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CURRENT POSITION

Senior Lecturer, Department of History and American Studies program, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Recent Classes:

- Tennessee State History;
- Knoxville and East Tennessee: an Interdisciplinary Exploration;
- Intro to American Studies;
- US History, 1877-1933;
- US History, 1933-present;
- History of the New South;
- History of Appalachia
- American Survey, Colonial to 1877;
- Senior Research Seminars: Social Movements in the United States; The Political Economy of Appalachia
- Graduate Readings Seminar: Appalachia in/and the South

EDUCATION

History Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 2009

Dissertation: “‘Bloody Breathitt’: Power and Violence in the Mountain South”

Committee:

- Prof. David L. Carlton (advisor);
- Prof. Richard Blackett;
- Prof. Dennis Dickerson;
- Prof. Rowena Olegario;
- Prof. Larry Isaac

History M.A., Appalachian State University

Thesis: “The Hill-Evans Feud: Extralegal Violence in Antebellum Kentucky”

Committee:

- Prof. John A. Williams (advisor);
- Prof. Jonathan Sarris;
- Prof. Timothy Silver

History B.S., Appalachian State University

Concentration: Public History; Minor: Political Science

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- **Recently Published:** *Bloody Breathitt: Politics and Violence in the Appalachian South* (University Press of Kentucky, 2013)
 - Winner, 2014 Weatherford Award;
 - Winner, 2014 Kentucky History Award, Kentucky Historical Society;
 - Winner, 2013 Book of the Year, Appalachian Writers’ Association;
 - Finalist, 2015 Kentucky Governor’s Award
 - Honorable Mention for the Center for Civil War Research’s Wiley-Silver Book Prize
- In Development: *Baldwin-Felts Detectives and the Ordeal of Appalachian Capitalism* (working title)
- *Bluegrass Jacobin: William Goebel and the Southern Gilded Age* (working title)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Assassins and Anarchists and Feudists: Death and Politics in the Bluegrass and the Mountains” in *Blood in the Hills: A History of Violence in Appalachia*. Bruce Stewart, editor (University Press of Kentucky, 2011).
- “UnReconstructed Appalachia: the Persistence of War in Eastern Kentucky” in *Reconstructing Appalachia: The Civil War's Aftermath*. Andrew Slap, editor (University Press of Kentucky, 2010).

