

Michael E. Woods
Department of History
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
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Academic Appointments:

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, 2025-2027

Professor of History, 2023-present

Director, Papers of Andrew Jackson, 2020-present

Associate Professor of History, 2020-2023

Marshall University

Associate Professor of History, 2017-2020

Assistant Professor of History, 2013-2017

Education:

University of South Carolina

PhD, History, May 2012

MA, History, December 2009

Whitman College

BA, History (honors), *summa cum laude*, May 2007

Publications:

Books:

The Business of Bigotry: John Van Evrie's Nineteenth-Century Racist Media Empire (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2026)

Arguing until Doomsday: Stephen Douglas, Jefferson Davis, and the Struggle for American Democracy (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2020)

*Winner, Superior Achievement Award, Illinois State Historical Society, 2021

Bleeding Kansas: Slavery, Sectionalism, and Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border (Critical Moments in American History Series) (New York: Routledge Press, 2016)

Emotional and Sectional Conflict in the Antebellum United States (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014)

*Winner, 2015 James A. Rawley Award, Southern Historical Association (for a distinguished book on secession and/or the sectional conflict published in 2013-2014)

Journal Articles:

"South Carolina's Long Division: The Nullification and Secession Movements," *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, new series 1 (January 2026): 30-41

"Building a Proslavery Lobby: The Domestic Politics of the *Encomium* Case," *Journal of the Early Republic* 45 (Winter 2025): 505-535

- “Charleston, City of Mourners: Anticipations of Civil War in the Cradle of Secession,” *Civil War History* 67 (March 2021): 7-28
- “The Compromise of 1850 and the Search for a Usable Past,” *Journal of the Civil War Era* 9 (September 2019): 438-456
- “‘Tell Us Something About State Rights’: Northern Republicans, State Rights, and the Coming of the Civil War,” *Journal of the Civil War Era* 7 (June 2017): 242-268
- “Tracing the ‘Sacred Relicts’: The Strange Career of Preston Brooks’s Cane,” *Civil War History* 63 (June 2017): 113-132
- “Interdisciplinary Studies of the Civil War Era: Recent Trends and Future Prospects,” *Journal of American Studies* 51 (May 2017): 349-383
- “A Theory of Moral Outrage: Indignation and Eighteenth-Century British Abolitionism,” *Slavery & Abolition* 36 (December 2015): 662-683
- “Mountaineers Becoming Free: Emancipation and Statehood in West Virginia,” *West Virginia History* New Series 9 (Fall 2015): 37-71
- “What Twenty-First-Century Historians Have Said about the Causes of Disunion: A Civil War Sesquicentennial Review of the Recent Literature,” *Journal of American History* 99 (September 2012): 415-439
- “‘The Indignation of Freedom-Loving People’: The Caning of Charles Sumner and Emotion in Antebellum Politics,” *Journal of Social History* 44 (Spring 2011): 689-705

Essays in Edited Volumes:

- “Who Read John Van Evrie? Tracing the Circulation of a Proslavery Newspaper in a Southern Community,” in *Markets, Political Cultures, and Governance in the South’s Nineteenth Century*, eds. Robert Colby and Joshua Lynn (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, forthcoming)
- “Lincoln and Douglas,” in *A Companion to Abraham Lincoln*, eds. Michael Green, Evan C. Rothra, and Shae Smith Cox (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, forthcoming in 2026)
- “Slavery,” in *The Routledge History of Emotions in the Modern World*, eds. Katie Barclay and Peter N. Stearns (New York: Routledge Press, 2022): 460-472
- “Antebellum Camel Capers and the Global Slave Power,” in *Animal Histories of the Civil War Era*, ed. Earl J. Hess (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2022): 23-41
- “Secession and Disunion,” in *The Cambridge History of the American Civil War*, Volume 2, *Affairs of State*, ed. Aaron Sheehan-Dean (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019): 43-62
- “Politics and Changing Views of Jealousy in the Antebellum United States,” in *Emotions and Social Change: Historical and Sociological Perspectives*, eds. Ann Brooks and David Lemmings (New York: Routledge Press, 2014): 156-172

Book Review Essays:

- Review essay in “A Roundtable on Steven J. Brady, Chained to History: Slavery and US Foreign Relations to 1865,” *Passport: The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Review* 53 (January 2023): 11-13
- “The Problem of Slavery in American Politics,” *Canadian Review of American Studies* 49 (2019): 236-246 [review of: Adam I. P. Smith, The Stormy Present: Conservatism and the Problem of Slavery in Northern Politics, 1846-1865 (2017); Graham A. Peck, Making

an Antislavery Nation: Lincoln, Douglas, and the Battle over Freedom (2017); and Paul D. Naish, Slavery and Silence: Latin America and the U.S. Slave Debate (2017)]

Book Reviews:

- Jesse George-Nichol, Conservative Americanism: Nativism, Unionism, and Slavery in Border South Politics, 1854-1861 (2024), *Journal of Southern History* (forthcoming)
- Andrew Wender Cohen, Gangster of New York: A Violent Life in Nineteenth Century America (2026), *American Nineteenth Century History* (forthcoming)
- Nigel Hamilton, Lincoln vs. Davis: The War of the Presidents (2024), *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* (forthcoming)
- William Kerrigan, ed., West Virginia's War: The Civil War in Documents (2025), *West Virginia History* 20 (Spring 2026) 80-81
- Douglas R. Egerton, A Man on Fire: The Worlds of Thomas Wentworth Higginson (2024), *Journal of American History* 112 (March 2026): 787-788
- Jack Furniss, Between Extremes: Seeking the Political Center in the Civil War North (2024), *North Carolina Historical Review* 102 (April 2025): 216-217
- Mark R. Cheatham, Who Is James K. Polk? The Presidential Election of 1844 (2023), *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* (Summer 2024): 153-155
- Lorien Foote, Rites of Retaliation: Civilization, Soldiers, and Campaigns in the American Civil War (2021), *American Historical Review* 129 (March 2024): 269-270
- Brian C. Neumann, Bloody Flag of Anarchy: Unionism in South Carolina during the Nullification Crisis (2022), *Civil War History* 69 (December 2023): 92-94
- Lauren N. Haumesser, The Democratic Collapse: How Gender Politics Broke a Party and a Nation, 1856-1861 (2022), *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 121 (Summer 2023): 269-272
- Richard Ellis, Old Tip vs. the Sly Fox: The 1840 Election and the Making of a Partisan Nation (2020), *American Historical Review* 128 (March 2023): 487-488
- Robert Elder, Calhoun: American Heretic (2021), *Civil War History* 68 (March 2022): 103-105
- Joseph W. Pearson, The Whigs' America: Middle-Class Political Thought in the Age of Jackson and Clay (2020), *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 119 (Winter 2021): 73-75
- Andrew F. Lang, A Contest of Civilizations: Exposing the Crisis of American Exceptionalism in the Civil War Era (2021), *North Carolina Historical Review* 98 (July 2021): 370-372
- Benjamin T. Arrington, The Last Lincoln Republican: The Presidential Election of 1880 (2020), *Congress & the Presidency* 48 (May-August 2021): 265-266
- James Lundberg, Horace Greeley: Print Politics and the Failure of American Nationhood (2020), *Journal of the Civil War Era* 11 (March 2021): 111-113
- Thomas J. Balcerski, Bosom Friends: The Intimate World of James Buchanan and William Rufus King (2019), *The Alabama Review* 73 (July 2020): 268-271
- James C. Klotter, Henry Clay: The Man Who Would Be President (2018), *Journal of the Early Republic* 40 (Summer 2020): 358-361
- Harold Holzer and Norton Garfinkle, A Just and Generous Nation: Abraham Lincoln and the Fight for American Opportunity (2015), *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* 41 (Summer 2020): 74-79
- James J. Broomall, Private Confederacies: The Emotional Worlds of Southern Men as Citizens and Soldiers (2019), *American Historical Review* 125 (April 2020): 654-655

- Michael F. Holt, The Election of 1860: “A Campaign Fraught with Consequences” (2017), *American Historical Review* 125 (February 2020): 232-233
- Jason Phillips, Looming Civil War: How Nineteenth-Century Americans Imagined the Future (2018), *Journal of American History* 106 (Sept. 2019): 468-469
- Michael D. Robinson, A Union Indivisible: Secession and the Politics of Slavery in the Border South (2017), *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 78 (Summer 2019): 191-193
- Dwight T. Pitcaithley, ed., The U.S. Constitution and Secession: A Documentary Anthology of Slavery and White Supremacy (2018), *New Mexico Historical Review* 94 (Summer 2019): 317-318
- Joan Cashin, ed., War Matters: Material Culture in the Civil War Era (2018), *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 117 (Spring 2019): 400-402
- William J. Cooper, The Lost Founding Father: John Quincy Adams and the Transformation of American Politics (2017), *The Historian* 80 (Winter 2018): 810-811
- Lawrence T. McDonnell, Performing Disunion: The Coming of the Civil War in Charleston, South Carolina (2018), *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 119 (July 2018): 195-197
- Chandra Manning, Troubled Refuge: Struggling for Freedom in the Civil War (2016), *North Carolina Historical Review* 95 (July 2018): 363-364
- Carole Emberton and Bruce E. Baker, eds., Remembering Reconstruction: Struggles over the Meaning of America’s Most Turbulent Era (2017), *West Virginia History* 12 (Spring-Fall 2018): 137-138
- Matthew M. Stith, Extreme Civil War: Guerrilla Warfare, Environment, and Race on the Trans-Mississippi Frontier (2016), *Society of Civil War Historians Newsletter* 30 (Winter 2018): 3
- Carl Lawrence Paulus, The Slaveholding Crisis: Fear of Insurrection and the Coming of the Civil War (2017), *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 116 (Winter 2018): 111-113
- Christopher Phillips, The Rivers Ran Backward: The Civil War and the Remaking of the American Middle Border (2016), *Journal of Southern History* 83 (Nov. 2017): 980-982
- Craig Thompson Friend and Lorri Glover, eds., Death and the American South (2015), *Journal of Social History* 50 (Spring 2017): 597-599
- Daniel W. Crofts, Lincoln and the Politics of Slavery: The Other Thirteenth Amendment and the Struggle to Save the Union (2016), *Journal of the Civil War Era* 6 (Dec. 2016): 599-602
- Kevin Adams and Leonne M. Hudson, eds., Democracy and the American Civil War: Race and African Americans in the Nineteenth Century (2016), *Lincoln Herald* 118 (Fall 2016): 206-209
- Gary W. Gallagher and Joan Waugh, The American War: A History of the Civil War Era (2015), *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 124, no. 2 (2016): 167-168
- Lorien Foote and Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, eds., So Conceived and So Dedicated: Intellectual Life in the Civil War-Era North (2015), *Civil War History* 62 (June 2016): 214-216
- William A. Blair, With Malice Toward Some: Treason and Loyalty in the Civil War Era (2014), *North Carolina Historical Review* 93 (Jan. 2016): 107-108
- Edward G. Longacre, The Early Morning of War: Bull Run, 1861 (2014), *Society of Civil War Historians Newsletter* 28 (Fall 2015): 2-3
- David Grant, Political Antislavery Discourse and American Literature of the 1850s (2012), *Pennsylvania History* 82 (Summer 2015): 397-399
- James Oakes, The Scorpion’s Sting: Antislavery and the Coming of the Civil War (2014), *Journal of Southern History* 81 (Aug. 2015): 725-727

