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Mary Lamb Shelden is an Assistant Professor who teaches the freshman seminar and American Literature at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her dissertation, *Novel Habits for a New World*, is a survey of cross-dressing in nineteenth-century American novels. Other scholarly projects include a recent article on “Health and the Body” for *The Oxford Handbook of Transcendentalism*, the entry on Annie Proulx for the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, and entries about gender and cross-dressing in Greenwood Press’s *The Louisa May Alcott Encyclopedia* and *An Encyclopedia of African-American Literature*. She also has a collaborative article pending about service-learning classes in the freshman seminar at VCU. She and her service-learning students are currently at work on taking oral histories concerning the Holley School for Freedmen and readying them for Internet publication. Professor Shelden hopes to publish the Holley School letters in a critical edition.

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