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EDUCATION

Ph.D., American History, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va., 1996-2002.
Dissertation: "The Texture of Contact: European and Indian Settler Communities on the
Iroquoian Borderlands, 1700-1780."
Dissertation Advisor: James Axtell, Kenan Professor of Humanities
M.A., American History, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va., 1995-1997.
B.A., History, Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Va., (magna cum laude), 1990-1994.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND TEACHING EXPERIENCES

2019- General Mark W. Clark Distinguished Professor of History

2015-2019 Professor of History, The Citadel
Teaching fields: Colonial North America, the American Revolution, American
Indian history, the French & Indian War; military leadership; U.S. military history.

2009-2015 Associate Professor of History, The Citadel, Charleston, S.C.

2003-2009 Assistant Professor of History, The Citadel, Charleston, S.C.

2002-2003 Visiting Assistant Professor, College of William and Mary and the National Institute
of American History and Democracy.

2000 Lecturer, Department of History, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg,
Va. Taught upper-level class on American Indian History.

1996-2002 Graduate Assistantship, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

1995-2003 United States Government, Department of the Interior, National Park Service.
Seasonal Historian, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Va.
[Interpreted colonial, revolutionary, antebellum, and Civil War history].

BOOK AWARDS FOR *BRADDOCK'S DEFEAT* (2015)

- 2016 Winner, Guggenheim-Lehrman Prize in Military History (\$50,000 Prize awarded to the best book on military history published in the English language).
- 2016 Finalist, George Washington Book Prize.
- 2016 Winner, Distinguished Book Award in U.S. History, Society for Military History.
- 2016 Winner, 63rd Distinguished Book Award, Society of Colonial Wars.
- 2016 Winner, PROSE Award in U.S. History, Association of American Publishers.
- 2015 Winner, Judge Robert Woltz History Award, French & Indian War Foundation.

BOOK AWARDS FOR *THE TEXTURE OF CONTACT* (2009)

- 2010 Winner, Albert B. Corey Prize for Best Book on Canadian/American relations, from the American Historical Association and Canadian Historical Association
- 2010 Excellence in Research Book Award, New York State Archives Partnership Trust.

RECENT AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

- 2023 Citadel Faculty Award for Excellence in Research
- 2018 U.S. Army War College, Commandant's National Security Program, Carlisle, Pa.
- 2018-2019 Awarded a full-year sabbatical, The Citadel
- 2017 American History Educator of Year Award, South Carolina Society Sons of the American Revolution.
- 2014-2018 Research Grant, Organization of American Historians (OAH) and National Park Service (NPS), to write a book-length interpretive study for the Saratoga National Historical Park, New York.

I. SCHOLARSHIP, PUBLICATIONS, AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

BOOKS IN PROGRESS (Under contract, or represented by literary agency)

Washington's Victory (Projected sequel to Braddock's Defeat, represented by the Wylie Agency).

The Death and Rebirth of an Army: The Ticonderoga Campaign of 1758, in the Fort Ticonderoga at War Series. Under contract with Westholme Publishing, 2018.

BOOKS

David L. Preston, with Wayne E. Lee (UNC Chapel Hill), David J. Silbey (Cornell University), and Anthony E. Carlson (U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies), The Other Face of Battle: America's Forgotten Wars and the Experience of Combat (Oxford University Press, 2021).

David L. Preston, Colonial Saratoga: War and Peace on the Borderlands of Early America, Historic Resources Study, Saratoga National Historical Park (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2019).

James Kirby Martin and David Preston, editors, Theaters of the American Revolution (Yardley, Pennsylvania: Westholme Publishing, 2017).

Braddock's Defeat: The Battle of the Monongahela and the Road to Revolution (Oxford University Press, 2015), *Pivotal Moments in American History* Series edited by David Hackett Fischer and James McPherson.

The Texture of Contact: European and Indian Settler Communities on the Iroquoian Borderlands, 1720-1780 *The Iroquoians and Their World* book series (University of Nebraska Press, 2009).