- Martha Hodes, Mourning Lincoln (2015), *Journal of Military History* 79 (July 2015): 845-846
- Holt Merchant, South Carolina Fire-Eater: The Life of Laurence Massillon Keitt, 1824-1864 (2014), *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 116 (April 2015): 149-152
- Rachel A. Sheldon, Washington Brotherhood: Politics, Social Life, and the Coming of the Civil War (2013), *Journal of American History* 101 (Dec. 2014): 934-935
- Christopher Childers, The Failure of Popular Sovereignty: Slavery, Manifest Destiny, and the Radicalization of Southern Politics (2012) and Martin H. Quitt, Stephen A. Douglas and Antebellum Democracy (2012), *Civil War History* 60 (June 2014): 205-208
- Robert J. Cook, William L. Barney, and Elizabeth R. Varon, Secession Winter: When the Union Fell Apart (2013), *Journal of American Studies* 48 (May 2014): E37 (electronic only)
- Steven Lubet, John Brown's Spy: The Adventurous Life and Tragic Confession of John E. Cook (2012), *Journal of the Civil War Era* 3 (Dec. 2013): 586-589
- Shearer Davis Bowman, At the Precipice: Americans North and South during the Secession Crisis (2010), *North Carolina Historical Review* 88 (July 2011): 366-367
- John Majewski, Modernizing a Slave Economy: The Economic Vision of the Confederate Nation (2009), *North Carolina Historical Review* 87 (Oct. 2010): 452-453
- Elizabeth Fox-Genovese and Eugene D. Genovese, Slavery in White and Black: Class and Race in the Southern Slaveholders' New World Order (2008), *Journal of Social History* 43 (Summer 2010): 1105-1107

Digital Publications:

- "Diamonds in the Archival Rough," *The Panorama* (December 31, 2025)
- Review of Reg Ankrom, Stephen A. Douglas, Western Man: The Early Years in Congress, 1844-1850 (2021), *Civil War Book Review* 24 (Winter 2022)
- Field Dispatches for *Muster* (regular feature on the *Journal of the Civil War Era* blog):
- "Presidential Politics in a Public Health Crisis: Cholera and the 1832 Election" (July 14, 2020)
 - "Popularizing Proslavery: John Van Evrie and the Mass Marketing of Proslavery Ideology" (May 26, 2020)
 - "Teaching Military History with the *Official Records*" (January 21, 2020)
 - "Before Opinion Polling: Tracking Public Sentiment in Civil War-Era Politics" (December 3, 2019)
 - "Teaching with Raw Primary Sources: The Value of Transcription" (August 27, 2019)
 - "A Historian for Troubled Times: James Parton, Andrew Jackson, and the Secession Winter" (June 4, 2019)
 - "Mudsills vs. Chivalry" (December 21, 2018)
 - "The Other Lawrence Massacre: Sectional Politics and the 1860 Pemberton Mill Disaster" (September 26, 2018)
 - "Long Haired Sixties Radicals" (July 31, 2018) [reprinted as "Those Long-Haired (18)60s Radicals," *America's Civil War* 32 (March 2019): 8-10]
 - "Neither Snow Nor Rain Nor Secession? Mail Delivery and the Experience of Disunion in 1861" (June 26, 2018)
 - "Politics of the English Language: Views from 1850" (March 30, 2018)
 - "Was There a Plot to Kill Stephen A. Douglas?" (January 30, 2018)
 - "The Dark Underbelly of Jefferson Davis's Camels" (November 21, 2017)
 - "States' Rights and Antislavery Activism" (September 22, 2017)