ARTICLES AND BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of Melissa Schrift. *Becoming Melungeon: Making an Ethnic Identity in the Appalachian South* (University of Nebraska Press, 2013). *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* (forthcoming).
- Review of Douglas Egerton. *The Wars of Reconstruction: The Brief, Violent History of America's Most Progressive Era* (Bloomsbury Press, 2014). *Journal of East Tennessee History*, Vol. 86 (2014).
- “The Irreducibility of the County in the South and America, Past and Present” *American Nineteenth Century History*, Vol. 15, Issue 1 (Winter 2014).
- Review of Carole Emberton. *Beyond Redemption: Race, Violence, and the American South after the Civil War* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013). *Ohio Valley History*, (forthcoming).
- Review of Michele Gillespie. *Katherine and R.J. Reynolds: Partners of Fortune in the Making of the New South* (University of Georgia Press, 2012). *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Vol. 111, No. 3 (Fall 2013).
- “Neighbor vs. Neighbor,” *New York Times Opinionator: Disunion Series* (April 18, 2013) <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/18/neighbor-vs-neighbor/>
- Review of Kenneth W. Howell (ed.), *Still the Arena of the Civil War: Violence and Turmoil in Reconstruction Texas, 1865-1874* (University of North Texas Press, 2012). *Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 79, Issue 3 (August 2013).
- Review of Arthur Remillard. *Southern Civil Religions: Imagining the Good Society in the Post-Reconstruction South* (University of Georgia Press, 2011). *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Vol. 111, No. 1 (Winter 2013).
- “An Open Letter to Southern Historians on the Alabama Immigration Law,” *History News Network* (October 12, 2012) <http://hnn.us/node/148831>
- Review of Terry A. Barnhart. *Albert Taylor Bledsoe: Defender of the Old South and Architect of the Lost Cause* (LSU Press, 2011). *Journal of East Tennessee History*, Vol. 84 (2012).
- Review of Anne E. Marshall. *Creating a Confederate Kentucky: The Lost Cause and Civil War Memory in a Border State* (UNC Press, 2010). *Ohio Valley History*, Vol. 11, Issue 1 (Spring 2011).
- Review of Sam Davis Elliott. *Isham G. Harris of Tennessee: Confederate Governor and United Senator* (LSU Press, 2009). *Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 77, Issue 3 (August, 2011).
- Review of Matthew G. Schoenbachler. *Murder & Madness: The Myth of the Kentucky Tragedy* (University Press of Kentucky, 2009). *Ohio Valley History*, Vol. 10, Issue 1 (Spring 2010).
- Review of Ken Fones-Wolf. *Glass Towns: Industry, Labor, and Political Economy in Appalachia, 1890-1930s* (University of Illinois Press, 2007) H-SHGAPE.net (January 2008).
- Entry in *Culture Wars: An Encyclopedia of Issues, Viewpoints, and Voices* (M. E. Sharpe, 2010).
- “‘Too Much Politics, Not Enough Corn’: The Nineteenth Century Media Battles Over Appalachia,” *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, Vol. 13: Nos. 1 & 2 (Fall/Spring 2007-2008).
- Review of Samuel C. Hyde Jr. (ed.), *A Fierce and Fractious Frontier: The Curious Development of Louisiana's Florida Parishes, 1699-2000* (LSU Press, 2004). *Journal of Material Culture*, Vol. 40, No. 1 (Fall 2007).
- Review of Richard D. Starnes. *Creating the Land of the Sky: Tourism and Society in Western North Carolina* (University of Alabama Press, 2005), h-south.net, June 2006.
- “Beating a Dead Horse?: The Turnerian Influence on Environmental Historians,” *International Social Science Review*, Vol. 77, Nos. 1-2 (Spring-Summer 2002).
- Collaborative review of Julian S. Ardery. *The Temptation: Edward Tolson and the Genesis of Twentieth Century Art* (UNC Press, 1998). *Appalachian Journal*, Vol. 26, No. 4 (Summer, 1999).

PAST TEACHING POSITIONS

- **2006-2009** *Lecturer, Vanderbilt University History Department*
Classes: America in the Civil War Era; American Survey, 1865-present
- **2008-2009** *Adjunct Professor, Nashville State Technical Community College*
Classes: World Civilizations I; World Civilizations II (classroom and online)
- **2004-2006** *Teaching Assistant, Vanderbilt University History Department*
Classes: History of American Enterprise; Recent U.S. History (with emphasis on the post-World War II African American experience); History of the Old South; American Survey, 1865-present
- **2000-2003** *Instructor, Appalachian State University History Department*
Classes: World Civilizations I, Prehistory to 1500; World Civilizations II, 1500 to present
- **2002-2003** *Adjunct Professor, Caldwell Community College*
Classes: World Civilizations I, Prehistory to 1500; World Civilizations II, 1500 to present
- **2002** *Assistant Instructor, Appalachian State University Interdisciplinary Studies Department*
Classes: "Civilizations East and West"

