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Public Domain Grows in the U.S. for the First Time in 20 Years!

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Abstract

This poster was created in a collaborative effort by Musselman Library's Copyright Committee as part of a display for Fair Use Week 2019. The poster was intended to educate viewers about the newly-expanded public domain in the United States and highlight the work Musselman Library did to add to the body of openly-accessible public domain works.

Keywords

public domain, internet archive, 28th division, elsie singmaster

Disciplines

Information Literacy | Library and Information Science

Comments

Displayed on the main floor of Musselman Library from February 25th to March 1st, 2019, during [Fair Use and Fair Dealing Week 2019](#).

Public Domain Grows in the U.S. for the First Time in 20 Years!

America's public domain has been stagnant since 1998.
But on January 1, 2019, all works published in the U.S. before 1924 enter the public domain.
Next year, the same will happen to all works published before 1925.
This expansion will continue, a year at a time, until 2072!

What is the Public Domain?

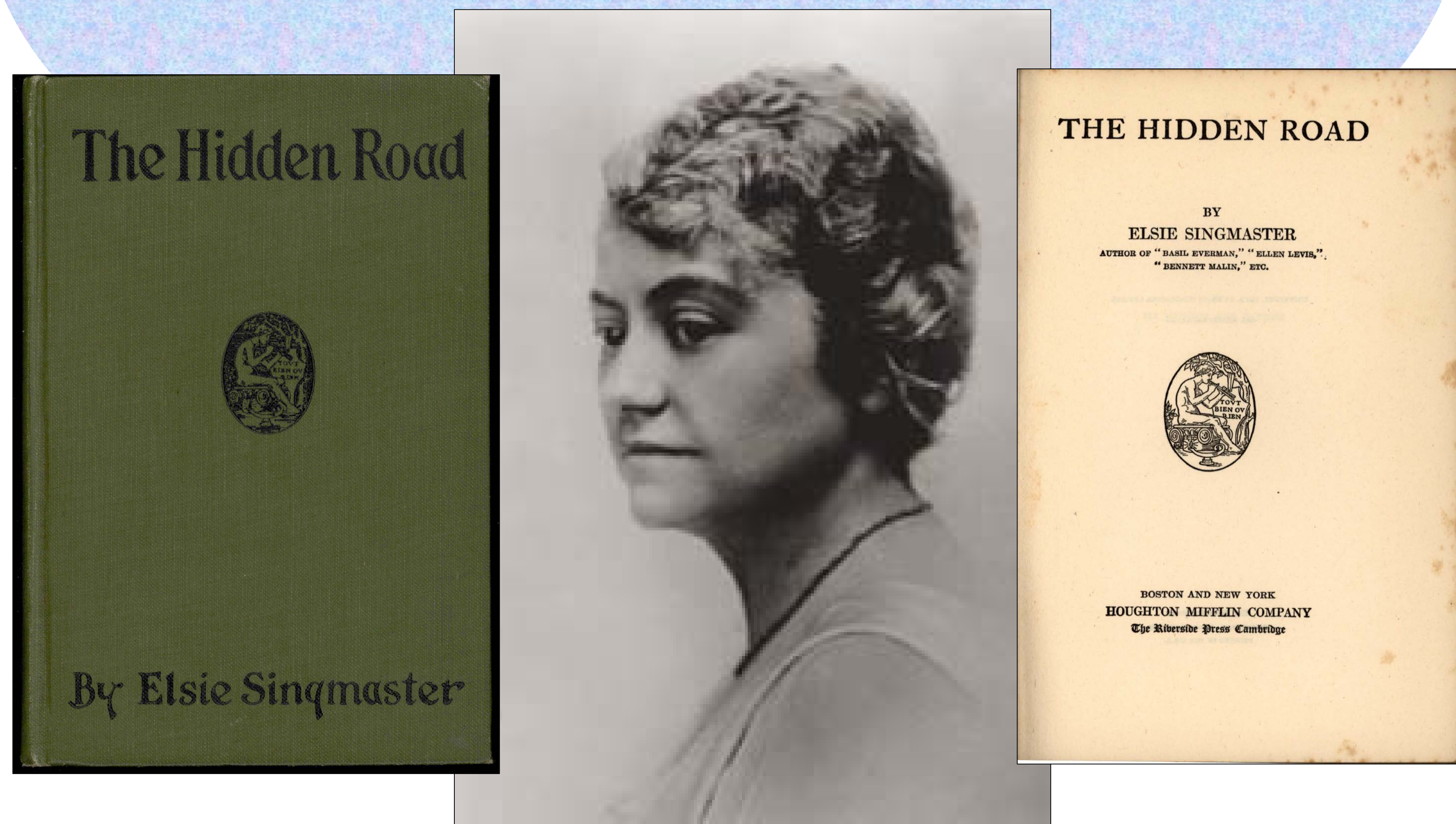
"Public domain" refers to any work (book, film, music) not under copyright.

