

March 2013

## **Scott Reynolds Nelson**

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### **Education**

MA & PhD, US History, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1995

BA, (highest honors and *Magna Cum Laude*), History, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1987

Two years undergraduate coursework, Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, 1981-82

### **Academic Positions**

#### **College of William & Mary**

*Legum Professor of History*, 2007 to present

*Associate Professor of History*, 2001-2007

*Assistant Professor of History*, 1994-2001

*Course Director*. Summer Research Program. Summer 1994. Intensive history workshop to recruit talented African-American students into graduate school in history

### **Honors, Prizes and Awards**

2011 Plumeri Award for Faculty Excellence, College of William & Mary

Charles Warren Fellow, Harvard University, 2010-2011

Patrick Henry Writer's Fellow, Washington College, 2010-2011 (declined)

Lloyd Lewis Fellow in American History, Newberry Library, 2009-2010

OAH Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians, 2008-present

Legum Professor in the Social Sciences, 2007-present

Commonwealth of Virginia Distinguished Scholar, 2007-present

Awards for *A Nation of Deadbeats*

"Favorite Business Books of 2012," *Bloomberg Business Week*

Awards for *Steel Drivin' Man*

Merle Curti Prize: best book in US Social and Cultural History, Organization of American Historians, 2007  
Virginia Literary Award for Nonfiction, 2007  
Anisfield-Wolf Literary Prize for Nonfiction, 2007  
National Award for Fine Arts, 2007

Awards for *Ain't Nothing But a Man*

Jane Addams Prize, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, 2009  
NCTE Notable Children's Book in the Language Arts, National Center for Teachers of English, 2009  
"Notable Book" & "Best Book for Young Adults," American Library Association, 2009  
NCSS-NCB Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People, 2009  
Aesop Prize: best book in folklore, American Folklore Society, 2008  
Best of 2008 from *Booklist*, *Publishers Weekly*, and Chicago Public Library

C. Ballard Breaux Visiting Fellow, Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky, 2003

Alternate, American Council of Learned Societies Fellow, March 2003

Summer Research Grant, College of William and Mary, 1997

George E. Mowry Dissertation Fellow, University of North Carolina, 1994

Four-Year Fellow, University of North Carolina, guaranteed admission to doctoral program, 1987-1991

*Phi Beta Kappa*, University of North Carolina, 1987

Student Stores Scholarship, University of North Carolina, 1985

Martin Marietta Physics Internship, Summer 1982

## **Research**

### ***Books***

*A Nation of Deadbeats: An Uncommon History of America's Financial Disasters* (Knopf, 2012)

*Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, the Untold Story of an American Legend* (Oxford University Press, 2006)

*Iron Confederacies: Southern Railways, Klan Violence, and Reconstruction* (University of North Carolina Press, 1999)

### ***Co-Authored Books***

With Carol Sheriff, *A People at War: Civilians and Soldiers in America's Civil War* (Oxford University Press, 2007)

With Marc Aronson, *Ain't Nothing But A Man* (National Geographic Children's Books, 2007)

### ***Refereed Articles***

"A Storm of Cheap Goods: New American Commodities and the Panic of 1873," *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 10 (Oct. 2011): 447-453.

"An American War of Incarceration: Guerilla Warfare, Occupation, and Imprisonment in the American South, 1863-1865," in Stephen J. Rockel and Rick Halpern, *Inventing Collateral Damage: Civilian Casualties, War, and Empire* (Between the Lines, 2009).