INVITED LECTURES and PUBLIC HISTORY SERVICE

PUBLIC LECTURES AND APPEARANCES

- Teaching and Touring the Mine Wars, Wise, VA and Matewan, WV (scheduled, September, 2015)
- "Labor History in the Classroom," East Tennessee History Center, Knoxville, TN (June, 2015)
- "A Matter of Honor: Interrogating Acts of Violence in the Southern Past," Phi Alpha Theta induction, Belmont University, Nashville TN (October, 2014)
- Public Reading from *Bloody Breathitt...*, Birdhouse Community Center, Knoxville, TN (July, 2014)
- "Political Violence in the Civil War Era," Maryville College, Maryville, TN (April, 2014)
- "'Friending' the Civil War: *Disunion*, Digital History, and Social Media," Afterwars lecture series, Center for the Study of War & Society, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN (April, 2014)
- A Reading from *Bloody Breathitt...*, Stephenson Center for Appalachia, Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC (October, 2013)
- "Political Violence in the South and America," The Filson Historical Society presents *The Roots of Feuding*, Louisville, KY (May, 2013)
- Panel discussant, "Feuding Kentucky: Page to Performance," *Kentucky Book Fair*, Frankfort, KY (November, 2012)
- "A Cavalcade of Horrors: Glimpsing a Violent Southern Past from the 21st Century," *Centennial Symposium on the 1912 Courthouse Tragedy*, Hillsville, VA (March, 2012)
- "We're Still Talking about the Civil War: Lost - and Not-so-Lost - Causes," University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN (February, 2012)
- Moderator, "An Evening with Mark T. Banker, with discussion of his book, *Appalachians All*" (November, 2011)
- "To Secede or Not to Secede: Southern Mountain Politics, 1860-1862," *The Virginia Historical Society's Civil War Sesquicentennial Lecture Series*, Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA (February, 2011)
- "*To Kill a Mockingbird* and the Southern Body Politic," Belmont University, Nashville, TN (April, 2009)
- "The Political and the Bestial: Placing Violence in Space and Time," *Vanderbilt University History Graduate Student Colloquium*, Nashville, TN (November, 2008)
- "The Diversities of Southern Slavery," Nashville State Community College, Nashville, TN (April, 2008)
- "Country Music and the Cultural Politics of the Twentieth Century South," Webster University, St. Louis, MO (October, 2007)

- “Interpreting the 1972 Presidential Election from a Southern Vantage Point,” Belmont University, Nashville, TN (April, 2007)
- “Finding the Boundaries of the American South in Space and Time,” Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (August, 2005)
- “Nixon’s Southern Strategy,” Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (April, 2005)
- “Slavery as an American Business Venture,” Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (October, 2004)

TELEVISION AND RADIO APPEARANCES

- “Killing on Display: Public Hangings in the 19th Century South”; Interviewed on C-SPAN3 American History TV (April, 2015)
- Guest on *Here and Now*, WPLF Radio, Louisville, KY (May, 2014)
- Guest on *Curtains@8*, WUKY Radio, Lexington, KY (August, 2013)
- Panelist on *Democracy TV Live*, CTVKnoxville (July, 2013)

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND COMMENTS

- Commentator for Belmont University Spring Symposium
- “The Hanging of Bad Tom Smith’: Public Execution and Civil Religion in the Victorian South,” annual meeting of the Organization of Historical Association, St. Louis, MO (April, 2015)
- Commentator/Chair for “The War and its Aftermath in Kentucky,” *The Hard Hand of War: Irregulars and Civilians in the Civil War*, Filson Historical Society, Louisville, KY (October, 2014)
- “[L]eave the murderer to the pangs of his own conscience’: The Shooting of John Sandford and the Question of Gilded Age Dueling,” *Ohio Valley History Conference*, Austin Peay University, Clarksville, TN (October, 2014)
- Chair for “Altina Waller’s *Feud*: A Silver Anniversary Retrospective Discussion with the Author,” annual meeting of the *Society of Appalachian Historians*, Wise, VA (May, 2013)
- Commentator/Chair for “Deconstructing Dichotomies: Exploring the Institutions of Race and Gender during the Reconstruction Era,” *Tennessee Conference of Historians*, Chattanooga, TN (September, 2011)
- “Assassins and Anarchists: Politics and Death in the Bluegrass and the Mountains,” annual meeting of the *Appalachian Studies Association*, Richmond, KY (March, 2011)
- “[T]he roughest crowd ever gotten together in the mountains’: The Death of William Goebel Reexamined,” inaugural meeting of the *Appalachian History Working Group*, Cullowhee, NC (May, 2010)
- “An ‘invasion of hill billies from the Eleventh district’: The Republican Occupation of Frankfort, January, 1900,” annual meeting of the *Appalachian Studies Association*, Dahlonega, GA (March, 2010)
- “‘The servant of the Lord must not flee, I shall walk out of the valley; the Lord will keep me’: An Abolitionist Visits the Mountains,” *Ohio Valley Historical Conference*, Richmond, KY (October, 2009)
- “‘Suppressing the Late Rebellion’: Guerrilla Politics in a Union State,” Cleanth Brooks Forum, annual meeting of the *St. George Tucker Society*, Augusta, GA (August, 2008)
- “Brutal Provinces: The Blood Feud, the State and the Parochialism Myth,” annual meeting of the *French Association for American Studies*, Montpellier, France (May, 2008)
- “‘White and Negro Rioters’: The Sumner Civil Rights Bill as a Call to Race War,” annual meeting of the *Southern Historical Association*, Richmond, VA (November, 2007)
- “‘Too Much Politics, Not Enough Corn’: The Nineteenth Century Media Battles Over Appalachia,” annual meeting of the *Appalachian Studies Association*, Maryville, TN (March, 2007)
- “Bullets Over Ballots: Gilded Age Political Struggles in the Upper South,” annual meeting of the *Social Science Historical Association*, Minneapolis, MN (November, 2006)
- “Reconstruction Violence in Appalachia,” *Bluegrass Symposium*, Lexington, KY (March, 2005)
- “Revisiting ‘Bloody Breathitt’: Political Violence in Eastern Kentucky 1865-1879,” *Tennessee*

