

Eric W. Plaag

Education

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Ph.D., History, 2006. Fields: US History to 1877, Public History (preservation studies and material culture), and Culture, Identity, and Economic Development. Additional graduate work in photography and documentary filmmaking.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, M.F.A. Creative Writing, 1994

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY, B.A. in Religion, secondary concentration in Philosophy, 1988

Dissertation

"Strangers in a Strange Land: Northern Travelers and the Coming of the American Civil War." Advisor: Mark M. Smith. Readers: Thomas J. Brown, Don H. Doyle, Jill Lepore (Harvard University)

Work History (Non-Teaching)

Founder and Principal Consultant, Carolina Historical Consulting, LLC, National Register of Historic Places nominations and evaluations, historic property surveys, preservation planning consultation, commissioned local and institutional histories, freelance archival research, contract genealogical work, and other public history and historic preservation projects, 2014-Present

Genealogical Researcher, subcontracted by Eagle Investigative Services, Inc., for the US Army Past Conflict Repatriations Branch, 2018-2023

Historian, Department of History, University of South Carolina, research and writing for a history of USC's College of Arts and Sciences since 1801, 2014-2015

Independent Historical Consultant, National Register of Historic Places nominations and evaluations, commissioned local and institutional histories, freelance archival research, and other public history and historic preservation projects, 2002-2014

Historical Technician, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA), University of South Carolina, historical writing, consultation, and National Register eligibility evaluation of historic federal and state properties, 2008-2013

Guest Curator, *SilverYana: The Photography of F. Tobias Morriss*, McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, 2010

Project Coordinator and Guest Curator, *Natural Curiosity: The University of South Carolina and the Evolution of Scientific Inquiry into the Natural World*, McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, 2006-2007

Dean of Students, New England Conservatory of Music, 2000-2002

Regional Director, Portsmouth and Salem Campuses, Graduate and Professional Studies, Franklin Pierce College, 1998-2000; **Director**, Portsmouth Campus, 1996-1998; **Assistant Director**, 1996

Publications

Books:

Remembering Boone (Images of America), Arcadia Publishing, 2021.

The Means of Grace: A History of the Robertville Baptist Church, Charley House Press, 2021.

On the Waters of the Wissahickon: A History of Erdenheim Farm, Columbia: University of South Carolina, privately published, 2012 (reprinted, USC Press, October 2015).

Commissioned Histories:

Historical Background on the Barnwell Tabby Structure, Hilton Head Island, SC, team member responsible for historical context for an archaeological investigation, 2022.

The Robert O. Colt III House, Blowing Rock, North Carolina: A History, house history of historically significant home, 2019.

History of the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, contributing author, book-length history of the organization (completed work for hire), 2017-18. Published as Lacy K. Ford, et al, *Empowering Communities: How Electric Cooperatives Transformed Rural South Carolina*, USC Press, 2022.

The Case for Port Royal: Interpreting the Reconstruction Era National Monument, report on interpretive recommendations for the Camp Saxton site and related resources, Historic Port Royal Foundation, 2017.

Sherman's March Through South Carolina, author and principal field historian in cooperation with SCIAA, funded by two-year grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program (completed work for hire), 2013.

History of the South Carolina National Guard, co-author in cooperation with SCIAA (completed work for hire), 2013.

United States Post Office, Boone, NC: A Brief History, on behalf of the Cultural Resources Department and Historic Preservation Commission, Town of Boone, 2013.

Faces of the Guard: South Carolina's National Guard Armories, website content author in cooperation with SCIAA and SCARNG, 2013.

As Other People Now: Fort Jackson and the Sandhills of Richland County, SC, settlement history of the Fort Jackson area (completed work for hire), 2011.

All That Time Has Spared: Fort Frederica National Monument, administrative history of Fort Frederica National Monument (completed work for hire), 2011.

National Register of Historic Places and Local Historic Designation Nominations and Evaluations:

NROTC Naval Armory at UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, National Register of Historic Places nomination (in progress, 2023)

Blue Ridge Tourist Court, Boone, NC, National Register of Historic Places nomination and Historic Preservation Tax Credits project (in progress, 2023)

Watauga County Jail, Boone, NC, Local Historic Landmark designation, 2022.