"After Slavery: Forced Drafts of Irish and Chinese Labor in the American Civil War, or The Search for Liquid Labor" in Emma Christopher, Cassandra Pybus, and Marcus Rediker, ed., *Many Middle Passages: Forced Migration and the Making of the Modern World* (University of California Press, September 2007)

"Who Was John Henry? Railroad Construction, Southern Folklore and the Birth of Rock and Roll," *Labor: Studies of Working Class History of the Americas* 2 (May 2005), 53-79. Reprinted in Pippa Holloway, ed., *Other Souths: Diversity and Difference in the U.S. South, Reconstruction to Present* (University of Georgia Press, 2008)

"Red Strings and Half-Brothers: Civil War in Alamance County, North Carolina" in John Inscoe and Robert Kenzer, ed., *Enemies of the Country: Unionism in the South During the Civil War* (University of Georgia Press, 2001)

"Livestock, Boundaries, and Public Space in Spartanburg: African-American Men, Elite White Women and the Spectacle of Conjugal Relations," in Martha Hodes, ed., *Sex, Love, Race: Crossing Boundaries in North American History* (New York University Press, 1999)

"The Confederacy serves the Southern: the Construction of the Southern Railway Network, 1861-65," *Civil War History* 41 (September 1995): 227-43

### ***Languages***

Reading ability in German; limited French, Spanish, and Russian

### ***Commissioned Scholarly Writing***

"The Soul of Invention," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 25 Mar. 2013

- “‘Django’ Untangled: the Legend of the Bad Black Man,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 11 Jan. 2013
- “Borrowed Dreams” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 14 Sep. 2012
- “Attribution Lacking, or the Day a Dutch Financial Newspaper Stole My Grandmother,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 24 April 2009. Reprinted in the *Toronto Star*
- “Mad Men in the He-Cession: Masculinity, Macaroni, and Mayhem in America's Financial Panics,” *Chronicle of Higher Education* 17 January 2010
- “A Symbiotic Relationship,” “Echoes of 1893,” and “Wool Suits, Canned Goods and the P.C.” all commissioned articles for the *New York Times* “Room for Debate” blog, 2009
- “The Paradox of the Perp Walk,” *Chronicle of Higher Education* 13 July 2009
- “The Real Great Depression” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 17 Oct. 2008. Released online on 1 October 2008, this article about the Panic of 1873 has since been translated into German (*Weltwoche*), French (*Le Devoir*), Spanish (*La Republica* in Peru, *Cotizalia* in Spain), Italian (*Il Foglio*), Korean (*Hankyoreh*), and Hungarian (*Portfolio*). It has also been featured in the Metro section of the *New York Times*

### ***Invited Talks and Keynote Addresses***

- “Nation of Deadbeats,” Banner Lecture, Virginia Historical Society, November 2012
- “Nation of Deadbeats,” Penn Social Science and Policy Forum, October 2012
- “Financial Crises and the Political Pendulum: How Trade Wars, White Whales, and Stimulus Packages Have Created American Presidents,” Wellesley College, October 2012
- “America’s First Great Depression: Monkey Jackets, the Uncorked Mississippi and the Panic of 1819,” Kendrick J. Kelley Lecture, Davidson College, November 2011
- “From Mortgage Crisis to Market Meltdown: the Infamous 1870s,” President’s Reception, Newberry Library, Chicago, June 2010
- “From Mortgage Crisis to Market Meltdown: the Infamous 1870s,” CLSA-U seminar for fund managers, Las Vegas, Nevada, February, 2009 and Hong Kong, China, June 2009
- Seminar Series on the Financial Crisis, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, January 2009
- West Virginia Humanities Council Lecture, “The Ballad of John Henry,” Huntington, West Virginia, November 2008

Keynote Speaker, Baker-Nord Center – Cleveland Foundation Lecture, “Taking Folklore Seriously,” Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, October 2008

American History Colloquium, “The Revolution of Little Cans and the ‘American Commercial Invasion’ of Europe,” Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland, February 2008

The Clinton Institute for American Studies Conference, “Civil War Provisioning, Branded Foods, and the Agricultural Origins of American Empire,” University College Cork, Ireland, April 2008

Annual Sutphin Lecturer in the Humanities, University of Indianapolis, Indiana, October 2007