SELECTED AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS

- **2015**- Research Fellow, Kentucky Historical Society
-Finalist, Kentucky Governor's Award
- **2014**- University of Tennessee Scholar of the Week;
-Weatherford Book Award for *Bloody Breathitt: Politics and Violence in the Appalachian South*;
-Kentucky History Award, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY
-Appalachian Writers' Association Nonfiction Book of the Year (designated for 2013)
-Honorable Mention, 2014 Wiley-Silver Book Prize, Center for Civil War Research, University of Mississippi
- **2010**-Nominated, University of Tennessee Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching Award
- **2010 and 2009**-Finalist, American Council of Learned Societies' New Faculty Fellows Award
- **2008**-J. Leon Helguera Dissertation Fellowship
-Watson-Brown Foundation Award
- **2007**-Gordon Family Research Fellow
- **2006**-Rockefeller Graduate Student Award, Social Science Historical Association
- **2005**-Mellon Interdisciplinary Fellow
- **2004-2005**-Herbert and Blanche Henry Weaver Fellow
- **2003**-First Runner-Up, Cratis D. Williams Master's Thesis Award

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Program Committee, Society of Appalachian Historians
- CollegeBoard AP U.S. History Reader
- Judge, annual East Tennessee History Day
- Historical Consultant for the Coalition of Labor Union Women (2012-2013)
- Consultant for Dutch Television's *Geschiedenis 24: The TVA and the 1940 Presidential Election* (2012)
- Judge, Undergraduate Presented Research Prize Award Competition, Phi Alpha Theta Regional Meeting, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, South Carolina (April, 2003)
- President, Phi Alpha Theta, Omicron Phi chapter (2001-2002)

EDITING and WRITING SERVICE

- Content Consultant for Red Line Editorial, Inc. (2014)
- Design Review for Western Kentucky University's Southern Studies curriculum (2013)
- Book Proposal reviews, Johns Hopkins University Press, University of Tennessee Press and Oxford University Press
- Peer Review for *Journal of American History*, *American Nineteenth Century History* and *West Virginia History*
- Director, PhD Candidate Independent Study, University of Tennessee Dept. of History
- Senior Thesis Consulting Advisor and Committee Reviewer, University of Tennessee Dept. of History
- Researcher for Professor Michael Bess, Vanderbilt University Center for Ethics
Project: "*The Centrist Manifesto*": *Healing America's Divisions in Ten Vital Areas* (2008-2009)
- Assistant Researcher for Professor Don H. Doyle; Project: *American Nationalism and National Borders* (2004)
- Assistant Editor, *International Social Science Review* (1999-2000)
- News and Sports Reporter, *Washington County News*, Abingdon, VA (1997-1998)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Organization of American Historians
- Southern Historical Association
- Society of Appalachian Historians
- Appalachian Studies Association
- Phi Alpha Theta