Plane Hill, Kershaw County, SC, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2022.

Edwin C. Guy House, Newland, NC, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2021.

Blue Ridge Tourist Court, Boone, NC, Local Historic Landmark designation, 2021.

Downtown Boone Local Historic District Designation Report, Boone, NC, gratis on behalf of the Boone Historic Preservation Commission, 2021.

Downtown Boone Historic Resources Survey, Boone, NC, principal consultant (gratis) on behalf of the Boone Historic Preservation Commission, 2020.

Baird Farm, Valle Crucis, NC, Cultural Resource Management Review, 2020.

Harmon School, Wilkes County, NC, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2020.

Chapin Commercial Historic District, Chapin, SC, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2019.

Cicero Pennington Farm, Sturgills Vicinity, NC, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2018.

Lawton-Seabrook Cemetery, Edisto Island, SC, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2017.

Frank A. Linney House and Former Linney Law Office, Boone, NC, co-author, Local Landmark Designation report, 2017.

Dr. James A. Fulmer House, Fountain Inn, SC, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2015.

J. C. Richardson House, Robertville, SC, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2014.

Frederick Nance House, Newberry, SC, historical advisor on National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2014.

Port Royal Elementary School, Port Royal, SC, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2014.

Conestee Mill Complex, Greenville County, SC, historical advisor on National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2014.

Lawtonville Baptist Church, Estill, SC, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2012.

Palmetto Theatre, Hampton, SC, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2012.

Historical Survey and Evaluation of 15 SCARNG Armory Complexes, South Carolina, eligibility review (completed work for hire), 2012.

Historical Survey and Evaluation of the Inchon 1000-Inch Miniature Anti-Tank Range, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, eligibility review (completed work for hire), 2012.

Hampton County Jail, Hampton, SC, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2011.

Cedar Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church, Leesville, SC, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2010.

Union Church of Port Royal, Port Royal, SC, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2010.

Manning Commercial Historic District, Manning, SC, historical advisor and co-author on National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2010.

John Lawton House, Estill, SC, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2009.

Providence United Methodist Church, Providence, SC, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2009.

Hope Rosenwald School, Pomaria, SC, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2007.

Mary H. Wright Elementary School, Spartanburg, SC, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2007.

Dantzer Plantation, Holly Hill, SC, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2007.

Resources Associated with Segregation in Columbia, South Carolina, 1880-1960, National Register Multiple Property Nomination, co-author, 2005.

Book Chapters:

"'There Is An Abundance of Those Which Are Genuine': Northern Travelers and Souvenirs of the Antebellum South," ***Dixie Emporium: Consumerism, Tourism, and Memory in the American South***, University of Georgia Press, 2008.

Articles in Refereed Journals:

"'Let the Constitution Perish': Prigg v. Pennsylvania, Joseph Story, and the Flawed Doctrine of Historical Necessity," ***Slavery and Abolition*** 25:3 (2004): 76-101.

"New York's 1741 Slave Conspiracy in a Climate of Fear and Anxiety," ***New York History*** 84:3 (2003): 275-99.

Book Reviews:

Review of *Delia's Tears: Race, Science, and Photography in Nineteenth-Century America* (Molly Rogers), *Journal of Southern History* 77:4 (2011).

Review of *Traveling South: Travel Narratives and the Construction of American Identity* (John D. Cox), *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 108:1 (2007): 119-21.

Review of *Justice of Shattered Dreams: Samuel Freeman Miller and the Supreme Court During the Civil War Era* (Michael A. Ross), *Slavery and Abolition* 26:1 (2005): 159-60.

Review of *The Great New York Conspiracy of 1741: Slavery, Crime, and Colonial Law* (Peter Charles Hoffer), *New York History* 86:3 (2005): 301-04.

Encyclopedia Articles:

"R. F. W. Allston." *The South Carolina Encyclopedia*, edited by Walter B. Edgar. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2006.

"Richard I. Manning." *The South Carolina Encyclopedia*, edited by Walter B. Edgar. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2006.

