



Keeping America Informed: GPO's History and Legacy

George Barnum, GPO Agency Historian

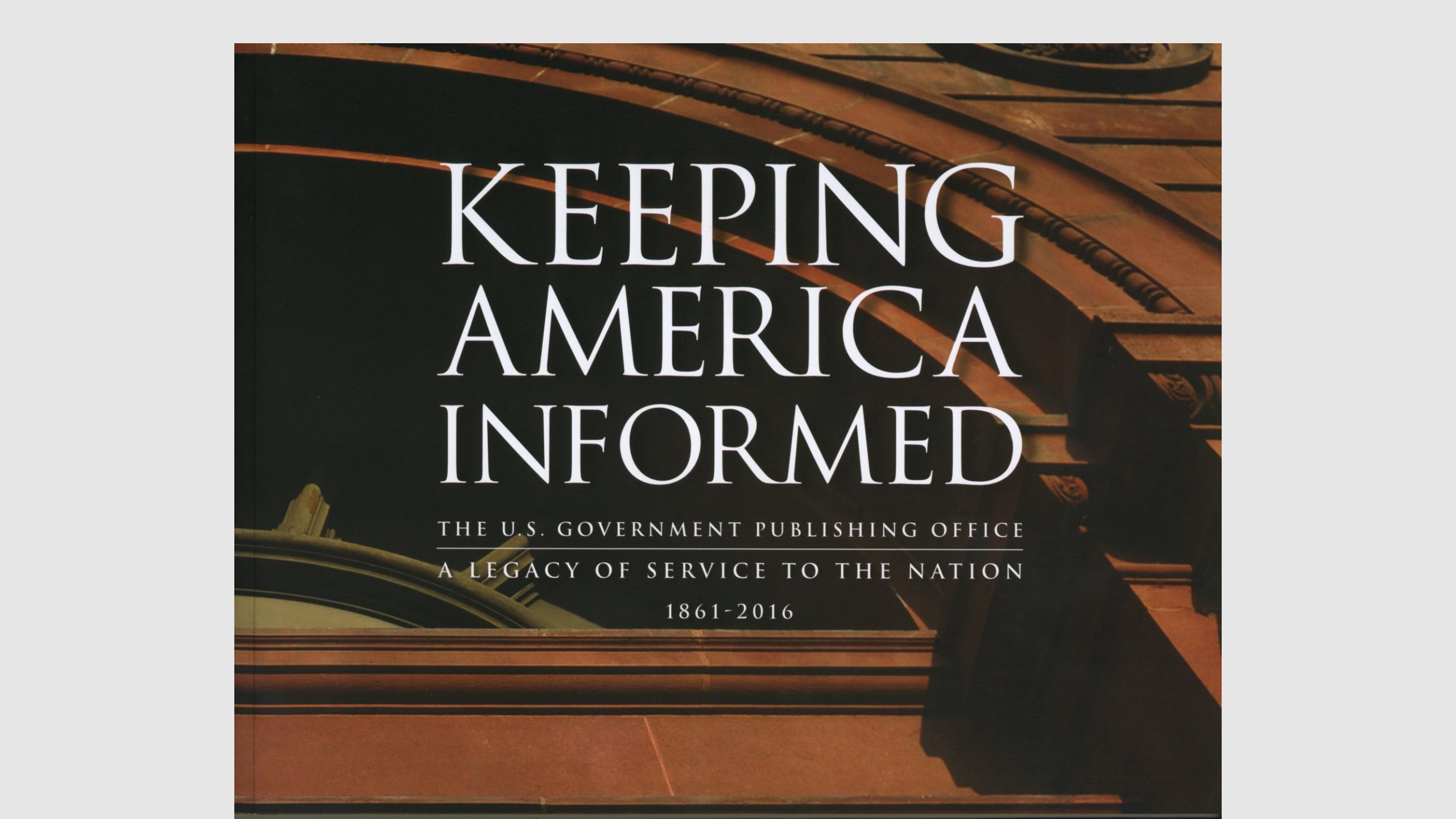
October 19, 2016

KEEPING AMERICA INFORMED

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

150 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION





KEEPING AMERICA INFORMED

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

A LEGACY OF SERVICE TO THE NATION

1861-2016





<https://printinghistory.org/beatrice-warde-gpo/>



Miss Murray

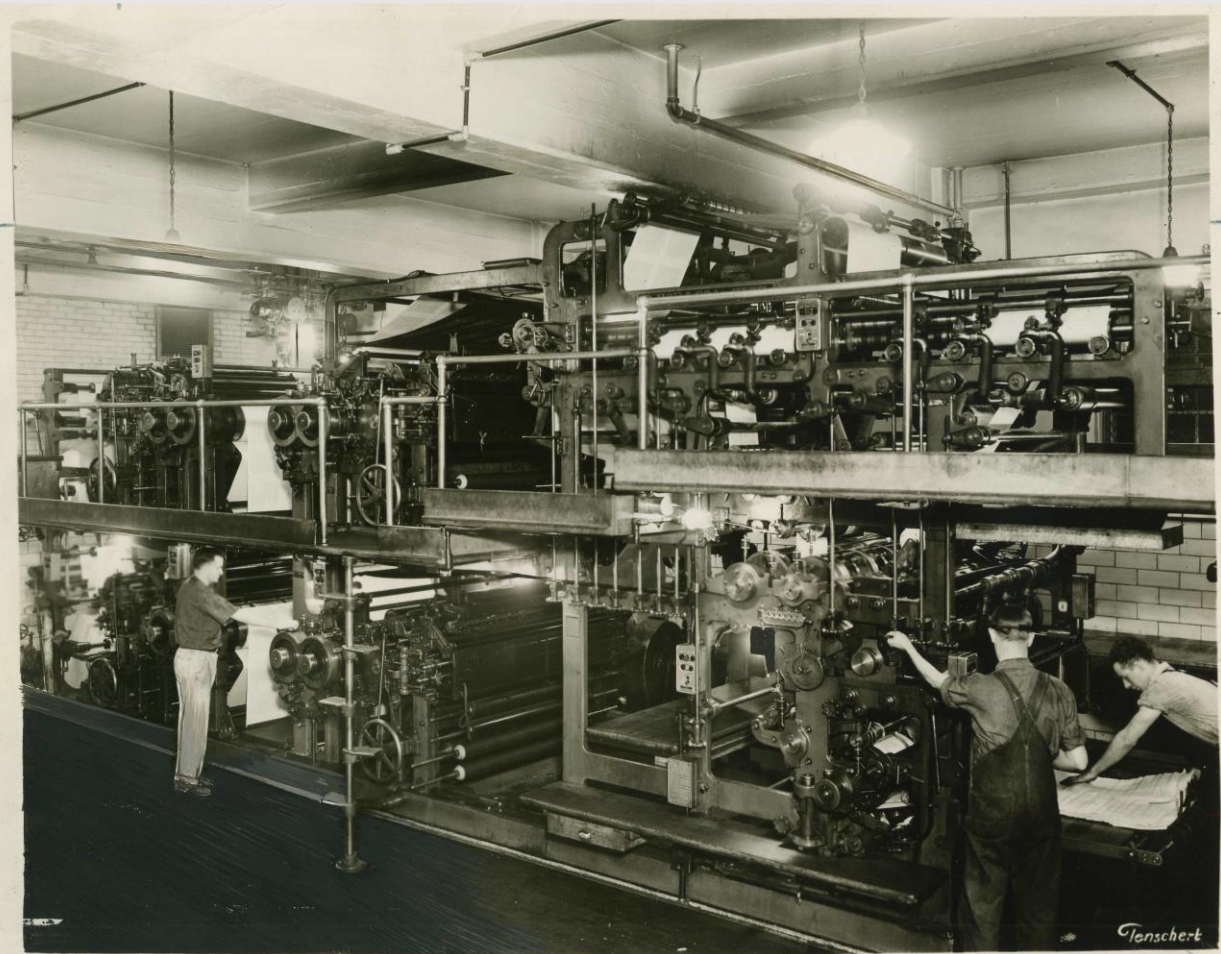
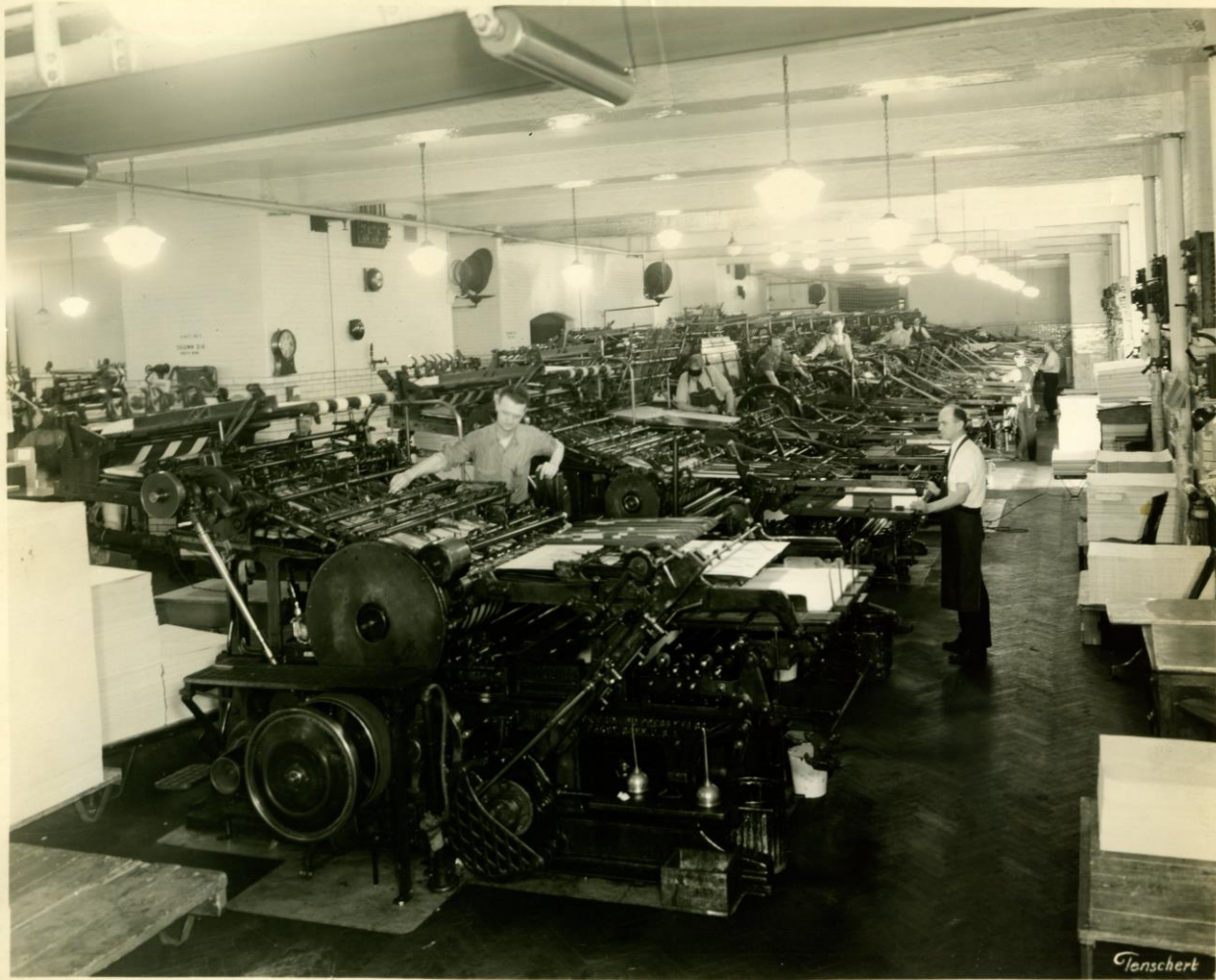
issues for closing the ports of the insurrectionary districts by proceedings in the nature of Blockade. So far all was believed to be strictly legal. At this point the insurrectionists announced their purpose to enter upon the practice of privateering. On more mature reflection, with observation on current events, the administration concluded that the measures adopted were inadequate to the occasion, both by reason of the very limited time the militia would be held to serve and the general insufficiency of the number in the regular land and naval forces. Accordingly another call was made for