- “Lincoln and Douglas—and Breese? Another Look at the 1858 Illinois Senate Race,” University of North Carolina Press Blog (August 21, 2020)
- “Remembering the Davis-Douglas Debates,” University of North Carolina Press Blog (June 18, 2020)
- Discussant, “The Civil War-Era United States and Transatlantic Currents of White Supremacy,” *H-Nationalism* (January 30, 2020)
- Review of Paul Finkelman and Donald R. Kennon, eds., Civil War Congress and the Creation of Modern America: A Revolution on the Home Front (2018), *Michigan War Studies Review* (January 27, 2020)
- Review of Stephen V. Ash, Rebel Richmond: Life and Death in the Confederate Capital (2019), *H-CivWar* (January 27, 2020)
- Review of Niels Eichhorn, Liberty and Slavery: European Separatists, Southern Secession, and the American Civil War (2019), *H-Slavery* (December 8, 2019)
- Review of Lawrence A. Kreiser, Jr., Marketing the Blue and Gray: Newspaper Advertising and the American Civil War (2019), *Civil War Book Review* (Fall 2019)
- Review of Alice Elizabeth Malavasic, The F Street Mess: How Southern Senators Rewrote the Kansas-Nebraska Act (2017), *The Civil War Monitor* (July 18, 2018)
- Review of Douglas R. Egerton and Robert L. Paquette, eds., The Denmark Vesey Affair: A Documentary History (2017), *H-SC* (August 31, 2017)
- Review of Corey M. Brooks, The Liberty Power: Antislavery Third Parties and the Transformation of American Politics (2016) and Brian Gabriel, The Press and Slavery in America, 1791-1859: The Melancholy Effect of Popular Excitement (2016), *H-Slavery* (January 31, 2017)
- “Fraud, Violence, and ‘Rigged’ Elections: A Warning from Bleeding Kansas,” *Muster (Journal of the Civil War Era)* blog (September 6, 2016)
- “Slave Narratives and the Civil War,” *Essential Civil War Curriculum*, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies
- “Causes of the Civil War,” *Essential Civil War Curriculum*, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies
- “Sectionalism from the Kansas-Nebraska Act to the Election of Lincoln,” *American Yawp* (an electronic U.S. history textbook)

Research Fellowships and Awards:

- Research Travel Award, Special Collections and Archives, Clemson University, 2026
- Lewis P. Jones Research Fellowship, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 2026
- Signature Short-Term Research Stipend, Hargrett Library, University of Georgia, 2026
- Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship, Virginia Museum of History & Culture, 2025
- Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 2019-2020
- Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society, 2019
- Everett Helm Visiting Fellowship, Lilly Library, Indiana University, 2019
- Fellowship Grant, West Virginia Humanities Council, 2019
- John Marshall Summer Scholar, Marshall University, 2019
- Summer Stipend, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2016
- Fellowship Grant, West Virginia Humanities Council, 2014
- Summer Research Award, Marshall University, 2014

Robert L. Platzman Memorial Fellowship, University of Chicago Special Collections Research Center, 2014
Research Grant, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies/Virginia Tech Special Collections, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2014
Robert L. Platzman Memorial Fellowship, University of Chicago Special Collections Research Center, 2011
Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, College of Arts & Sciences, University of South Carolina, 2011-2012
Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship, Virginia Historical Society, 2011
Wilfrid and Rebecca Callcott Award, Department of History, University of South Carolina, 2010
John G. "Jack" Sproat Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship, Department of History, University of South Carolina, 2009

Other Fellowships, Awards, and Honors:

Excellence in Advising Award, University of Tennessee, 2025
Leroy P. Graf Award for Faculty Excellence, History Department, University of Tennessee, 2023
Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award, Marshall University, 2017
Finalist, Pickens-Queen Teaching Award, Marshall University, 2017
Quinlan Endowment Fund Award for Faculty Travel, Marshall University, 2014
Distinguished Graduate Scholar, University of South Carolina, 2012
District 8 History Scholarship, The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 2012
Postgraduate Travel Bursary, University of Western Australia, 2011
Graduate School Fellowship, University of South Carolina, 2007-2011
Finalist (one of five), Louis Pelzer Memorial Award, Organization of American Historians, 2009
Robert H. Wienefeld Essay Award, History Department, University of South Carolina, 2009
Phi Beta Kappa, Whitman College Chapter, inducted May 2007

Conference Presentations:

"John Van Evrie's Secession Crises: How a Manhattan Proslavery Propagandist Confronted Personal, Professional, and Political Ruin," Society of Civil War Historians, Richmond, VA, June 2026
"Proslavery Visions of Democracy," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Providence, RI, July 2025
"Marketing Reaction: Newspaper Subscriber Clubs and Mobilization against Reconstruction," Society of Civil War Historians, Raleigh, NC, June 2024
"Peddling Propaganda, Mobilizing Militants: The *New York Day Book* and the Campaign against Reconstruction," American Political History Conference, Vanderbilt University, June 2024
"'Clubs! Clubs!! Clubs!!!': Newspaper Clubs and Partisan Mobilization in the Civil War-Era United States," Electocracy in America and the Atlantic World Conference, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri, March 2024
"Proslavery Movements: Tracing the Marketing, Distribution, and Circulation of a Proslavery Newspaper in the Civil War Era," Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference: Nineteenth-Century Movement(s), Knoxville, TN, April 2023