ARTICLE IN SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE

“The Trigger: A Just-Discovered Account Provides Startling New Evidence that it was George Washington Who Fired the Shot that Sparked the French and Indian War,” Smithsonian Magazine Vol. 50, no. 6 (October 2019): 30-41, 78.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/when-young-george-washington-started-war-180973076/>

REVIEWS IN WALL STREET JOURNAL

“Washington’s Indian War.” Review of William Hogeland, Autumn of the Black Snake: The Creation of the U.S. Army and the Invasion that Opened the West (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2017), in The Wall Street Journal, June 29, 2017.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/president-washingtons-indian-war-1498688622>

“The Lucky Moment in War.” Review of D. Peter MacLeod, Northern Armageddon: The Battle of the Plains of Abraham and the Coming of the American Revolution (Knopf, 2016), in The Wall Street Journal, April 30, 2016.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-lucky-moment-in-war-1461953741>

ESSAYS IN PEER-REVIEWED COLLECTIONS OR JOURNALS

“Varieties of ‘Patriotism’ in the Post-1763 British Empire: The Strange Career of Charles Lee,” in Robert A. Olwell and James M. Vaughn, eds., Envisioning Empire: The New British World from 1763 to 1773 (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, U.K., 2020), 197-225.

“Squatters, Indians, Proprietary Government, and Land in the Susquehanna Valley,” in Daniel K. Richter and William Pencak, eds., Friends and Enemies in Penn’s Woods: Indians, Colonists, and the Racial Construction of Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004), 180-200.

“‘We intend to live our lifetime together as brothers’: Palatine and Iroquois Communities in the 18th-century Mohawk Valley,” New York History 89, no. 2 (Spring 2009): 179-90.

“‘Make Indians of our White Men’: British Soldiers and Indian Warriors from Braddock’s to Forbes’s Campaigns, 1755-1758,” Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies 74 (Summer 2007): 280-306.

“George Klock, the Canajoharie Mohawks, and the Good Ship *Sir William Johnson*: Land, Legitimacy, and Community in the Eighteenth-Century Mohawk Valley,” New York History: Special Issue on the Seven Years’ War in America 86, no. 4 (Fall 2005): 473-500.

“The Key to Victory: Fighter Command and the Tactical Air Reserves During the Battle of Britain,” Air Power History (Winter 1994): 19-29.

REVIEWS IN PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS

Review of Theodore Corbett, A Maritime History of the American Revolution: An Atlantic-Wide Conflict Over Independence and Empire, in Choice Reviews (January 2024 Vol. 61 No. 5).

Review of Chad L. Anderson, The Storied Landscape of Iroquoia: History, Conquest, and Memory in the Native Northeast, (Borderlands and Transcultural Studies. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2020), William and Mary Quarterly Volume 80, Number 2 (April 2023): 389-393.

Review of Nicole Eustace, Covered with Night: A Story of Murder and Indigenous Justice in Early America (Liverlight Publishing, 2021), Journal of American History Vol 110 (June 2023): 124-25.

Review of Rachel Herrmann, No Useless Mouth: Waging War and Fighting Hunger in the American Revolution (Cornell University Press, 2019) in Journal of British Studies Vol 62, Issue 2 (April 2023): 519 – 520.

Review of C. Bradley Thompson, America’s Revolutionary Mind: A Moral History of the American Revolution and the Declaration that Defined It (Encounter Books, 2019), in Choice Reviews (June 2020).

Review of Seanegan P. Sculley, Contest for Liberty: Military Leadership in the Continental Army, 1775-1783 (Westholme Publishing, 2019), in Choice Reviews (February 2020).

Review of Ian K. Steele, Setting the Captives Free: Capture, Adjustment, and Recollection in Allegheny Country (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013), Ethnohistory Vol. 63, no. 3 (July 2016).

Review of Gregory Dowd, Groundless: Rumors, Legends, and Hoaxes on the Early American Frontier (Johns Hopkins, 2015), Choice Reviews (November 2016)

Review of David La Vere, The Tuscarora War: Indians, Settlers, and the Fight for the Carolina Colonies (University of North Carolina Press, 2013), Choice Reviews (July 2014)

Review of Joseph Ellis, Revolutionary Summer: The Birth of American Independence (Alfred A. Knopf, 2013) in Choice Reviews (November 2013).

Review of Theodore Corbett, No Turning Point: The Saratoga Campaign in Perspective (University of Oklahoma Press, 2012), in Choice Reviews (May 2013).

Review of Eliot Cohen, Conquered into Liberty: Two Centuries of Warfare Along the Great Warpath that Made the American Way of War (2011), in H-Diplo Roundtable Review 14, no.5 (October 22, 2012): 13-16.
<<http://h-diplo.org/roundtables/PDF/Roundtable-XIV-5.pdf>>

Review of Paul Mapp, The Elusive West and the Contest for Empires, 1713-1763 (University of North Carolina Press, 2010) in Reviews in American History 40 (September 2012): 376-80.

