

MICHAEL LANDIS, Ph.D.

<https://DrMichaelLandis.com>

Academic Specialties: Antebellum & Civil War USA; Slavery; Politics & Partisanship; Public History

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, The George Washington University Sept. 2005 – June 2011
BA/MA, History, Boston University Sept. 1997 – May 2002
(Magna Cum Laude, with Honors, with Distinction)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Union College (Schenectady, NY) Sept. 2020 – Present
Adjunct Professor of History
Saratoga County History Center (Ballston Spa, NY) Jan. 2020 – Present
Public Programs Manager; Trustee
Hudson Valley Community College (Troy, NY) Jan. 2020 – Present
Adjunct Professor
State University of New York – Ulster (Stone Ridge, NY) Jan. 2019 – Dec. 2019
Adjunct Professor
Tarleton State University (Stephenville, TX) Jan. 2013 – Sept. 2018
Assistant Professor of History; Honors Faculty
Nevada State College (Las Vegas, NV) June 2012 – Dec. 2012
Adjunct Professor
Sacred Heart University (Fairfield, CT) Aug. 2011 – June 2012
Visiting Assistant Professor of History

BOOKS

Northern Men with Southern Loyalties: The Democratic Party and the Sectional Crisis
(Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2014)
Choice Magazine 2015 Outstanding Academic Title

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Cornerstone of the Confederacy: Slavery and Power in Civil War Georgia
Book proposal under consideration at the University of Georgia Press

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“Old Buck’s Lieutenant: Glancy Jones, James Buchanan, and the Northern Democracy”
The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography CXL (April 2016): 183-201.

“President Polk as a Southern Sectionalist” in *A Companion to the Antebellum Presidents, 1837-1861*. Edited by Joel Silbey (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014): 269-290.

“‘A Champion Had Come’: William Pitt Fessenden and the Republican Party, 1854-1860” *American Nineteenth Century History* 9 (September 2008): 269-285.

“Union and Confederate Politics” in *Essential Civil War Curriculum*, <http://www.essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/>. Edited by James Robertson, William Davis, and Paul Quigley. May 2015.

BOOK REVIEWS

Smith, Adam. *The Stormy Present: Conservatism and the Problem of Slavery in Northern Politics, 1846-1865*. *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* (February 2021): 103-107.

Cheatham, Mark R. *The Coming of Democracy: Presidential Campaigning in the Age of Jackson*. *Journal of American History* (December 2019): 758-759.

Stanley, Matthew E. *The Loyal West: Civil War and Reunion in Middle America*. *Civil War History* 64 (September 2018): 307-309.

Hurt, Douglas R. *Agriculture and the Confederacy: Policy, Productivity, and Power in the Civil War South*. *American Nineteenth Century History* 18 (August 2017): 191-193.

Zimring, David Ross. *To Live and Die in Dixie: Native Northerners Who Fought for the Confederacy*. *The Journal of the Civil War Era* 6 (June 2016): 280-282.

Shelden, Rachel. *Washington Brotherhood: Politics, Social Life, and the Coming of the Civil War*. *Journal of American Studies* 49, E29 (May 2015): Online.

Nester, William. *The Age of Jackson and the Art of American Power, 1815-1848*. *Journal of Southern History* LXXXI (February 2015): 182-183.

Finkelman, Paul and Donald Kennon, editors. *Congress and the Crisis of the 1850s*; Roll, Jarod, editor. *Secession Winter: When the Union Fell Apart*. H-Net / H-CivWar (October 2013)

McCurry, Stephanie. *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South*. *North Carolina Historical Review* LXXXVIII (January 2011): 102-103.

McClintock, Russell. *Lincoln and the Decision for War: The Northern Response to Secession*. *Journal of the Early Republic* 29 (Fall 2009): 543-546.

Mobley, Joe. *Weary of War: Life on the Confederate Home Front*. *History: Review of Books* 36 (Spring 2008): 101-102.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Decision Points: The Oregon Question and 54-40 or Fight” in *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: A History of the American Experiment*. AP US History textbook produced by The Bill of Rights Institute. [forthcoming]

“How the Know Nothing Party Turned Nativism into a Political Strategy,” *What It Means to Be American* (joint publication by The Smithsonian and Arizona State University), July 12, 2018
<http://www.whatitmeanstobeamerican.org/ideas/how-the-know-nothing-party-turned-nativism-into-a-political-strategy/>

PUBLIC HISTORY

Co-Editor, *The Gristmill* (Saratoga County, NY), <https://saratogacountyhistoryroundtable.com/the-gristmill/>
 Jan. 2021 – Present