These works are free to be used by anyone, in any manner, without permission or fees.

The Hidden Road

by Elsie Singmaster

- In 1916, Singmaster became the first woman to receive an honorary degree from Pennsylvania (later Gettysburg) College
- She published nearly 40 novels and hundreds of short stories and articles
- Many of her writings focus on the culture of Pennsylvania Germans



Musselman Library's Contribution

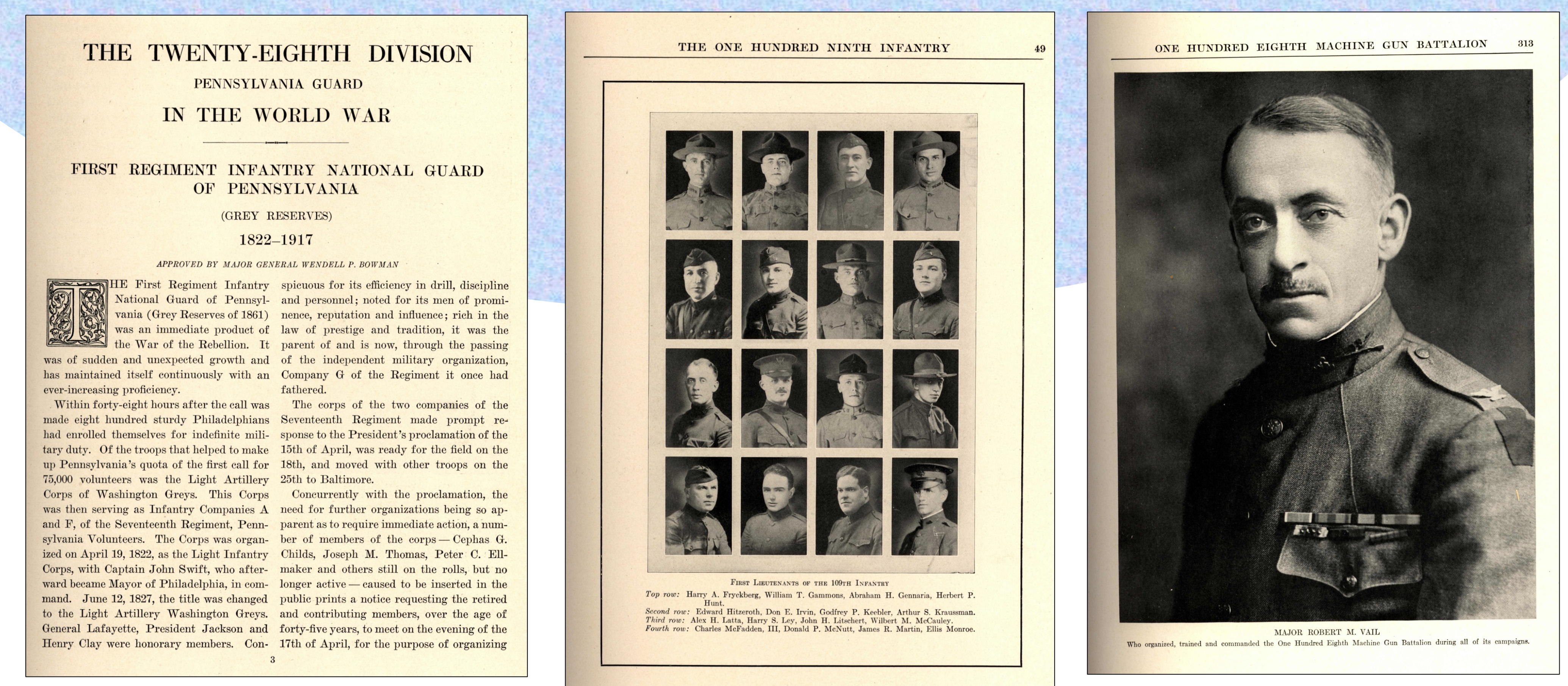
Many public domain books can be downloaded from organizations like Project Gutenberg, Internet Archive, and HathiTrust.

To celebrate this year's expansion of the public domain, Musselman Library has digitized 2 books from our collection published in 1923:

The Twenty-Eighth Division: Pennsylvania's Guard in the World War (Vol. 1)

by Colonel Edward Martin

- A synthesis of official records and personal accounts from members of the Twenty-Eighth Division regarding the events of 1918
- Unit-by-unit reports of the Division's contribution to the war effort



Both of these books are now available on archive.org for anyone to view or download!