Newberry Library Seminar, “Defecation Fictions: The Closed Economy of the Prison Camp,” Chicago, Illinois, December 2006

Colligan Memorial Lecture, Miami University of Ohio-Hamilton, “The Death of John Henry and the Birth of Rock and Roll,” Hamilton, Ohio, March 2006

Black History Month lecture, “Take this Hammer,” Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Virginia, February 2006

Smithsonian Journeys, “Three lectures on Southern Culture,” Delta Queen Riverboat from Memphis to New Orleans, April 2005

Second Annual Farnsworth Lecture in History, Keene State College, “Take this Hammer: the Death of John Henry and the Birth of Rock & Roll,” Keene, NH, March 2005

Filson Historical Society Lecturer, “The Life and Death of John Henry,” Louisville, May 2004

Keynote Address, Virginia Collegiate Honors Council, “The Ballad of John Henry: Hammer Men, New Technologies and a Dirge for the New South,” March 2004

Keynote address, Thirtieth Annual John Henry Festival, “Following the trail of John Henry on the C&O Railroad”, Morgantown, West Virginia, October 2002

Keynote address, YMI Cultural Center’s Education and the Arts Forum, “The Plantation South Meets the Mountain South: How Asheville and other Railroad Hubs Became the Birthplace of American Music”, Asheville, North Carolina, October 2002

Phi Alpha Theta Lecture, UNC Asheville, “The Spectacle of Engineering Power and Colossal Failure: the ballad of John Henry,” Asheville, North Carolina, October 2002

American Chemical Society Landmark Presentation, New York University, “John W. Draper analyzes the American Civil War: Chemistry, Geography, Psychohistory,” New York, New York, November 2001

***Selected Scholarly Talks***

- “ ‘There is that Leviathan Whom Thou Hast Made’: Rethinking Jackson’s Bank War,”  
Harvard Program on Justice, Welfare and Economics, March 2011
- “Who Put the Roar in the Roaring Twenties? The Federal Reserve, the European Bond Boom,  
and the Second Great Depression, 1929-1939, Harvard University Workshop on the  
History of North America in Global Perspective, January 2011
- “ ‘Take this Hammer’: The Life and Death of John Henry,” Organization of American  
Historians Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 2006
- “After Slavery: Forced Drafts of Irish and Chinese Labor in the American Civil War,” Middle  
Passages Conference, Fremantle Maritime Museum, Western Australia, July 2005
- “Hammer's Gonna Be the Death of Me: How the Black Code in Prince George County Killed  
John Henry, the Steel-Drivin' Man,” Conference on African-Americans and the Civil  
War, Petersburg, Virginia, May 2005
- “An American War of Incarceration: Guerilla Warfare, Occupation, and Imprisonment in the  
American South, 1863-1865,” for “Collateral Damage: Civilian Casualties from  
Antiquity through the Gulf Wars,” Toronto, Ontario, May 2004
- “Defecation Fictions: Circulation and the Closed Economy of the Prison Camp,” Whitney  
Humanities Seminar on Gender, Violence, and Human Rights, Yale University, New  
Haven, Connecticut, January 2000
- “Embodying Landscapes: Railway Construction Workers Build the New South” for “The  
Color of Sweat: Race, Gender, and the Body in Labor History” at the Social Science  
History Association, Chicago, Illinois, November 1998
- “Red Strings and Half Brothers: Civil War in Alamance County, North Carolina” at the  
University of Richmond, Douglas Southall Freeman Symposium, Richmond, Virginia,  
April 1998
- “Domestic Partnerships in Bloody Spartanburg: African-American Men, Elite White Women  
and the Spectacle of Conjugal Relations” at the Berkshire Conference on the History of  
Women, Chapel Hill, NC, June 1996
- “Constructing the Carolina Klansman: Railway Networks, Interstate Trade and the  
Fashioning of Whiteness during Reconstruction, 1868-1871,” at the annual meeting of  
the Organization of American Historians, Washington, DC, April 1995
- “Race, Reason and the State: White Workers and Southern Railroads after 1865” for panel on  
“Race, Labor and Power in the Postbellum South” at the annual meeting of the  
Southern Historical Association, Louisville, Kentucky, November 1994