volunteers to serve three years unless sooner discharged; and also for large additions to the regular Army and Navy. These measures, whether strictly legal or not, were viewed





John Abraham Davis (seated center) and his family at their farm in the early 1900s.











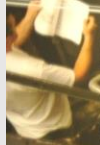
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BRINGING INFORMATION TO LIFE

How We Do the Job



For much of GPO's history most print jobs have followed a similar path: a copy from Congress or an agency was received and set up in type, and estimates were prepared and approved; a trial or "proof" copy was sent; proofreaders at GPO and the author(s) checked the proof and made corrections and adjustments. The type was then made up into page layouts and made ready for the press, usually by the production of proofing plates. Sheets were then printed, cut, and bound according to specifications.

Beginning in the 1960s plates began to be made from photographic images from the camera of electronic typewriters, and thirty years later direct images were made directly from digital files using contemporary photographic techniques.

In the late 1990s GPO began disseminating electronic publications directly from the camera file.

COMPOSING

The many processes that transform a manuscript into printed pages, "not to vary with the writer's hand," are known as composing. GPO has used hand-set type, type set by amazing machines like Linotype and Monotype, type set photographically, and type set by computers.

The shift to machine typesetting in the early 1900s was GPO's first great technology revolution, and paved the way for us to become the largest printer in the world. The shift to computerized typesetting 65 years later set the stage for GPO's role in the Digital Age.



PROOFREADING

A vital adjunct of composing, proofreading ensures that the author's words are faithfully transcribed into type, "having been worked by proof."

Proofreading also ensures that standards of usage and style are observed in the interest of economy in printing and consistency in the official publications of the Government.





Coming soon