Review of Wayne Lee, Barbarians & Brothers: Anglo-American Warfare, 1500-1865 (University of North Carolina Press, 2011) in Journal of British Studies 51 (July 2012): 735-736.

Review of Richard Archer, As If an Enemy's Country: The British Occupation of Boston, 1768 (Oxford University Press, 2009), in Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research 90 (Autumn 2012): 193-94.

Review of Gail MacLeitch, Imperial Entanglements: Iroquois Change and Persistence on the Frontiers of Empire (University of Pennsylvania, 2011) in Ethnohistory 59, no. 2 (2012): 419-21.

Review of Eric Hinderaker, The Two Hendricks: Unraveling a Mohawk Mystery (Harvard University Press, 2010), in Journal of American History 97 (March 2011): 1107-1108.

Review of Kevin Kenny, Peaceable Kingdom Lost: The Paxton Boys and the Destruction of William Penn's Holy Experiment (Oxford University Press, 2009), in Pennsylvania History 77 (Summer 2010): 365-68.

Review of David Dixon, Never Come to Peace Again: Pontiac's Uprising and the Fate of the British Empire in North America (University of Oklahoma Press, 2005), in William and Mary Quarterly 63 (October 2006): 870-72.

Review of Colin Calloway, The Scratch of a Pen: 1763 and the Transformation of North America (Oxford, 2006), in The New-York Journal of American History (2006).

Review of Matthew C. Ward, Breaking the Backcountry: The Seven Years' War in Virginia and Pennsylvania, 1754-1763 (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003), in Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography 129 (April 2005): 227-28

ARTICLES IN PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

“Washington’s Legislative Years: The Making of a Statesman” *Mount Vernon Magazine* (Fall 2024), 22-29: https://issuu.com/gwmv/docs/fall_2024?fr=sYmUzYTc2MjQ3MjA

“La derrota de Braddock en el Monongahela,” *Desperta Ferro: Historia Moderna*, Número 33 (Abril 2018): 60-65.

“Braddock’s Defeat: An Interview with David Preston” *American History* (May 2018).

“Braddock’s Defeat — The Battle of the Monongahela and the Road to Revolution,” *Military History Now*, December 3, 2017, <https://militaryhistorynow.com/2017/12/03/braddocks-defeat-the-battle-of-the-monongahela-and-the-road-to-revolution/>

RECENT PRESENTATIONS AT ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

“*Native Americans in the Seven Years’ War and its Aftermath*,” International Conference on the Republics of France and the United States: 240 Years of Friendship, Université Paris VIII and George Washington’s Mount Vernon, Paris, France, September 2019.

“*The American Triumvirate: Washington, Lee, Gates, and the Military Origins of the American Revolution*,” Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Massachusetts, April 2015. Invited speaker at special conference entitled “So Sudden an Alteration”: The Causes, Course, and Consequences of the American Revolution.

“*The Long Reach: Native Nations and British Military Power in the Trans-Appalachian West, 1754-1783*,” American Society for Ethnohistory Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 2014.

“*La bataille de la Malenguenlée, 1755: New Perspectives on the French and Indian Forces at Braddock’s Defeat*,” The Long Struggle for the Ohio Valley, 1750-1815, The Filson Institute for the Advanced Study of the Ohio Valley and the Upper South, The Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky, October 2012.

“*The Problem of Loyalty in the Postwar British Empire: The Strange Career of Charles Lee*.” Institute for Historical Studies Seminar, “1763 and All That: Temptations of Empire in the British World During the Decade After the Seven Years’ War,” University of Texas at Austin, February 2010.

RECENT CHAIR/COMMENTOR ON CONFERENCE PANELS

Comment, “Still Revolutionary: The Politics, Strategy, and Leadership of the American War of Independence,” Society for Military History Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, March 2023.

Comment, “Occupation at Home and Abroad,” Young Scholars Panel, Society for Military History Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, March 2023.

Moderator, “Russia’s War In The Ukraine: The Historical Context,” Panel Discussion for The Citadel School of Humanities and Social Sciences, April 2022.

Moderator, “American's Revolutionary Moment: New Approaches to the Continental Army,” Society for Military History Annual Meeting, Norfolk, Virginia, May 2021.

U.S. ARMY / DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STAFF RIDES OR BRIEFINGS

“Great Britain’s Seven Years’ War: A Case Study in Global Force Management,” Joint Staff at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., October 2024.

“Braddock’s Road: The Campaign against Fort Duquesne,” U.S. Army Historical Foundation, Fort Belvoir, Va., October 2024.

