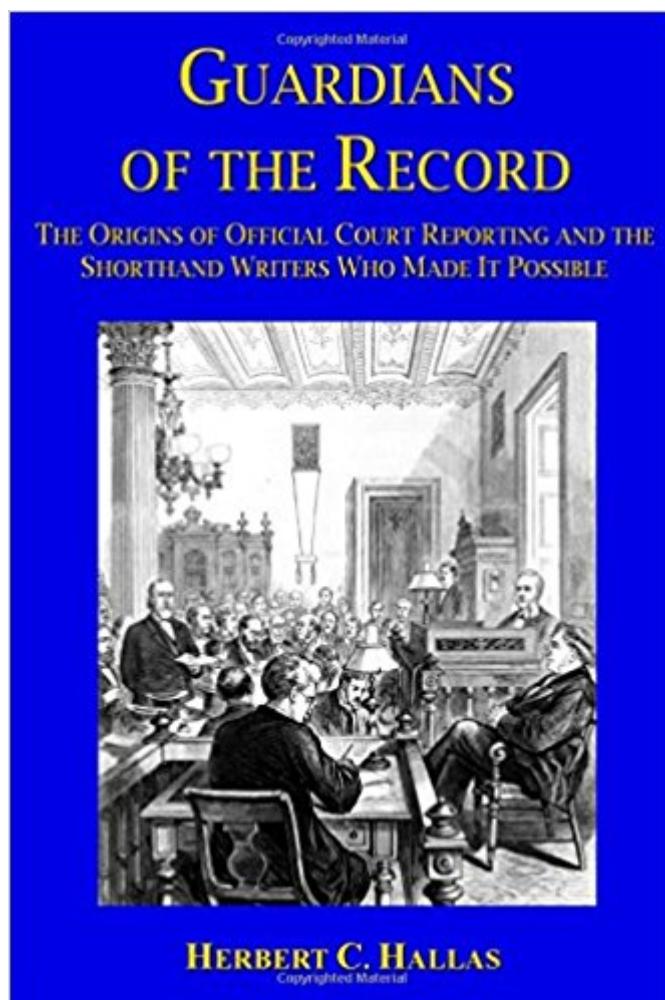


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Guardians Of The Record: The Origins Of Official Court Reporting And The Shorthand Writers Who Made It Possible



Synopsis

Official court reporting in American courtrooms was brought about by the skill, dedication, and determination of a remarkable group of pioneer shorthand writers. Many of them were reformers, some were entrepreneurs, and others were inventors, writers, artists, and scientists. All of them were gifted shorthand professionals whose work made legal proceedings more reliable, more efficient, and fairer. Using a variety of sources including 19th century newspapers, shorthand periodicals, records of shorthand associations, county histories and government reports and records, Herbert C. Hallas explains how official court reporting got its start in the United States and tells the stories of eleven pioneer court reporters whose work ensured that official court reporting would become a key component in the American pursuit of due process of law.

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Herbert C. Hallas is a retired high school history teacher and attorney who has practiced law in Connecticut and New York State. He is the author of *William Almon Wheeler: Political Star of the North Country* (SUNY Press, 2013), a biography of the 19th vice president of the United States, and *Going Up South: Historical Gleanings from New York State's North Country* (Rivulet Ferry Press, 2016), a collection of stories from the North Country in the nineteenth century. Hallas has also written articles for the *Franklin Historical Review*, *New York History Review*, *New York History blog*, and his own blog. A history major at Yale, he has a master's degree from Wesleyan University and a law degree from UCONN Law School.

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