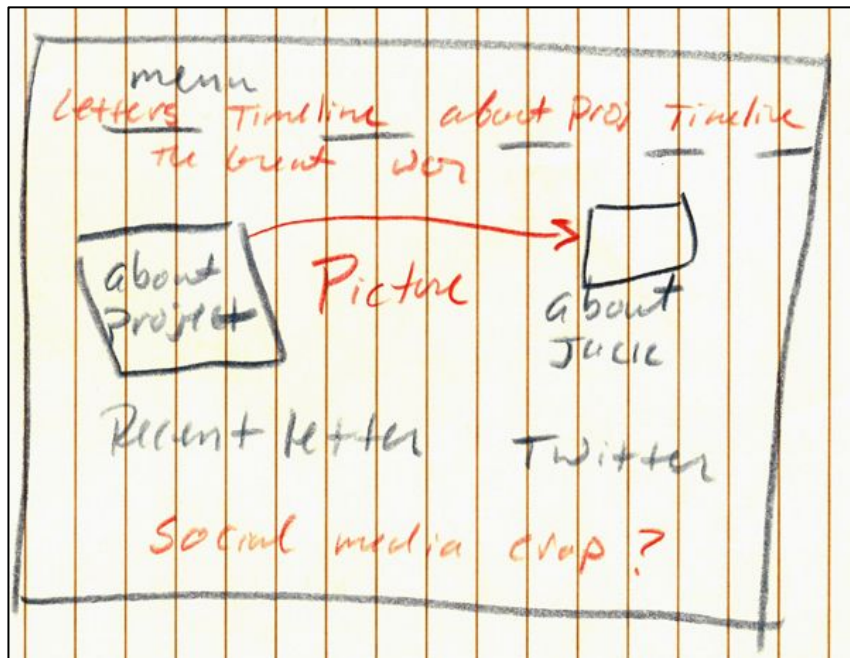
#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs

Hugh John Chevallier “Jack” Peirs (1886–1943)



#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs

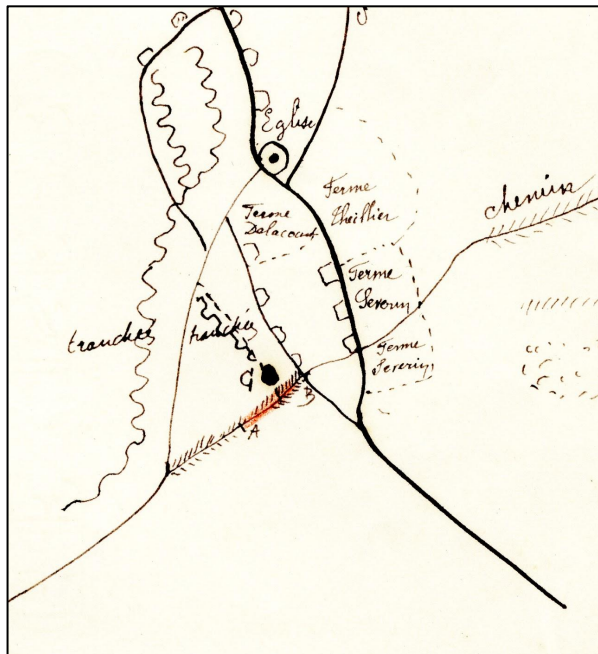
From the Analog to the Digital



The screenshot shows the homepage of the website "The First World War Letters of H.J.C. Peirs: a digital history". The header features the title in a large, serif font, with "a digital history" in a smaller, sans-serif font to the right. Below the title is a navigation bar with links: ABOUT, LETTERS, TIMELINE, CHATTING, FAMILY, MAPS, SOURCES, and SUBSCRIBE. The main content area starts with an "About" section, followed by a paragraph of text about Jack Peirs, a British officer in the 8th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. Below this is a photograph of Jack Peirs in uniform. The text continues, describing his service and correspondence. At the bottom, there is a call to action: "Please feel free to engage with the site. Use these letters in your research (properly attributed) and in your classroom. Bookmark our page, share our posts on social media, and follow H.J.C. Peirs on twitter and Instagram (@jackpeirs) and like our Facebook page." A small Twitter icon is visible in the bottom left corner.