Times Union (Albany, NY)

“2020: Staggering Crises,” Jan. 2, 2021

<https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/2020-Staggering-crises-15841706.php>

“*Southern Charm* Suffers from Big History Problem,” Oct. 11, 2020

<https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/Commentary-Southern-Charm-suffers-from-big-15636902.php>

“US Repeats Awful Past,” July 28, 2019

<https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/U-S-repeats-awful-past-14189484.php>

Smithsonian Magazine (Washington, DC)

“*The Little Mermaid* Was Way More Subversive Than You Realized,” Nov. 5, 2019

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/little-mermaid-was-way-more-subversive-you-realized-180973464/>

“A Proposal to Change the Words We Use When Talking About the Civil War,” Sept. 9, 2015

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/proposal-change-vocabulary-we-use-when-talking-about-civil-war-180956547/>

The Washington Post (Washington, DC)

“The United States Isn’t a Democracy – and Was Never Intended to Be,” Nov. 6, 2018

https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2018/11/06/united-states-isnt-democracy-and-was-never-intended-be/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.d3e6ef26fa35

“It’s Been 155 Years Since the Senate Expelled a Member. Will Roy Moore Break the Streak?”

Nov. 15, 2017

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/made-by-history/wp/2017/11/15/its-been-155-years-since-the-senate-expelled-a-member-will-roy-moore-break-the-streak/?utm_term=.b4b63f6f6dcf7

Editor, *The Historians Against Slavery Blog*, <http://www.historiansagainstsavery.org/main/blog/>
 May 2015 – Mar. 2018

Black Perspectives (African American Intellectual History Society)

“Antebellum Law and the Southern Justice System,” invited contribution to online roundtable

discussion of Keri Leigh Merritt’s *Masterless Men: Poor Whites and Slavery in the Antebellum South*
 Mar. 6, 2018

<https://www.aaihs.org/antebellum-law-and-the-southern-justice-system/>

Texas Tribune (Austin, TX)

“Most ‘Civil War’ Memorials Have Nothing to Do with the Civil War,” Aug. 28, 2017

<https://www.tribtalk.org/2017/08/28/most-civil-war-memorials-have-nothing-to-do-with-the-civil-war/>

US Intellectual History Blog, <http://s-usih.org/blog>

Guest editor and contributor, roundtable on David Potter’s *The Impending Crisis*, Aug. 22-26, 2017

“Can Presidents Shape an Entire Era?,” May 25, 2017 (republished on *History News Network*)

“The Case Against Andrew Jackson,” series on demagogues, Oct. 28, 2016

“Can Political History Be Intellectual History?,” Oct. 21, 2015

Mindpop (podcast, Dr. David Sehat), <http://davidsehat.com/mindpop/>

Interview, “How Does Change Happen?,” Mar. 30, 2017

Muster (blog of the *Journal of the Civil War Era*)

“In ‘Defense’ of James Buchanan,” Jan. 5, 2017

<https://journalofthecivilwarera.org/2017/01/defense-james-buchanan/>

History News Network, www.historynewsnetwork.org

“A Party in Secret Passes an Overwhelmingly Unpopular Law. We’ve Been Here Before. It Ended in Disaster,” July 9, 2017

“Another Way In Which Trump is Proving to Be Like Andrew Jackson – Alas,” Jan. 31, 2017

“The Movie About Reconstruction That You Forgot, or Won’t Take Seriously,” July 24, 2016

“Dinesh D’Souza Claims in a New Film that the Democratic Party was Pro-Slavery. Here’s the Sad Truth,” Mar. 13, 2016

“The Alarming Parallels This Historian Sees Between What’s Going on in Congress Today and the Antebellum Crises He Studies,” Oct. 25, 2015

“These are Words Scholars Should No Longer Use to Describe Slavery and the Civil War,” September 6, 2015 [over 100,000 views in one week]

“The Hypocritical and Shameful History of the Democratic Party Before the Civil War,” June 7, 2015

We’re History, www.werehistory.org

“Of Mice and Municipalities,” Oct. 8, 2016

“Mutant American History: Told Through the X-Men Prequels,” June 18, 2016

“Has Obama Survived the ‘2nd Term Curse’?,” Jan. 21, 2016

“The Problem with Experience: Do Career Politicians Make Good Presidents?,” Oct. 15, 2015

“Disneyland’s 60th Anniversary: July 17, 1955,” July 17, 2015

“Lindsey Graham’s History Problem: John Calhoun, Strom Thurmond, and the Legacy of South Carolina Presidential Hopefuls,” June 9, 2015