“The ARSOF Legacy from Early American Warfare: Francis Marion’s Partisan War in Revolutionary South Carolina,” 2nd Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), US Army Special Operations Forces, The Citadel, April, July 2024.

“The Braddock Expedition of 1755,” Staff Ride organized for the J53 Planning Team of Joint Force Headquarters, Fort Meade, Maryland, September 2018.

“The British Expedition to South Carolina and the 1780 Siege of Charleston,” Staff Ride organized for the U.S. Army’s 193rd Infantry Brigade, March 2018.

“Medal of Honor Staff Ride,” The Camden Battlefield, March 2017. Sponsored by Major General James Livingston and Lieutenant Michael Thornton, both recipients of the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

“The British Invasion of South Carolina in 1776,” Staff Ride organized for the U.S. Army’s 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, September 2016.

RECENT TALKS, INTERVIEWS, AND BOOK SIGNINGS

“George Washington’s Leadership in the Braddock and Forbes Expeditions,” Washington’s First War Conference, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, Winchester, Va., February 2025.

“From Braddock’s Defeat to Dunmore’s War: The Transformation of Early American Warfare,” 250th Anniversary Commemoration of Lord Dunmore’s War, Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia, Staunton, Va., September 2024.

“French and Indian War Legacies in the Life of George Washington,” Washington Memorial Heritage Chapel, Valley Forge, Pa., July 2024.

“The Young George Washington,” George Washington Leadership Symposium, Sponsored by the US Army War College and Fort Ligonier, Pa. June 2024.

[With Douglas Cubbison of the US Army Heritage and Education Center], “Captain Rudolph Bentinck’s Journal of Service in America during the French and Indian War, 1756-1762,” 35th Annual Jumonville Seminar of the French and Indian War, Ligonier, Pennsylvania, November 2023.

“Sir William Johnson and the Struggle for Land and Empire in North America,” Sir William Johnson and the Wars for Empire Symposium, Johnstown, NY, October 2023.

“‘The Cause of All Mankind’: Foreign Support for the American Revolution,” Carolina Day Commemoration, The Palmetto Society, Charleston, S.C., June 2023.

“British Military Disasters in the Wilderness, 1755-1777,” U.S. Army War College/Army Heritage and Education Center, Perspectives Lecture Series, Carlisle, Pa., April 2023.

“Beaujeu’s Victory: Reconstructing the French Perspective on the Battle of the Monongahela,” Braddock’s Battlefield History Center, January 25, 2023.

“‘A Wilderness of Difficulties’: George Washington, Frontier Commander,” National Museum of the United States Army, Battle Briefs Series, December 6 and 13, 2022.

“St. Clair’s Defeat (1791) and Braddock’s Defeat (1755): A Retrospective Look at Eighteenth-Century Military Disasters,” 34th Annual Jumonville Seminar of the French and Indian War, Jumonville, Pennsylvania, November 2022.

“*The Other Face of Battle*,” Virtual Book Discussion, The J. Sherwood McGinnis, Jr. War, Peace, and Justice Symposium, Sponsored by U.S. Army War College PKSOI, Carlisle, Pa., September 2022.

“The Trials of George Washington: How the Seven Years’ War Shaped the Leadership of America’s First Commander in Chief,” Becoming George Washington: The 2021 George Washington Symposium, Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon, November 2021.

“Unveiling Captain Robert Orme: The Man Behind the Portrait and Braddock’s Expedition,” Braddock’s Battlefield History Center, Pittsburgh, Pa., July 2021.

“From Gabions to Hescoes: The Relevance of British Logistics and Global Power Projection in the Eighteenth Century,” US CENTCOM Headquarters, Senior Leader Symposium on Logistics and Intelligence, Tampa, Florida, June 2021.

“The Virtuous Leadership of George Washington,” U.S. Air Force Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama, September 2019.

“From Expendable to Indispensable: George Washington’s Military Education, 1754-1758,” Remarks at 265th Anniversary Commemoration, Fort Necessity National Battlefield Park, Pennsylvania, July 3, 2019.

“Saratoga and Britain’s Logistical Triumph in the French and Indian War,” 24th Annual War College of the Seven Years’ War, Fort Ticonderoga, N.Y., May 2019.

Shelby Cullom Davis Lecture, 42nd General Assembly of the Society of Colonial Wars, Charleston, S.C., April 2019.

“From Fort Le Boeuf to the Continental Army: Washington’s Military Education,” 265th *Washington’s Trail* Commemoration of Washington’s 1753 Journey, Fort Le Boeuf Historical Society and Museum, Waterford, Pa., December 2018.