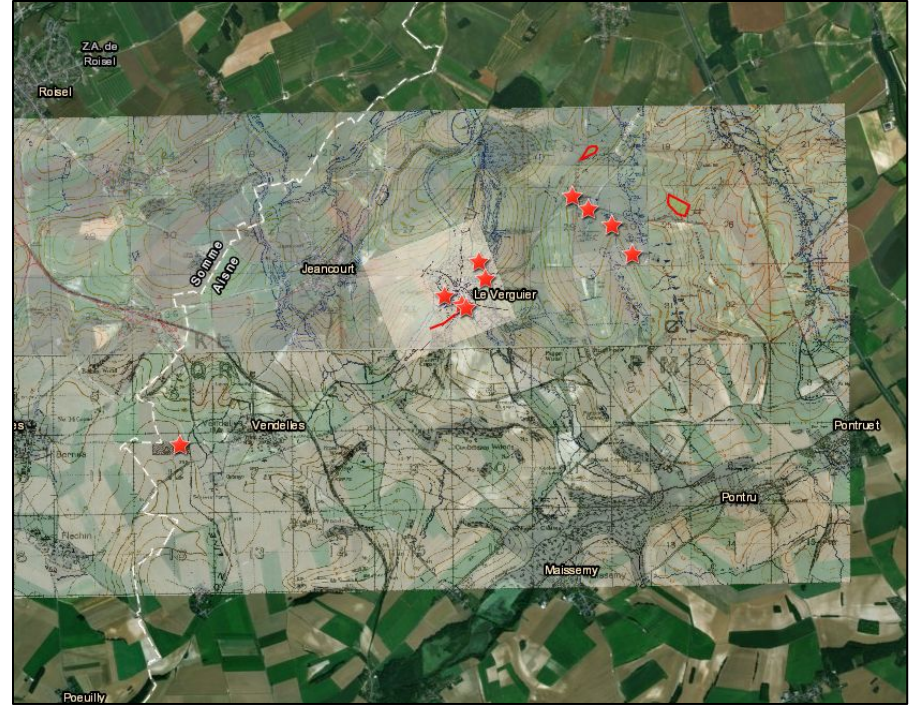
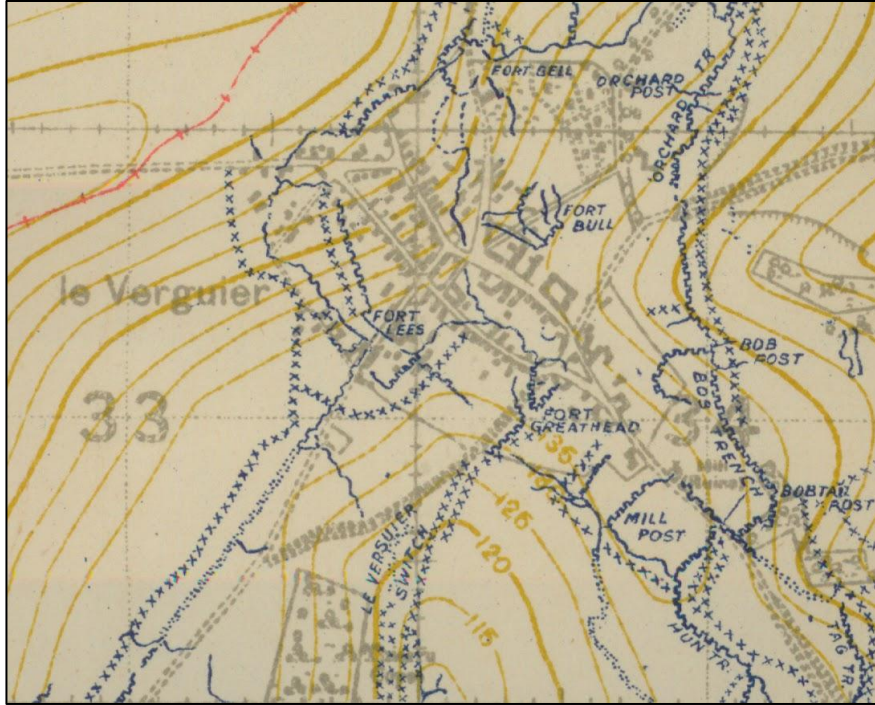
#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs

From the Analog to the Digital



#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs

From the Analog to the Digital



#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs

From the Analog to the Digital



#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs

From the Archives to the Field



#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs

From the Archives to the Field



#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs

From the Archives to the Field

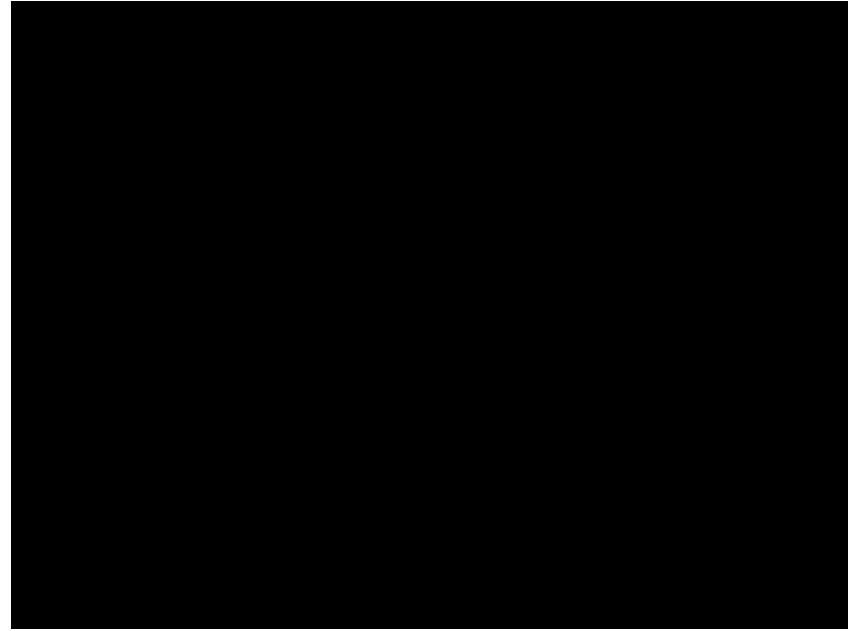
June/July 2016: 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme

- **Field research** – sites in France and Belgium where Peirs spent time in 1916 & 1917
- **Archival research** – National Archives in London, the Surrey History Centre in Woking
- **Photographic survey of Peirs-related sites** in London and Carshalton
- Funded by a **Research and Professional Development Grant** from the Office of the Provost

March 2018: 100th anniversary of the German Spring Offensive and the defense of Le Verguier

- **Field research** – sites in and around Le Verguier specific to the 8th Battalion's movements in March 1918
- **3 Skype calls** back to students in Gettysburg and **7 Facebook Live sessions**
- Making **connections** with local people
- Funded by **crowdfunding campaign** facilitated through the Department of Development, Alumni, and Parent Relations

From the Archives to the Field



#budsc18 #s1a // @jackpeirs // #teampeirs

“So that’s that.”

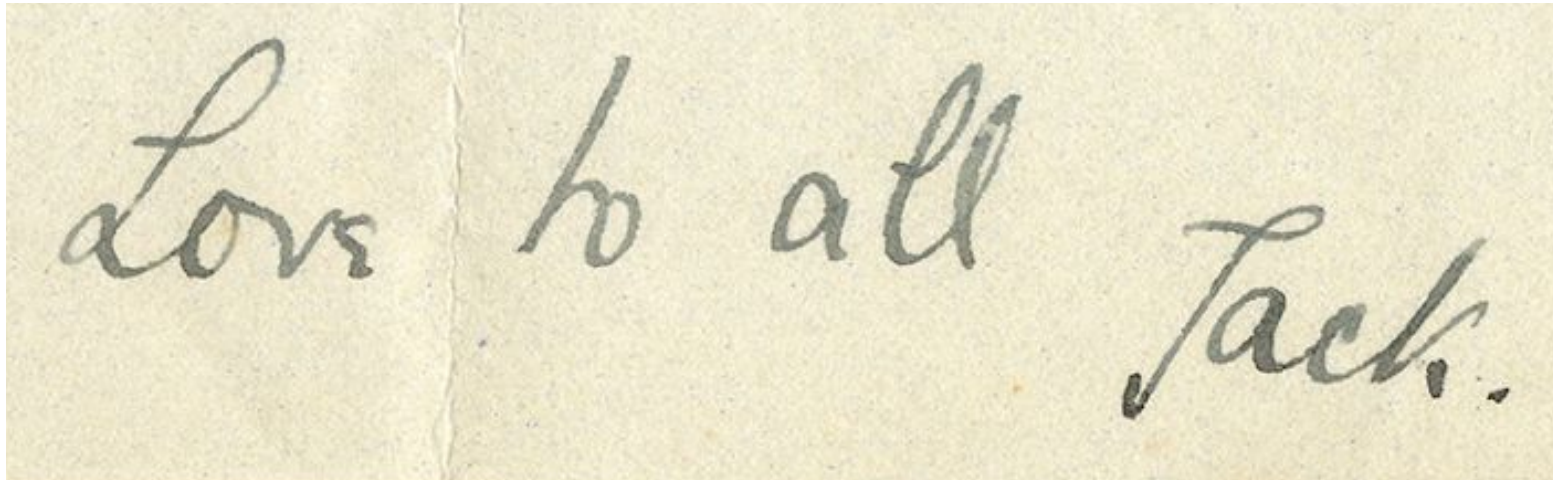
11.11.18.

My dear Father.

So that's that. Our next difficulties will arise in keeping the men occupied before peace is declared & afterwards till demobilized, which I presume will be done gradually out

There is an educational scheme in the

jackpeirs.org // jack@jackpeirs.org // [@jackpeirs](https://twitter.com/jackpeirs)



Love to all Jack.