- “Schlesinger, Van Evrie, and...Holloway?: Pondering the Problem of Conservatism in 19th-Century U.S. History and Historiography,” Conservatism in the 19th-Century Atlantic World Conference, Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford, June 2022
- Roundtable Panelist: “Editing Documents in US Political History,” American Political History Conference, Purdue University, June 2022
- “Antebellum Camel Capers and the Global Slave Power,” Animal Histories of the Civil War Symposium, Texas A&M University, April 2022
- “The Lords of the Lash and the Lords of the Ledger: Northern Proslavery Journalism and the Whig Origins of the *New York Day Book*,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (virtual conference), July 2021
- Roundtable Panelist: “More than Prospectors and Jayhawkers: Governing the West in the Civil War Era,” Society of Civil War Historians (virtual conference), June 2021
- “Disseminating Despicable Discoveries: John Van Evrie and the Promotion of Racist Pseudoscience in the American Civil War Era,” Nineteenth-Century Studies Association (virtual conference), March 2021
- “Who Supported America’s ‘First Professional Racist’?: Uncovering John Van Evrie’s Popular Audience,” Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga (virtual conference), November 2020
- *Winner, top paper award (one of three)
- Roundtable Panelist: “Revisiting the ‘Slave Power,’” Southern Historical Association, Louisville, KY, November 2019
- “The Making of a Professional Racist: The Rise of John Van Evrie’s Racist Publishing Empire in Pre-Civil War America,” Washington Early American Seminar, University of Maryland, September 2019
- Civil War Institute Summer Conference, Gettysburg College, June 2019:
Faculty Panelist: “The Political Crisis of the 1850s”
Faculty Panelist: “Artifacts of the Civil War”
- “Young Hickory, the Little Giant, and the Democratic Party in the Age of Manifest Destiny,” James K. Polk and His Time Conference, Knoxville, TN, April 2019
- “Keep Cool and Disappoint Your Enemies: Stephen A. Douglas and the Perilous Politics of Emotional Self-Control,” Society of Civil War Historians, Pittsburgh, PA, June 2018
- “Pioneers and Mongrels: Antebellum Democrats Confront the Multiracial West,” Western History Association, San Diego, CA, November 2017
- “The Davis-Douglas Debates: Race, Property, and the Fate of Democracy in 1860,” Organization of American Historians, New Orleans, LA, April 2017
- “‘Slavery Is Getting Death-Blows’: Slave Resistance and Military Assistance in Civil War West Virginia,” Annual Regional Underground Railroad Conference, Ohio River National Freedom Corridor, Maysville, KY, October 2016
- “‘A City of Mourners’: Charlestonians and a Sanguinary Strike on Sumter,” Society of Civil War Historians, Chattanooga, TN, June 2016
- “‘The Governing Race of This Country’: Race, Democracy, and Belonging in the Nineteenth-Century United States,” 16th Maple Leaf & Eagle Conference for North American Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland, May 2016
- “Tracing the ‘Sacred Relicts’: The Strange Career of Preston Brooks’s Cane,” Objects as Subjects: Material Cultures of the Civil War Era Conference, West Virginia University, October 2015

- “‘Mudsills versus Chivalry!’: Class Conflict and Total War in the Occupied South,” Filson Institute Conference, The Hard Hand of War: Civilians and Irregulars in the Civil War, Filson Historical Society, Louisville, KY, October 2014
- “‘Tell Us About State Rights!’: Republicans, States’ Rights, and Antebellum Political Realignment,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Philadelphia, PA, July 2014
- “Horace Greeley, Southern Hatred, and the Dilemma of Affective Reconstruction,” American Historical Association, Washington, DC, January 2014
- “Grief, Mourning, and Patriotism in the Southern Confederacy, 1860-1861,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, St. Louis, MO, July 2013
- “Feeling Like Confederates: Public Mourning Rituals during the Secession Crisis,” Organization of American Historians, Milwaukee, WI, April 2012
- “‘To Arouse Our Indignation and Our Pity’: A Reconsideration of British Abolitionism’s Emotional Appeal,” American Historical Association, Chicago, IL, January 2012
- “That Masterful Feeling: Emotion and Slaveholding in the Old South,” Southern Historical Association, Baltimore, MD, October 2011
- “From Masculine Virtue to Feminine Vice: Sectional Politics and Changing Views of Jealousy in the Antebellum United States,” Norbert Elias, Emotional Styles, and Historical Change Interdisciplinary Collaboratory, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, University of Adelaide, June 2011
- “A Theory of Moral Outrage: Indignation in Eighteenth-Century British Abolitionist Politics,” Conference on Emotions in the Medieval and Early Modern World, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, University of Western Australia, June 2011
- “Bringing Emotions History into the Classroom: The Secession Crisis as a Case Study,” National Council for History Education National Conference, “The Causes and Consequences of Civil Wars,” Charleston, SC, April 2011
- “The Heart of the Master Class; or, The Politics of Domestic Affection in the Plantation South,” Graduate History Conference, Louisiana State University, March 2011
- “‘What Can Preserve Us But Constant Jealousy?’: Emotion and Secession in Southern Political Rhetoric, 1827-1861,” Association of British American Nineteenth Century Historians, Liverpool, UK, October 2010
- “The Politics of ‘Sympathetic Anger’: Indignation in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Political Culture,” 2nd Annual Graduate Student American Political History Conference, Boston University, April 2010
- “The Heart of the Sectional Conflict: Emotion, Politics, and the Coming of the American Civil War,” St. George Tucker Society, Augusta, GA, August 2009
- “Echoes of the Old South: The Southern Soundscape and Social Hierarchy in Mary Boykin Chesnut’s Fiction,” Eighth Southern Conference on Women’s History, Southern Association for Women Historians, Columbia, SC, June 2009

Conference Panel Chair/Commentary:

Chair: “New Sources for the Enslaved and Enslavers,” Southern Historical Association, Kansas City, MO, October 2024

Commentator: “New Directions in Gender and Party Politics,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Philadelphia, PA, July 2023

Commentator: “Sectionalism & Secession,” Third Annual Conference on American Political History, Lebanon Valley College Center for Political History, Annville, PA, May 2019
Chair/Commentator: “Westernizing the Civil War: Case Studies of the Trans-Mississippi Borderlands,” Western History Association, San Diego, CA, November 2017
Commentator: “Managing Southern Hearts: Emotional Labor in the Old South,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Philadelphia, PA, July 2017
Commentator: “Southern Abolitionists in the Civil War Era,” Southern Historical Association, Little Rock, AR, November 2015

