

July 2010

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

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, 2008-2011

Legum Professor in the Social Sciences, 2007 to present

Commonwealth of Virginia Distinguished Scholar, 2007 to present

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

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, 2007)

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

Refereed Articles

- “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 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*.
- “Attribution Lacking, or the Day a Dutch Financial Newspaper Stole My Grandmother,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 24 April 2009. Reprinted in the *Toronto Star*.
- “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.

"Mad Men in the He-Cession: Masculinity, Macaroni, and Mayhem in America's Financial Panics," *Chronicle of Higher Education* 17 January 2010.

Invited Talks and Keynote Addresses

"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

" '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 *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

“Crash: An Uncommon History of American Financial Disasters,” book manuscript under contract with Alfred A. Knopf

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*

Gender and the Civil War - *upper-division undergraduate seminar*

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 – *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 (forthcoming 2010 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

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