“The Dark Horse Danger: Democratic Lessons for Republicans in 2016,” Feb. 11, 2015

“The Fateful Night of January 22, 1854: When Congressmen Pressured the President to Sign a Measure that Would Destroy the Nation,” Jan. 22, 2015

“Ridley Scott’s *Exodus*: What Happened to the Women?,” Jan. 6, 2015

“December Drama for Democrats,” Dec. 23, 2014

“*Interstellar* and the Myth of the American Hero,” Nov. 18, 2014

The American Historian (Organization of American Historians)

“Producing Ethically Engaged Students: Using the Classroom to Teach Social Activism,” Aug. 12, 2015

<http://tah.oah.org/content/producing-ethically-engaged-students-using-the-classroom-to-teach-social-activism/>

The HAS Blog, <http://www.historiansagainstsavery.org/main/blog/>, Historians Against Slavery

“Disney, ‘Pirates of the Caribbean,’ and Human Trafficking,” July 3, 2017

#*NativismSyllabus*, Tarleton State University Library and Twitter, Dec. 17, 2015

<http://tarletonlibrary.blogspot.com/2015/12/nativismsyllabus-guest-post-by-dr.html>

Consultant and Contributor, “The Emancipation Proclamation.”

Museum Exhibit, Fairfield Museum and History Center (Fairfield, CT). Dec. 2011 – Aug. 2012

Consultant and Contributor, “The Antebellum Project.” <http://www.antebellumproject.com/>
 Online learning tool. Aug. 2010 – Present

HONORS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

Beautification Award, Ballston Spa Business & Professional Organization For the SCHC exhibit “Coping with Crisis”	Nov. 2020
“Organized Research Grant,” URC, Tarleton State University	2016-17
Humanities Texas Grant (National Endowment for the Humanities)	2015
Faculty Development Grant, Tarleton State University	2015-2016
Faculty Development Grant, Tarleton State University	2014-2015
Faculty Development Grant, Tarleton State University	2013-2014
Five Year Fellowship, The George Washington University	August 2005 – May 2010
Award for Outstanding Graduate Paper, The George Washington University	April 2007
One Year Fellowship, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History	June 2010 – June 2011
Summer Research Grant, The George Washington University	June 2009
Research Grant, The White House Historical Association	Feb. 2009
One Year Fellowship, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History	Jan. 2009 – Jan. 2010
Research Grant, The Cosmos Club Foundation	Jan. 2009
The Kayser Fellowship for Dissertation Research	Summer 2008
Polytropos Award for Multi-Disciplinary Studies, Boston University	May 2001

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

Organization of American Historians, Annual Meeting, Sacramento, CA, April 2018
 Roundtable: “Narrative Challenges in the Writing of History”
 Panelists: James Downs, Tyler Anbinder, Rachel Martin, LD Burnett

Society of US Intellectual History, Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX, October 28-29, 2017
 1. Guided Discussion, “Words Matter: How Historians Write and Teach About History”
 Panelists: Sarah Handley Cousins, Lindsay Chervinsky, Stephanie McKellopp
 2. Chair, “Communication of Ideas in the Early Republic and Antebellum Eras”

Historians Against Slavery, Annual Meeting, Liverpool, UK, October 7, 2017
 Chair, “Slaveholding, Then & Now”
 Panelists: Susan O’Donovan, Elizabeth Swanson, Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick

Society of US Intellectual History, Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, October 18, 2015
 Roundtable: “Can Political History Be Intellectual History?”
 Panelists: Heather Richardson, Sarah Mergel, Thomas Balcerski

American Historical Association, Annual Meeting, New York, NY, January 3, 2015
 Roundtable: “James McPherson’s ‘Battle Cry’ After a Quarter Century”
 Panelists: James McPherson, Judith Giesberg, Daniel Sutherland, Lesley Gordon

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, July 2014
 Paper: “Dough in the Hands of the Voters? How Doughfaces Obtained Office in the 1850s”
 Panel: “Politics of Doughfaceism: Proslavery, States’ Rights, & Compromise in Antebellum Politics”
 Participants: Joanne Freeman, Nicole Etcheson, Matthew Mason, Nicholas Wood

The Society of Civil War Historians, Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, June 2014
Roundtable: "Northern Democrats in the Civil War Era"
Panelists: James Oakes, Elizabeth Varon, Frank Towers, Erik Alexander

British American Nineteenth Century Historians (BrANCH), Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, April 2014
Paper: "Dough in the Hands of the Voters? How Doughfaces Obtained Office in the 1850s"
Panel: "Slavery and Political Culture in the 1850s"
Participants: Eric Walther, Paul Quigley, Rachel Shelden, Kristen Epps

