

November 2007

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

Virginia Literary Award for Nonfiction, for *Steel Drivin' Man*, September 2007

Anisfield-Wolf Literary Prize for Nonfiction, for *Steel Drivin' Man*, April 2007

National Award for Fine Arts, for *Steel Drivin' Man*, April 2007

Merle Curti Prize for the best book in US Social and Cultural History, Organization of American Historians, for *Steel Drivin' Man*, March 2007

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

Alternate, American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, March 2003

Summer Research Grant, College of William and Mary, 1997

George E. Mowry Dissertation Fellowship, 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

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

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

Co-authored with Carol Sheriff, *A People at War: Civilians and Soldiers in America's Civil War* (Oxford University Press, Mar. 2007)

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

Refereed Articles

"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

"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)

"A Whiter Shade of Paleface", *Reviews in American History* 28 (March 2000)

"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

Invited Talks and Keynote Addresses

Annual Sutphin Lectures in the Humanities, University of Indianapolis, October 2007

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

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

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

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

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

Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky, "The Life and Death of John Henry," 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, Morgantown, West Virginia, "Following the trail of John Henry on the C&O Railroad", October 2002

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

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

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

B&O Railroad Museum, Baltimore, Ohio, "Postwar Railway Systems and the Birth of the South Carolina Klan," June 2000

Selected Scholarly Talks

- “ ‘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, 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, 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, D.C., 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 *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

"Disturbances: The Great Panic of 1873-1877," book manuscript in progress

"Love, Hate, and Death in Civil-War Prisons," book manuscript in progress, three chapters completed

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, to 1877*

US 1850-1877 – *upper-division undergraduate lecture*

The Gilded Age - *undergraduate and graduate seminars 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 to 1877

United States History Survey since 1877

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

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 (forthcoming 2008 by University of North Carolina Press)

Seth Bruggeman, *American Studies*, "Birthing Washington: Objects, Memory, and the Creation of a National Monument," 2006 (forthcoming 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

Selected Professional Service

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

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

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

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

Media Appearances

Kick Out the Jams with Dave Marsh, Sirius Satellite Radio, December 2006.

Studio 360, Public Radio International, November 2006.

History Channel, *Presidential Prophecies*, premiere October 2005.

History Channel, *Giants: Friend or Foe?*, premiere June 2003.

National Public Radio, *With Good Reason*, December, 2001.

National Public Radio, *With Good Reason*, May, 1999.

National Public Radio, *Weekend All Things Considered*, December 1998.

WOL radio, Baltimore-Washington, Interview with Bernie McCain, December 1998.