“First in Peace: The Delaware Indian Nation and its 1778 Treaty with the United States,” 240th Anniversary Commemoration of the 1778 Treaty of Fort Pitt, Fort Pitt Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa., September 2018.

“Colonial Saratoga: War and Peace on the Borderlands of Early America,” Saratoga National Historical Park/ Saratoga Town Hall, Schuylerville, N.Y., September 2018.

“Braddock’s Defeat,” U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Perspectives in Military History Roundtable Series, August 2018.

“Braddock’s Defeat: A Pivotal Moment in American History,” Shenandoah University / French & Indian War Foundation, Winchester, Virginia, May 17, 2018.

“Braddock’s Defeat and the Fate of the French Empire in America,” 31^e l’école du soldat, Historic Sainte-Geneviève, Missouri, April 28, 2018.

“Braddock’s Defeat and the Making of George Washington,” Army & Navy Club, Washington, D.C., April 24, 2018.

“The Military Education of George Washington in the Braddock Expedition,” Fort Ligonier Historic Site, Ligonier, Pennsylvania, February 18, 2018

Veterans’ Day Revolutionary War Symposium, for Theaters of the American Revolution, Fort Plain Museum/American Revolution Round Table, Schenectady, N.Y., November 2017.

“*Braddock’s Defeat*,” 21st Annual War College of the Seven Years’ War, Fort Ticonderoga, N.Y., May 2016

“*Braddock’s Defeat*,” Ford Evening Book Talks, Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon, Va., March 23, 2016.

“Braddock’s Defeat: An Interview with David Preston,” George Washington’s Mount Vernon, <http://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/french-indian-war/braddocks-defeat-an-interview-with-david-preston/>

“*Braddock’s Defeat*,” Podcast Interview with *Ben Franklin’s World*, December 2015: <http://www.benfranklinworld.com/episode-060-david-preston-braddocks-defeat-the-battle-of-the-monongahela/>

“*Braddock’s Defeat*,” The Duquesne Club, Pittsburgh, Pa., November 2015

“*Braddock’s Defeat or Beaujeu’s Victory?*” at Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown, New York, July 2015 (book launch and signing).

“An Ohio Iroquois Account of the Jumonville Affair,” 26th Annual Jumonville Seminar of the French and Indian War, Jumonville, Pennsylvania, October 2014.

II. TEACHING OVERVIEW

A. COURSES TAUGHT

1. UPPER-LEVEL HISTORY COURSES

HIST 300: Colonial North America, 1492-1765

HIST 301: The American Revolution, 1754-1815
HIST 315: American Indian History: From Precontact to the Present
HIST 371: The Leadership of George Washington (Leadership Studies)
HIST 371: The American and French Revolutions (Leadership Studies)
HIST 375: The French and Indian War, 1754-1763
HIST 384: U.S. Military History
HIST 443: Capstone Seminar

2. RECENT GRADUATE COURSES

MLTH 502: Leadership in the Crucible of War (Online)
MLTH 503: U.S. Military History (Online)
MLTH 506: Naval and Amphibious Warfare (Online)
MLTH 513: The French and Indian War/ Global Seven Years' War (Online)
MLTH 514: The American Revolution (Online)
MLTH 600: Capstone Seminar (Online)
MLTH 601 / 602: Thesis I and Thesis II (Online)
HIST 594: MAT: Historiography for Social Studies Teachers
HIST 692: MAT: Teaching History Methods for Social Studies Teachers

III. SERVICE

A. SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE AND DISCIPLINE

Director, Online M.A. in Military History Program, 2018-

Member/Chair, Prize Jury for the George Washington Book Prize, 2025, 2023, 2020, 2017

Member/Chair, Distinguished Book Awards Committee, Society for Military History, 2017-2020.

Moderated a public lecture by award-winning and NYT Bestselling author Nathaniel Philbrick at The Citadel, April 2023.

Grant Committee, Faculty Summer Provost Research Grant (SuPR), The Citadel, 2022, 2023.

Organized public lectures at The Citadel by Rick Atkinson, James Scott, and Nathaniel Philbrick

Moderator, "Russia's War In The Ukraine: The Historical Context," Panel Discussion for The Citadel School of Humanities and Social Sciences, April 2022.

B. SERVICE TO THE NATION, STATE, AND COMMUNITY

MILITARY SERVICE

Lieutenant Colonel (O-5), South Carolina State Guard / South Carolina Military Department

Senior Liaison Officer (LNO) to the Joint Operations Center (JOC), SC Emergency Management Division (SCEMD)