Pennsylvania Historical Association, Annual Meeting, Gettysburg, PA, October 2013
Paper: "Old Buck's Lieutenant: Glancy Jones, James Buchanan, and the Northern Democracy"
Panel: "Pro-Slavery Politics in Civil War Era Pennsylvania"
Participants: Frank Towers, T. Lloyd Benson, Andrew Slap, Christian Keller

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, July 2012
Paper: "'Fidelity and Firmness': Northern Democrats and the Crises of 1850"
Panel: "Nationalism and Partisanship in the Antebellum Era"
Participants: Paul Finkelman, Chandra Manning, Martin Hershock, Michael Birkner

American Historical Association, Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, January 2011
Paper: "Deceptive Democracy: Northern Democrats and the Illusion of Principle"
Panel: "Slavery and the American Experience: Family, Politics, & Society in the Nineteenth Century"
Participants: Joel Silbey, Harry Watson, Anthony Kaye, Judith Giesberg

Filson Institute Conference, "Secessions: From the American Revolution to the Civil War," October 2010
Paper: "Deceptive Democracy: Northern Democrats and the Illusion of Principle"
Panel: "The Politics of Secession"
Participants: Frank Towers, Paul Quigley, John Quist

The Organization of American Historians, Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, March 2009
Paper: "'Though the Heavens Fall': Slavery, Northern Democrats, and the Destruction of the Union"
Panel: "Destroying Their Beloved Union: Politicians, Racism, and the Coming of the Civil War"
Participants: Daniel Walker Howe, Manisha Sinha, Jonathan Earle, Robert Cook

Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, NE, March 2007
Paper: "'A Champion Had Come': William Pitt Fessenden and the Republican Party, 1854-1860"

INVITED TALKS & EVENTS ORGANIZED

Organizer/Moderator, "The Removal of the Schuyler Statue" (public forum)
Saratoga County History Center, June 18, 2020

Guest Speaker, "Partisanship in Perspective"
Rotary Club of Ballston Spa, NY, Mar. 4, 2020

Book Talk, *Northern Men with Southern Loyalties: The Democratic Party and the Sectional Crisis*
Northshire Bookstore, Saratoga Springs, NY, May 3, 2019.

Guest Speaker, Leaders4Diversity Conference, "Black & Blue: Race & Police in America"
Tarleton State University, March 31, 2017.

Organizer/Moderator, "The 2016 Elections: What Do They Mean for Tarleton and the Country?"
Tarleton State University, Jan. 26, 2017

Organizer/Panelist, "The 2016 Presidential Election in Historical Perspective"
Fort Worth Central Library, Jan. 24, 2017

- Organizer/Panelist, “Demagogues, In History & Today”
Tarleton State University, Oct. 17, 2016
- Guest Speaker, Leaders4Diversity Conference, “Slavery, Then & Now”
Tarleton State University, April 1, 2016
- Guest Speaker, Granbury Civil War Roundtable, “Northern Democrats in the 1850s”
Granbury, TX, Feb. 8, 2016
- Guest Speaker, Free Speech Week, “1st Amendment & the Confederate Flag”
Tarleton State University, Oct. 21, 2015
- Organizer/Presenter, “Causes of the Civil War”
Guest speaker: Dr. Mike Green, University of Nevada – Las Vegas
Tarleton State University, Feb, 19, 2015
- Guest Speaker, Granbury Civil War Roundtable, “Bleeding Kansas and the Lecompton Constitution”
Granbury, TX, Nov. 11, 2013

OTHER CONFERENCES

- Comments, North Central Texas Phi Alpha Theta Conference April 2, 2016
Panel: Colonial & Antebellum America
- Roundtable, Phi Alpha Theta Annual Conference, Orlando, FL January 6-10, 2016
Panel: “Disney and American Culture”
- Comments, 16th Annual International Graduate Student Conference September 17-19, 2015
The University of Texas at Arlington
Panel: “The American Civil War in Transnational Perspective”
- Roundtable, 12th Annual Excellence in Teaching Conference, TSU April 10, 2015
Panel: “New Techniques in Teaching History”
- Comments, 6th Annual Texas A&M History Conference March 28, 2015
Panel: “Reform, Society, and the Early Republic”

COURSES TAUGHT

Union College

- Age of Jackson, 1815-1845 (116)
- Slavery and the American South (217)

Hudson Valley Community College

- Western Civilization and the World II (101, online)

SUNY Ulster

- Western Civilization, 1648-Present (102)
- US History to 1877 (103, face-to-face and online)

Tarleton State University

Graduate

- Civil War and Reconstruction, 1860-1877 (readings)
- Antebellum America, 1815-1860 (readings)

Undergraduate

- Slavery and the American South (4315)
- Antebellum America, 1815-1860 (3312)
- Civil War and Reconstruction, 1860-1877 (3313)
- Police & Race in America (4350)
- Disney’s America (4385, A.L.E.)