Introductions to Books:

Introduction. *Democracy in America*, by Alexis de Tocqueville. New York: Barnes and Noble World Digital Library, 2002. MS Reader eBook. Reprinted in traditional book form, 2003.

Introduction. *The Education of Henry Adams*, by Henry Adams. New York: Barnes and Noble World Digital Library, 2002. MS Reader eBook.

Photography:

Ineffable Light, Blurb Press, 118pp, 60 images (in progress, 2022).

"F. Tobias Morriss: A Place in Our Memory," *Jasper*, 2:3 (Jan./Feb. 2013): 30-33.

While in This Place, Limited Edition Group Portfolio, 11" x 14" handcrafted linen box with 20 original prints, 2007.

"Foundation, Ft. Livingston, Grande Terre" and "Coming Home" in *2007 Jubilee Anthology*, Nicholls State University Press, 2007.

Selected Presentations and Interviews

DocuAppalachia: A Half Century Focus on the Environment, interviewee for documentary film, 2021.

"The Wild and Wonderful Tales of Robert O. Colt in Blowing Rock," Blowing Rock Art and History Museum, December 3, 2020.

Hollywood in the High Country: A History of the Appalachian Theatre, historical advisor and interviewee for documentary film, Thunderhill Films, 2019.

"'Western Carolina's Finest': A History of the Appalachian Theatre," Appalachian Theatre of the High Country (main stage), Boone, NC, October 16, 2019.

"When the Linville River Railway Came to Town," Watauga County Public Library, Boone, NC, May 3, 2019.

"Lost Watauga: An Exploration of Our Lost Landscapes," Watauga County Historical Society, Boone, NC, April 11, 2019.

"'The Most Frightful Time': The 1940 Flood in Context," Blowing Rock Art and History Museum, August 16, 2018.

"Literally Washed Away," Boone Area Chamber of Commerce, August 8, 2018.

"The Buildings of Boone," Watauga County Historical Society, Boone, NC, April 5, 2018.

"'The First Day They Had Ever Had a Country': Port Royal as the Cradle of Reconstruction," Historic Port Royal Foundation, Port Royal, SC, March 28, 2017.

Erdenheim Farm: Preserving Our Past...Sustaining Our Future, interviewee for documentary film, History Making Productions, 2016.

"Meat Camp, North Carolina," *Inside Appalachia*, West Virginia Public Radio, July 10, 2015.

"The Digital Watauga Project," Blowing Rock Art and History Museum, Blowing Rock, NC, June 5, 2015.

“‘He Says He Was a Union Man’: Sherman’s March and the Civilians of the Rivers Bridge Vicinity,” 150th Anniversary Commemoration Series, Rivers Bridge State Historic Site, Erhardt, SC, February 7, 2015.

“‘For the First Time I Am Ashamed’: Rattled Yankees and Inconsolable Civilians in the Wake of the Burning of Columbia,” Burning of Columbia, 150th Anniversary, South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, Columbia, SC, January 18, 2015.

“Traveler’s Time: Temporal Dislocation and Sectional Identity in the Antebellum South,” American Historical Association conference, Philadelphia, PA, January 2006.

“‘There is an Abundance of Those Which Are Genuine’: Northern Travelers and Souvenirs of the Antebellum South,” Dixie Emporium Symposium, sponsored by the Watson-Brown Foundation and the Institute for Southern Studies, University of South Carolina, Thomson, GA, October 2005.

“Making Sense of the Old South: Northern Travelers and the Coming of the American Civil War,” Cleanth Brooks Graduate Student Forum, St. George Tucker Society Conference, Thomson, GA, August 2005.

“‘Let the Constitution Perish’: Prigg v. Pennsylvania and Justice Story’s Codification of Historical Necessity,” South Carolina Historical Association Annual Meeting, Columbia, SC, March 1, 2003.

“Blending the Online and Traditional Models of Teaching: The Next Paradigm for Adult Education,” Center for Internet Technology in Education Conference, March 23, 2000.