Invited Lectures/Events:

“Broken Churches, Broken State? Religion and Politics in Nullification-Era South Carolina,” Summer Symposium, Institute for Southern Studies, University of South Carolina, June 2026
“Scott Among the Nullifiers: Dispatches from the Front Lines of a National Crisis,” Faculty Research Colloquium, Department of History, University of Tennessee, February 2026
“Presidential Visits to Knoxville,” Blount Mansion History Lecture Series, Knoxville, TN, September 2025
“Nullifiers: Slavery, Democracy, and the Transformation of Southern Politics,” Virginia Museum of History & Culture, June 2025
“East Tennesseans and the War of 1812,” Veterans Heritage Site Foundation, Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center, June 2025
Discussant, manuscript workshop (Dr. Rachel Sheldon, *The Political Supreme Court*), Department of History, Pennsylvania State University, May 2025
Discussant, “Documentary Editing,” Richards Civil War Era Center, Pennsylvania State University, March 2025
Discussant, “Lessons Learned and Tips in Pursuing External Funding,” Office of Research and Creative Activity, University of Tennessee, February 2025
Moderator, “Presidential Panel: Who Elected the College?” The Hermitage, Nashville, TN, October 2024
“The Election of 1824 and the History of Contested Presidential Elections,” Virginia Military Institute, September 2024
“Andrew Jackson, Indian Removal, and the Cotton Kingdom,” pre-conference workshop presentation, National Council for Social Studies, Nashville, TN, November 2023
“A Northern Proslavery Propagandist Confronts Secession: John Van Evrie’s Crisis of 1861,” Massachusetts Historical Society, November 2023
“Who Supported America’s First Professional Racist?: Uncovering John Van Evrie’s Audience,” University of Tennessee History Club, October 2023
Discussant, manuscript workshop (Dr. Aaron Hall, *The Founding Rules: Slavery and the Making of American Constitutionalism, 1789-1889*), Department of History, University of Minnesota, May 2023
“Placing Douglas in the Land of Lincoln: Rethinking the Political Geography of Antebellum Illinois,” keynote address, Conference on Illinois History, Springfield, IL, October 2022
“Slavery in International Law and Domestic Politics: Insights from the Papers of Andrew Jackson,” Tennessee Department of Human Services, October 2022
“Indian Removals: Some Often-Overlooked Chapters of a Brutal History,” Seniors for Creative Learning, Knoxville, TN, September 2022

- “The Grassroots Slave Power: Tracing Proslavery Influence in the Papers of Andrew Jackson,” History Center/Institute for Southern Studies, University of South Carolina, April 2022
- “From Ohio Physician to Manhattan Proslavery Crusader: The Strange Career of John Van Evrie,” Centre College, March 2022
- “Slavery in International Law and Domestic Politics: Insights from the Papers of Andrew Jackson,” Nashville Bar Association, December 2021
- “Indian Removals: Uncovering Hidden Chapters of a Brutal History,” Presentation for the Bridge to AP US History Program, Knox County Public Schools, October 2021
- “Who Supported John Van Evrie?: Confronting the Problem of Audience,” Faculty Research Colloquium, Department of History, University of Tennessee, September 2021
- “Branding a Business of Bigotry: John Van Evrie and the Mass Marketing of ‘White Supremacy,’” American History Research Seminar, Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford, February 2021
- “Tracking John Van Evrie: How a Canadian-Born Physician Promoted Slavery, Popularized ‘White Supremacy,’ and Built a Business of Bigotry,” Honors & Scholars Programs, University of Tennessee, September 2020
- “Slavery and the ‘Cotton Kingdom’ in Tennessee and the Old South,” virtual presentation to Knox County (TN) Public Schools social studies teachers, September 2020
- “Slavery, Civil Rights, and the Gag Rule Debates in Congress,” Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education and the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, Shepherd University, July 2020
- “Revisiting the Emancipation Proclamation in West Virginia and Beyond,” Athens Civil War Roundtable/Ohio University, Athens, OH, March 2019
- Respondent, “Monuments and the Historical Memory of the Civil War in Appalachia,” Sarah Denman Faces of Appalachia Symposium, Huntington, WV, March 2019
- “West Virginia and Lincoln’s Assassination,” keynote address, Conversations on Lincoln, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, WV, April 2018
- “Under Cover of Camels: Exploring the Dark Underbelly of the Camel Experiment in the Antebellum American Southwest,” Third Thursday Speaker Series, Marshall University Center for Teaching and Learning, March 2018
- “West Virginia and the Lincoln Assassination,” Kanawha Valley Civil War Roundtable, Dunbar, WV, February 2017
- “West Virginians and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln,” Kiwanis Club of Huntington, Huntington, WV, April 2016
- “Emancipation and Statehood in West Virginia,” West Virginia Archives and History Library Lecture, Charleston, WV, August 2015
- “West Virginians and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln,” West Virginia Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, 2015
- *Huntersville Historical Traditions, Huntersville, WV, June 2015
- *Mineral County Historical Society/Potomac State College, Keyser, WV, April 2015
- “West Virginians and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln,” Sons of the American Revolution, Huntington Chapter, Huntington, WV, May 2015
- “West Virginians and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln,” Little Lecture Series, West Virginia Humanities Council, Charleston, WV, March 2015
- “What Happened to Preston Brooks’s Cane?” Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society, Marshall University, February 2015

