

Ben Wright

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Academic Appointments:

Assistant Professor of Historical Studies, University of Texas at Dallas, 2015-present
Assistant Professor of History, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, 2014-2015

Education:

Ph.D., History, Rice University, 2014
Dissertation: Gospel of Liberty: Antislavery and American Salvation
Adviser: John B. Boles
M.A., American Studies, Columbia University, 2007
Thesis: Waves of Liberty: European Origins and American Innovations in the Passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom
Adviser: Randall Balmer
B.A. *summa cum laude*, History, Education, Bethel University, 2005

Books:

Co-editor with Zachary W. Dresser, *Apocalypse and the Millennium in the Civil War Era* (LSU Press, 2013)

Articles:

Ben Wright and Joseph Locke, "A Free and Open Alternative to Traditional History Textbooks," *Perspectives on History*, 53:3, March 2015
(Forthcoming), "Collaborating to Recreate Pre-Columbian America," *Common-Place*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (November, 2015).
(Forthcoming) "'The Heathen are Demanding the Gospel': African Conversion and American Redemption in the Colonizationist Movement," in *Reconsiderations and Redirections in the Study of African Colonization*, Beverly Tomek and Matthew J. Hetrick, eds. (University Press of Florida)

Works in progress:

"Antislavery and American Salvation" book manuscript under contract with the LSU Press series *Antislavery, Abolitionism, and the Atlantic World*. Due to press, December 2015.
"Empires of Souls: the United States, Britain, and African Colonization"

Reviews and short publications:

Short article: "Emancipation Day," in Dictionary of American History, Supplement: America in the World, 1776 to the Present by Edward J. Blum ed., et al. Charles J. Scribner's Sons: Forthcoming.
Book Review: Wellsprings of Liberty: How Virginia's Religious Dissenters Helped Win the American Revolution and Secured Religious Liberty by John A. Ragosta, North Carolina Historical Review, August 2011.
Book Review: Rituals of Resistance: African Atlantic Religion in Kongo and the Lowcountry South in the Era of Slavery by Jason R. Young, Journal of Southern Religion, June 2009
Book Review: Hollywood Be Thy Name: African American Religion in American Film 1929-1949 by Judith Weisenfeld, Journal of African American History, 93:3, Summer 2009.
Book Review: Rounding the Bases: Baseball and Religion in America by Joseph L. Price, *International Journal of Religion and Sport*, June 2009.
Book Note: John Bachman: Selected Writings on Science, Race, and Religion, Gene Waddell, ed., Journal of Southern History. Forthcoming.

Book Note: A Journey in Brazil: Henry Washington Hilliard and the Brazilian Anti-Slavery Society, David I. Durham and Paul M. Pruitt Jr. eds., *Journal of Southern History*. November 2012.

Book Note: Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism: A Reader, Barry Hankins ed., *Journal of Southern History*. April 2009.

Academic Presentations:

“Conversion and Purification Joined: Religious Imagination and the Creation of the Benevolent Empire,” Florida State University Religious History Colloquium; Tallahassee, Florida; January 2015.

“Academic Communities and Crowd-Sourced History: Creating *The American Yawp*,” Texas Digital Humanities Consortium; Houston, Texas; April 2014.

“The Making of a Proslavery Prophet: Denominational Leadership and the Politicization of Rev. Richard Furman,” British American Nineteenth Century Historians Annual Conference; Houston, Texas; April 2014

“The Heathen are Demanding the Gospel: Conversion and Redemption in Early African Colonization,” American Society for Church History Annual Conference; Washington, D.C.; January 2014

“Denominational Formation and American Christian Nationalism,” Society of Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Conference, Saint Louis, Missouri, July 2013

“They Were Seen by Our Vessel to Throw Their Slaves Overboard: Antislavery, the West Africa Squadron, and Death in the Middle Passage,” Free and Unfree Labor: The First Annual Rice University – Universidade Estadual de Campinas Seminar; Houston, Texas; May 2013.

“The Heathen are Demanding the Gospel: Conversion and Redemption in Early African Colonization,” Brownbag Series, McNeil Center for Early American Studies; University of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; November 2012.

“Conversion, Benevolence, and Nationalism in the Early American Denominational Imagination,” Conference on Faith and History, Gordon College; Wenham, Massachusetts, September, 2012

“Stephen Grellet and Conversionist Antislavery,” American Historical Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, January 2012

“I Proclaimed Against the Great Sin of Slavery: Stephen Grellet and the Ideology of Early Antislavery.” Columbia University Faculty Seminar in American Religious History, Columbia University, New York, New York, October 2011

Conference Director, Millennialism and Providentialism in the Era of the American Civil War, Rice University; Houston, Texas; October 2010

“Samuel Hopkins, Antislavery, and the Power of Perceived Persecution in Social Reform,” University of Texas-Austin American Studies Conference, Austin, Texas; September 2009

“Revolutionary Enthusiasm to Antebellum Gridlock: Two American Clergymen and the Problem of Slavery”; Southwestern Historical Association Annual Conference; Denver, Colorado; April 2009

“Baby Won’t You Please Come Home: Civil Rights, Migration, and the Death of Harlem”; Urban Historical Association Annual Conference; Houston, Texas; November 2008

“Our Neighborhood: The PS 154 Oral History Project in Harlem,” Organization of American Historians Annual Conference; New York, New York, March 2008

Moderator and respondent, “Music in the Making”; Annual Conference of the Columbia Journal of American Studies; New York, New York, April 2007

“John Leland & James Madison: A Legacy of Religious Liberty; Minnesota State Political Science Association Annual Conference”; Saint Cloud, MN; November 2005

Invited Presentations:

“Organizing for Abolition: Using Antislavery Scholarship to Support Student Activism,” Antislavery Activists Conference, Gettysburg College, March 2015