### ***Reviews of Books***

I have reviewed books in *Journal of American History*, *American Historical Review*, *Reviews in American History*, *William and Mary Quarterly*, *Atlanta History*, *International Labor and Working-Class History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Journal of Social History*, *Labor History*, *Florida Historical Quarterly*, *Western Historical Quarterly*, and *Science and Society*.

### ***Work in Progress or Submitted***

“Four Horsemen of the Liberal Apocalypse: The Great Panic of 1873-1877,” book manuscript in progress

“The F Street Mess: The Railway Kings and the Coming of the Civil War,” book manuscript in progress

### **Courses Taught**

Southern Cultures: From the Field Holler to NASCAR - *undergraduate lecture*

Research Seminar in US history, 1815-present - *graduate research seminar*

Gender and the Civil War - *undergraduate research seminar*

The Literature and History of American History - *graduate seminar on historical methods and historiography. Both halves of this survey.*

The American Civil War - *upper-division undergraduate lecture*

The Gilded Age - *undergraduate lecture on U.S. History, 1865-1901*

Antebellum Richmond - *seminar, with final papers distributed on the Web*

“Dark and Bloody Ground: The Postwar South” - *seminar on Southern history from 1865 to 1920*

United States History Survey - *both halves of this survey*

### **Graduate Students Directed**

#### **MA's directed**

Bridget Reddick, History, 2002

Ellen Adams, History, 2002

Zachary Lowe, History, 2003

Jill Pesesky, History, 2004

Michael Sclafani, History, 2006

Jackson Sasser, American Studies, 2007

Judge Glock, History, 2007

### **PhDs directed**

Julie Lautenschlager, American Studies, "Food fight!: America's ideological battle over lunch," 2003 (published 2006 by McFarland & Co.)

Toby Chieffo-Reidway, American Studies, "Nathaniel Jocelyn: in the service of art and abolition," 2005

Leni Sorenson, American Studies, "Absconded: fugitive slaves in the daybook of the Richmond Police Guard, 1834-1844," 2005

Jennifer Luff, American Studies, (coadvisor) "Judas exposed: labor spies in the United States," 2006 (published 2012 by University of North Carolina Press)

Seth Bruggeman, American Studies, "Birthing Washington: Objects, Memory, and the Creation of a National Monument," 2006 (published 2008 by University of Georgia Press)

Kate Cote-Gillin, History, "'From Eager Lips Came Shrill Hurrahs': Women, Gender, and Racial Violence in South Carolina, 1865-1900," 2007 (forthcoming 2013 by University of South Carolina Press)

### **Selected Professional Service**

Associate Editor, *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, 2003-2011

Editorial Board, *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*, 2007-2011

Editorial Board, *Labor: Studies of Working Class History of the Americas*, 2007-present

Mellon Advisory Board, Project TORCH: The Online Resource Center in the Humanities, Spring 2003-Fall 2004. Project to build an online archive of University Press monographs

Electronic communications chair, Labor and Working Class History Association, 1998-2001

Editorial Board, Society for the History of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, 1998-2001

### **Selected University Service**

Chair, Retention, Promotion, Tenure Committee, 2012

Member, Retention, Promotion, Tenure Committee, 2011-12

Ombudsperson, Graduate Arts and Sciences, 2005-2007, 2001-2003

Secretary, Faculty Assembly, Fall 2005-Spring 2006

Faculty Assembly Representative, Fall 1998-Spring 2001, Fall 2002-Spring 2003, Fall 2005-Spring 2006

Information Technology Advisory Committee, Fall 2002-Fall 2003

American Studies Executive, Fall 2001-Fall 2003