“Insiders, Outsiders, and Cather’s Internal Storytelling,” Graduate English Student Association Conference, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, June 5, 1993.

Selected Grants and Awards

Watauga County Historical Society Hall of Fame Inductee, 2023.

Historic Preservation Medal, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 2018.

“Dr. Eric Plaag Day,” Town of Boone, NC, February 25, 2018

American Battlefield Protection Program, National Park Service grant awarded to SCIAA, served as Historian and Co-Author on grant project team, 2010-12

The Best American History Essays, 2006, nominee for "'Let the Constitution Perish': Prigg v. Pennsylvania, Joseph Story, and the Flawed Doctrine of Historical Necessity," Organization of American Historians, 2006

Mellon Research Fellow, Virginia Historical Society, 2004

Mary Catherine Mooney Fellow, The Boston Athenaeum, 2003-2004

Second Prize, Humanities Division, Graduate Student Day, University of South Carolina, 2003

Graduate School Fellow, University of South Carolina, 2002-2006

Other Professional Service and Experience

Chairperson, Town of Boone Historic Preservation Commission, 2014-present; Member, 2012-2014

Chairperson, Digital Watauga Project, Watauga County Historical Society, 2014-Present

Vice Chairperson, Town of Boone Planning Commission, 2018-present; Member, 2018-present

Treasurer, Watauga County Historical Society, 2016-present

Treasurer, Weekapaug Grove POA, 2016-present

Trustee, Appalachian Theatre of the High Country, Boone, NC, 2012-2020

Chairperson, Archives and History Committee, Appalachian Theatre of the High Country, Boone, NC, 2012-2020

Curator and Exhibit Designer, *The Best of Digital Watauga*, Jones House Community Center, Boone, NC, March 2020

Curator and Exhibit Designer, *The Appalachian Theatre*, Jones House Community Center, Boone, NC, October 2019

Curator and Exhibit Designer, *Lost Watauga*, Jones House Community Center, Boone, NC, March 2019

Curator and Exhibit Designer, *The Paul Armfield Coffey Collection*, Jones House Community Center, Boone, NC, March 2018

Curator and Exhibit Designer, *Through the Lens of Palmer Blair*, Jones House Community Center, Boone, NC, March 2017

Curator and Exhibit Designer, *Images of Watauga: The Bobby Brendell Postcard Collection*, Jones House Community Center, Boone, NC, February 2016

Board Member, Downtown Boone Development Association, Boone, NC, 2013-16

Historical Preservation Consultant (volunteer), Appalachian Theatre Task Force, Boone, NC, 2011-12

Peer Reviewer, *Winterthur Portfolio*, 2011

Peer Reviewer, *Slavery and Abolition*, 2009

Work History (Teaching)

American Public University (Online)

Instructor, December 2011-October 2012, Graduate Courses in Historic Preservation

University of South Carolina

Instructor, September 2004-May 2006, US History Survey I & II

Graduate Teaching Assistant, January-May 2004, US History Survey I

Graduate Research Assistant, Dan Carter and Patricia Sullivan, August 2002-December 2003

Franklin Pierce College

Instructor, Division of Graduate and Professional Studies, January 1994-August 2000, various courses in American Studies, Creative Writing, English Composition, American Literature, English Literature, Mass Communications, Effective Speaking, Philosophy, and Core Curriculum Humanities Courses

Endicott College

Adjunct Instructor, September 1995-May 1997, US History, American Culture, and Effective Speaking

North Shore Community College

Adjunct Instructor, January-May 1996, Effective Speaking, English Composition, and State and Local Government

New Hampshire College

Adjunct Instructor, January 1996-August 1996, English Composition and Introduction to Drama

Keene State College

Adjunct Instructor, September-December 1994, English Composition

Johnson State College

Adjunct Instructor, External Degree Program, March-June 1994, Philosophy

Community College of Vermont-Brattleboro

Adjunct Instructor, January 1994-August 1995, English Composition, Introduction to Religion, and Core Curriculum Humanities Courses

Current Professional Affiliations

American Historical Association

National Council on Public History

Organization of American Historians

St. George Tucker Society (Fellow)

Southern Historical Association