“Presenting Learning to the Public: Using Word Press as an Assessment Tool,” University System of Georgia Faculty Development Lecture, March 2015

“Problems and Perils of Open Textbooks: The American Yawp as Case Study,” Digital Scholars Lab / Digital Scholarship Lab, University of Virginia / University of Richmond, March 2015

“American Evangelicals and Antislavery Action: Past and Present,” Gardner Webb University, February 2015

“Combatting Textbook Costs with Digital Collaboration: The American Yawp as Case Study,” Affordable Learning Georgia, University of Georgia, December 2015

“American Abolitionism: Fighting Slavery and Racism from the American Revolution to the Civil War,” Gettysburg Foundation; Gettysburg National Military Park; Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; August 2014

“Digital Pedagogy in the Classroom”; Program in Writing and Communication; Rice University; Houston, Texas; March 2013

“The Rise and Fall of Race in America,” Black History Month Lecture Series, University of Saint Thomas, Houston, Texas; February 2011

“Immigration, Urbanization, Industrialization and the Transformation of American Religion,” Lone Star College-North Harris, Houston, Texas; December, 2008

“Vatican II and American Catholicism,” Columbia University, New York, New York; November, 2007

Digital Scholarship:

Co-editor, *The American Yawp*, (<http://www.americanyawp.com>)

Co-editor, “The Abolition Seminar: Fighting Slavery and Racial Injustice from the American Revolution to the Civil War,” an interactive website from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library Company of Philadelphia (abolitionseminar.org)

Managing editor, Teaching United States History (teachingushistory.co)

“Opiate or Exodus: Revisiting Slave Religion”, *Columbia Journal of American Studies*, June 2007.

Fellowships and Awards

Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, 2016

Upton Foundation Fellowship in American History, Clements Library, University of Michigan, 2015

Digital Humanities Award, Best Use of Public Engagement, for *The American Yawp*, 2014

Sojourner Truth Service Fellowship, Historians Against Slavery, 2014-2015

James Forten Fellowship, Library Company of Philadelphia, 2014

Mary Hayes Ewing Publication Prize in Southern History, Rice University, 2014

NEH Summer Seminar Assistantship, Library Company of Philadelphia, 2013

Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2012

Gest Research Fellowship, Quaker Collection, Haverford College, 2012

Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship, Historical Society of Pennsylvania and Library Company of Philadelphia, 2012

Filson Research Fellowship, The Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky 2012

Bruce Dunlevie Teaching Fellowship in the Humanities, Rice University, 2011

Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship, Virginia Historical Society, 2011

Teaching Experience:

Assistant Professor, Department of Historical Studies, University of Texas at Dallas, Fall 2015 - present

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Tifton, Georgia, Fall 2014 - present

Instructor, Department of History, Rice University, Houston, Texas, Summer 2011, Fall 2013-Spring 2014

Instructor, Program in Writing and Communication, Rice University, Houston, Texas, Spring 2013-Spring 2014

Online Instructor, Department of History, Norwich University, Spring 2014

Assistant Instructor, Abolitionism: NEH Seminar for Teachers, Library Company of Philadelphia, Summer 2013
Dunlevie Teaching Fellow in the Humanities, Department of History, Rice University, Houston, Texas, Fall 2011
Instructor, Department of History, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas, Fall 2011
Instructor, Department of History and Social Science, Lone Star College, Houston, Texas, Summer 2010
Teaching Assistant, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University, Spring 2013-Spring 2014
Teaching Assistant, Columbia University, Department of History and Religion, Fall 2007
High School Teacher, Social Studies Department, Cambridge-Isanti High School, Cambridge, Minnesota, Spring 2006

Courses Taught:

Undergraduate courses

United States to 1848
United States to 1865
United States to 1877
United States 1848 to Present
United States 1865 to Present
Religion and Race in American History
Slavery and Abolition
The Rise and Fall of Atlantic Slavery (<http://riseandfallofslavery.wordpress.com>)
The History of the End of the World (<http://historyoftheend.wordpress.com>)

Graduate courses

Graduate Readings in 19th Century America
Graduate Seminar Slavery in America

Press:

Print interview with Scott McLemee, "Free American History!" *Inside Higher Ed* (March 11, 2015) <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/03/11/interview-editors-american-yawp-free-history-textbook-published-online>
Print interview with Rachel Beltzhoover and M. Omar Siddiqi, *The American Historian* (February 2015) <http://tah.oah.org/content/conversation-ben-wright/>
Video interview with David Thomson, *The Civil War Monitor*, Behind the Lines Video Series, (September 20, 2013) <http://www.civilwarmonitor.com/behind-the-lines/an-interview-with-ben-wright-and-zach-dresser>
Print interview with Paul Putz, "Apocalypse and the Millennium in the American Civil War Era: An Interview with the Editors: Religion in American History Blog (September 20, 2013) <http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2013/09/apocalypse-and-millennium-in-american.html>

Professional Experience:

Digital media consultant, Library Company of Philadelphia, Fall 2013 - present
Digital media consultant, Historians Against Slavery; Fall 2013-present
Editorial assistant, *The Journal of Philosophy*, Columbia University New York, NY; Fall 2006-2008, 2010-2011
Research assistant, Rice University History Department, Houston, TX; 2008- 2010
Professional Development Seminar Coordinator, Rice University History Department 2009- 2010
Research assistant, Columbia University Oral History Research Office, New York, NY; 2006- 2008
Oral history consultant, The Narrative Trust, New York, NY; 2008-2009
Oral history consultant, The Apollo Theater Foundation, New York, NY; 2008

Professional Memberships

American Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

American Society for Church History

Southern Historical Association

American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies

Society of Historians of the Early American Republic

Conference on Faith and History

Historians Against Slavery