- “Revisiting the Emancipation Proclamation: West Virginia and Beyond,” West Virginia Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, 2014
*Edgewood Summit Retirement Community, Charleston, WV, September 2014
*Dynamic Adults, 5th Ave. Baptist Church, Huntington, WV, May 2014
“Statehood and Emancipation at 151: The View from the Mountain State,” Kanawha Valley Civil War Roundtable, South Charleston, WV, April 2014
“*Lincoln: A Historian’s Perspective*,” Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society, Marshall University, March 2014
“The Emancipation Proclamation in History and Memory,” Columbia Philatelic Society, Columbia, SC, January 2013

Interviews/Appearances:

- “Andrew Jackson’s Presidency and Papers,” Take on the South Podcast, Institute for Southern Studies, University of South Carolina, May 11, 2022
Interview regarding *Arguing until Doomsday*, The Age of Jackson Podcast, October 23, 2020
Interview regarding *Arguing until Doomsday*, H-CivWar, August 6, 2020
Interview regarding *Arguing until Doomsday*, Gettysburg College Civil War Institute and The Tattooed Historian, June 15, 2020
Guest on #writewednesday, a monthly Twitter-based interview about writing, Graduate Council, Society for Civil War Historians, August 9, 2017
Interview regarding *Ultimate General: Gettysburg* [computer game], History Respawned Podcast, January 31, 2017
Interview regarding secession and West Virginia statehood, “Houston Matters,” Houston Public Media, July 27, 2016
Book talk/interview regarding *Emotional and Sectional Conflict in the Antebellum United States*, “Chapters” (Armstrong Cable), April 20, 2015
Interview regarding Lincoln assassination, “West Virginia Morning,” West Virginia Public Broadcasting, April 15, 2015
Interview regarding Lincoln assassination, “Talkline,” WV MetroNews, April 14, 2015

Teaching Experience:

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Undergraduate Courses:

- The American Presidency
- History of the United States to 1877
- Construction and Reconstruction of the American Republic
- Early American Republic
- Exploring Jacksonian America [honors course]
- History of Capitalism in America and Beyond

Graduate Courses:

- Readings in U.S. Political History
- Readings in Early U.S. Political History
- Readings on the Sectional Conflict and Secession
- Parties, Politics, and Power in the 19th-Century U.S. [research seminar]
- Biography and Microhistory [research seminar]

PhD Dissertations (Director):

- Rachel E. Wiedman, “Stern and Aggressive, as Befitted the Times: Masculinity, Statesmanship, and the Transformation of Northern Political Culture in the Civil War Era” (in progress)
- John Morden (in progress)
- Zach Ledbetter (in progress)
- Margaret Haggerty (in progress)
- Roraig Finney, “Strangers in Dixie’s Land: How the South Confronted the Age of Mass Migration, 1850-1924” (Summer 2026)
- Kiana Rubish, “Clipping Ammunition: Comparing Black American Scrapbooks” (Summer 2026)
- Amanda M. Deanda, “A ‘Memorable Occasion:’ Remembering the Convention and Interpreting the Constitution, 1787-1861” (Spring 2025)

PhD Dissertations (Committee Member):

- Camren Alexa Lewin, “Urban ‘Ruin-All’: Race, Class and Redevelopment in Knoxville, Tennessee, 1950-1979” (Summer 2026)
- Kyle Vratarich, “‘Distinguished Scoundrel’: General Orville Babcock, the Whiskey Ring, and the Dawn of a New Breed of Political Operative” (Summer 2025)
- Lorraine Dias Herbon, “Public Wife: The Life of Jessie Benton Frémont” (Spring 2022)

MA Theses (Director):

- Rachel E. Wiedman, “A Character and a Fame to Model Their Own: Statesmanship, Masculinity, and Honor in Northern Political Culture, 1852-1874” (Fall 2023)
- Amanda M. Klug, “Memory of the Constitutional Convention and the Madison Papers” (Fall 2021)

MA Theses (Committee Member):

- Aimee Hunt-Beasley, “The Great Commission and the Confederacy: Southern Baptist Missions during the Civil War” (Fall 2025)
- Mary Beth Pierce, “The Starrs: An Early History of a Cherokee Family, 1776-1846” (Summer 2025)
- Jeremy D. Long, “41 for Freedom: Ballistic Missile Submariners and the Nuclear Deterrent Shield during the Cold War” (Spring 2024)
- Jordan Bolster, “The Digital Face of Airpower: Asymmetry, Artificial Intelligence and Intimate Combat in the Twenty-First Century United States Air Force” (Fall 2023)

Undergraduate Honors Theses (Director):

- Wolfgang Sulk, “The Parasites of the Internal Improvement System: Turnpikes in Tennessee 1830-1845” (Spring 2025)
- Madison Adkins, “Poor Whites of the Antebellum South: How a Misunderstood Social Class Became a Point of Controversy in Slavery Debates” (Winter 2022)
- Phillip Taylor Clark, “Memorializing the New Market Battalion: The Construction of Lost Cause Memory at Virginia Military Institute, 1866-1939” (Spring 2022)

Marshall University

Undergraduate Courses:

American History to 1877	Gilded Age America, 1877-1900
History of the Old South, 1492-1860	U.S. West to 1900
American Civil War and Reconstruction	The American Presidency [honors seminar]
History of the New South, 1877-Present	

Graduate Courses:

History of the Old South, 1492-1860	Seminar in Reconstruction
American Civil War and Reconstruction	Seminar in U.S. Political History
History of the New South, 1877-Present	Readings in Southern History
Gilded Age America, 1877-1900	Readings in 19 th -Century U.S. History
U.S. West to 1900	

MA Theses (Director):

- Jacob M. Thomas, “The Cape Fear Ran Red: Memory of the Wilmington Race Riot and Coup d’État of 1898” (Fall 2019)
- Lauren M. Milton, “Civil Neighbors to Violent Foes: Guerrilla Warfare in Western Virginia During the Civil War” (Summer 2019)
- John M. McMillan, “Impracticable, Inhospitable, and Dismal Country: An Examination of the Environmental Impact on Civil War Operations in West Virginia” (Spring 2018)
- Seth Nichols, “‘Let Us Bury and Forget’: Civil War Memory and Identity in Cabell County, West Virginia, 1865-1915” (Spring 2017)
- Michael Emett, “‘Or This Whole Affair Is a Failure’: A Special Treasury Agent’s Observations of the Port Royal Experiment, Port Royal, South Carolina, April to May, 1862” (Summer 2016)

MA Theses (Committee Member):

- Amanda R. Shaver, “‘Our Women Are Made of the Right Stuff’: Gender, Politics, and Conflict in Civil War West Virginia” (Spring 2021)
- William Tanner Smoot, “In the Company of Angels: Expressions of Personal Autonomy, Authority, and Agency in Early Anglo-Saxon Monasticism” (Spring 2017)
- Brandon Ray Kirk, “Desperate and Determined Men: West Virginia’s Lincoln County Feud” (Spring 2017)
- Jennifer Spoor (English Dept.), “Remembering Breece Pancake” (Fall 2015)
- Andrew Lore, “The Politics of War: Neoconservatism, The Abrams Doctrine, and the War Powers Resolution” (Spring 2015)

External Reader

PhD Dissertations

- Michael Emett, “The Northern View of the Southern Shore: Experience, Reconciliation, and Commemoration in Postbellum Charleston,” University of South Carolina (Spring 2024)

Service:

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Service to the University

Editorial Board, University of Tennessee Press, 2024-present

Service to the College of Arts and Sciences

Dean's Advisory Council, 2022-2025

Service to the Department of History

Undergraduate Committee, 2025-2026

Leroy Graf Award Committee, 2023-2026

Head's Advisory Committee, 2023-2025, spring 2026

Chair, Ad Hoc Strategic Vision Committee, 2025

Chair, Bernadotte Schmitt Chair of Excellence Search Committee, 2024

Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Bernadotte Schmitt Chair of Excellence Search, 2024

Promotion Committee, 2023-2024, 2025-2026

Gender & Sexuality Search Committee, 2023-2024

Bridge Program Mentor, 2023, 2024

Ad Hoc Search Committee, 2023

Americanist Caucus Facilitator, 2022-2024

Graduate Committee/Graduate Admissions Working Group, 2021-2024

Speaker Committee, 2021-2022, 2023-2024

Marshall University

Service to the University

Faculty Senate Standing Committee – Library, 2015-2020

Board Member, Marshall University Library Associates, 2015-2020

Presidential Committee to Examine Building Names, 2018-2019

Facilitator/presenter, Writing Across the Curriculum Faculty Workshop, October 2017

Service to the College of Liberal Arts

Organizing Committee, Undergraduate Research & Creativity Conference, 2013-2019

Faculty Concerns Committee, 2017-2019 (chair, 2017-2018)

Curriculum Committee, 2015-2018

Research Committee, 2013-2015

Service to the Department of History

Blake-Hulse Scholarship Selection Committee, 2014-2020

Assessment Committee, 2014-2017 (chair, 2015-2016)

Other Professional Service and Experience:

Board of Historians, Essential Civil War Curriculum, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, 2016-present

Editorial Board Member, *West Virginia History*, 2015-2017, 2022-present

Chair, Watson Brown Prize Committee, Society of Civil War Historians, 2026

Judge, East Tennessee History Day (regional contest for National History Day), 2026

Visiting Fellow in Assessment, AP US History, 2025

Grant Application Reviewer, Leverhulme Trust, 2023

Peer Review Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2019, 2022

List Editor, H-Emotions listserv, 2012-2020

Co-editor, *West Virginia History*, 2017-2020

Membership Committee Member, Southern Historical Association, 2019-2020

Program Committee Member (for 2017 meeting), Southern Historical Association, 2016

Book manuscript review:

Bloomsbury; Cambridge University Press; University of Illinois Press; Johns Hopkins University Press; Kent State University Press; Liverpool University Press; Louisiana State University Press; Southern Illinois University Press; University of Chicago Press; University of North Carolina Press; University of Pennsylvania Press; University of South Carolina Press; University of Virginia Press

Book proposal review:

Bloomsbury; University of Illinois Press; University of North Carolina Press; Palgrave Macmillan; Routledge Press; Rotunda (University of Virginia Press)

Article manuscript review:

American Nineteenth Century History; *American Political Thought*; *Church History*; *Civil War History*; *Emotions: History, Culture, Society*; *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*; *History of Education*; *Journal of American History*; *Journal of American Studies*; *Journal of Southern History*; *Journal of the Civil War Era*; *Kansas History*; *North Carolina Historical Review*; *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*; *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*; *West Virginia History*