US History to 1877 (1301)
 US History since 1877 (1302)
 US History since 1877 Honors (1302 HNRS)

Service to the Profession

Reader, <i>Journal of Southern History</i> , article submission	July 2020
Reader, University of Alabama Press, book manuscript,	Dec. 2017
Local Arrangements Committee, Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Nov. 9-12, 2016, Dallas, TX	Aug. 2016 – Nov. 2017
Reader, <i>Civil War History</i> , article submission	May 2016
Board Member, Historians Against Slavery	May 2015 – Mar. 2018
Reader, <i>Journal of American History</i> , article submission	Oct. 2013

Service to the University (Tarleton State University)

Committee Member, Faculty Search: American Revolution	Jan. 2017 – Nov. 2017
Committee Member, Faculty Search: Latin American History	Oct. 2015 – May 2016
Faculty Senate	April 2015 – Nov. 2017
Chair, Faculty Search Committee: Modern European History	April 2015 – Nov. 2015
Chair, Website Revision Committee, Department of Social Sciences	Jan. 2015 – Dec. 2016
Founder & Organizer, “The State of American Society”	Oct. 2014 – Sept. 2018
Founding Faculty Adviser, Texans For Freedom	Oct. 2014 – Sept. 2018
Undergraduate Adviser	Aug. 2014 – Sept. 2018
Committee Member, University Speaker Symposium	Aug. 2013 – Sept. 2018
Committee Member, Faculty Search: Music / Woodwind	Oct. 2013 – Mar. 2014
Committee Member, Faculty Search: 20 th Century US History	Sept. 2013 – Mar. 2014
Presenter, College of Liberal and Fine Arts Faculty Research Symposium	Nov. 14, 2013

Service to the Community

Board of Trustees, Saratoga County History Center (NY)	Jan. 2020 – Present
Judge, Granbury Independent School District History Fair (TX)	Every January, 2013-2017
Judge, Cornerstone Christian Academy History Fair (TX)	January, 2017
Volunteer, Hood County YMCA (TX)	Periodic events

Media Appearances

Interview, The Center for Public Integrity (Washington, DC) Topic: Attack on the US Capitol	Jan. 7, 2021
Newspaper interview, <i>The Daily Gazette</i> (Schenectady, NY) Topic: Saratoga County History Center	Sept. 3, 2020
Television interview, CBS 6 Evening News (Albany, NY) Topic: Removal of the Schuyler statue	June 28, 2020
Newspaper interview, <i>Hood County News</i> (Granbury, TX) Topic: Confederate memorials	Aug. 25, 2017
Newspaper interview, <i>Star Telegram</i> (Fort Worth, TX) Topic: Confederate memorials	Aug. 15, 2017
Newspaper interview, <i>Omaha World-Herald</i> (Omaha, NE) Topic: Augustus Dodge & Iowa historical memory	Sept. 27, 2016
Newspaper interview, <i>Star Telegram</i> (Fort Worth, TX) Topic: Confederate Flag	June 26, 2015
Online news source interview, RT-USA (non-profit) Topic: Confederate Flag	June 25, 2015
Newspaper interview, <i>Empire-Tribune</i> (Stephenville, TX) Topic: Confederate Flag	June 23, 2015

Television interview, Fox News 4 (Dallas-Ft Worth, TX) Topic: Confederate Flag Re-broadcast in major US cities, including New Orleans & Las Vegas	June 22, 2015
Radio interview, "Cross Currents," NPR Stephenville, 90.5 Topic: <i>Northern Men with Southern Loyalties</i>	Nov. 13, 2014
Radio interview, "Cross Currents," NPR Stephenville, 90.5 Topic: Texans Against Slavery	Nov. 6, 2014

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Tyler Anbinder

Professor Emeritus
George Washington University
anbinder@gwu.edu
703-568-8277
801 22nd St. NW #324
Washington, D.C. 20052

Dr. James Brewer Stewart

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Dewitt Wallace Library, 404
St. Paul, MN 55105

Dr. Andrea Foroughi

Associate Professor of History
Department Chair
Union College
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518-388-7109
807 Union Street
Schenectady, NY 12308

Dr. Michael Green

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