

J. Matthew Ward

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, Louisiana State University, 2021
M.A., History, University of Missouri-Columbia, 2015
B.A., History and English, Mississippi University for Women, 2012
A.A., Social Studies, Itawamba Community College, 2010

DISSERTATION

“Garden of Ruins: Military Occupation and State Power in Civil War Louisiana” (2021)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of History, Quincy University, 2021-present

Instructor, Louisiana State University, 2019-2020

Teaching Assistant, Louisiana State University, 2015-2020

Teaching Assistant, University of Missouri, 2013-2015

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Summer Seminar in Military History at the National World War II Museum, New Orleans, Louisiana, 2023 Fellow

Anne J. Bailey Dissertation Prize, Society of Civil War Historians, 2022

Fred C. Frey Department Dissertation Fellowship, Louisiana State University, 2020-2021

Wilcher Endowment Fund Award, Department of History, University of Missouri, 2013-2015

University of Missouri Graduate School Fellowship, University of Missouri, 2013-2015

PUBLICATIONS

Works Published

Garden of Ruins: Occupied Louisiana in the Civil (May 2024, LSU Press)

“Confederate Worms on the River Front: The Plantation Regime, Environment, and Guerrilla War in Occupied Louisiana” in *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association* 64, no. 3 (Summer 2023): 241-277.

Book Reviews

Review of *Miserable Little Conglomeration: A Social History of the Port Hudson Campaign* by Christopher Thrasher. *Journal of the Civil War Era* (forthcoming).

Review of *The Key to the Shenandoah Valley: Geography and the Civil War Struggle for Winchester* by Edward B. McCaul Jr. *Civil War Book Review* 26, Issue 1 (2024).

Review of *Shipwrecked: A True Civil War Story of Mutinies, Jailbreaks, Blockade-Running, and the Slave Trade* by Jonathan W. White. *The Civil War Monitor*, November 15, 2023.

Review of *The Democratic Collapse: How Gender Politics Broke a Party and a Nation, 1856-1861* by Lauren N. Haumesser. *The Civil War Monitor*, April 19, 2023.

Review of *The Weaker Sex in War: Gender and Nationalism in Civil War Virginia* by Kristin Brill. *Civil War Book Review* 24, Issue 4 (2022).

Review of *Ambivalent Nation: How Britain Imagined the American Civil War* by Hugh Dubrulle. *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association* 60, No. 4 (2019): 485-488.

Review of *No Property in Man: Slavery and Antislavery at the Nation's Founding* by Sean Wilentz. *Civil War Book Review* 21, Issue 1 (2019).

Review of *Keep the Days* by Steven Stowe. *American Nineteenth Century History* 20, Issue 3 (2019): 329-331.

Review of *Occupied Vicksburg* by Bradley Clampitt. *Civil War Book Review* 19, Issue 2 (2017).

CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Garden of Ruins Book Presentation—LSU Press Author Series (Online), June 5, 2024

“Garden of Ruins: Occupied Louisiana and the Civil War”—Virtual presentation to the Louisiana State Museum. New Orleans, Louisiana, January 11, 2024.

Commentator on American Sexual Expression panel. Louisiana State University History Graduate Student Conference, March 6, 2021.

Commentator on Professional Development Panel: Life in Academia. Louisiana State University History Graduate Student Conference, March 5, 2021.

“Building Freedom Under Union Military Occupation in Civil War Louisiana”—Louisiana Historical Association Annual Meeting, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, December 3, 2020. Online presentation.

“Building Freedom Under Union Military Occupation in Civil War Louisiana”—113th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, Portland State University, August 6-8, 2020. (Accepted but cancelled due to Covid-19)

“‘To Rid the Community of All Suspicious Persons’: The Confederate Community in Louisiana, November 1860-May 1862”—85th Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky, November 7-10, 2019.

TEACHING

Assistant Professor of History, Quincy University, 2021-2022

US Environmental History (Spring 2025)

Antebellum America (Spring 2025)

History of US Slavery (Spring 2024)

American Colonial History (Spring 2023)

US History since 1877 (Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024)

US Civil War and Reconstruction Era (Spring 2022, Spring 2023)

History of US Women (Spring 2022; Spring 2024)

US History to 1877 (Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024; Fall 2024)

US Pop Culture History (Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023; Fall 2024)

Instructor, Louisiana State University, 2019-2020

Louisiana History (Summer 2020, Online)

US History, 1865-Present (Summer 2019)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, & MEMBERSHIPS

Leadership Appointments

Board Member, Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum (Quincy, Illinois) Summer 2024-present

Board of Directors Member, Historical Society of Quincy & Adams County, Summer 2024-present

Editorial Board Member, Civil War Book Review, 2019-2024

President, LSU History Graduate Student Association, 2019-2020

Treasurer, LSU History Graduate Student Association, 2017-2019

Service

Quincy University Academic Programs Committee, Humanities representative, 2023-present

Quincy University Faculty Representative to the Faculty Advisory Council to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, 2022-present

Co-organizer, Louisiana State University History Graduate Student Association Annual Graduate Student Conference at Louisiana State University, February 2019 and February 2020

Memberships

Society of Civil War Historians, Member

Southern Historical Association, Member

Louisiana Historical Society, Member

American Society for Environmental History, Member

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PRESENTATIONS

Garden of Ruins Book Presentation at Amory Municipal Library—Amory, Mississippi, August 6, 2024

“Tides of Freedom: Slavery and Emancipation in the Mississippi River Valley during the Civil War”—History Happy Hour presentation to Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum, Quincy, Illinois, April 18, 2024

Panelist in event “Is Religion Necessary for the Common Good?”—Quincy University, March 25, 2024

“The Beginning of Liberty: The Transformation of Women in US History”—Quincy Unitarian Church, Quincy, Illinois, March 24, 2024

“Fighting a Women’s War: Women in the US Civil War”—POLIS presentation, Quincy, Illinois, March 22, 2024

“Revolutionary Women: Women in the Era of the American War for Independence”—POLIS presentation, Quincy, Illinois, October 10, 2023

“Building Early America: Laboring People before the American Revolution, 1607-1776”—POLIS presentation, Quincy, Illinois, April 28, 2023

“U.S. Environmental History”—POLIS presentation, Quincy, Illinois, February 24, 2023

“Lifting As We Climb: A Brief History of Women’s Influence in the United States”—Quincy Unitarian Church, Quincy, Illinois, March 5, 2023

“The 1619 Project Explained”—Presentation to the Quincy, Illinois chapter of the American Association of University Women, November 2022

“The 1619 Project and the Cultural Battle for American History”—POLIS presentation, Quincy, Illinois, October 28, 2022

“Garden of Ruins: Military Occupation, State Power, and the Household in Civil War Louisiana”—Presentation to the Tri-States Civil War Round Table in Quincy, Illinois, September 2022

“Who Controls History?”—Presentation at Quincy University, sponsored by the Great Books Program, February 2022

Public Historian and Tour Guide, The Whitney Plantation, Edgard, Louisiana, 2018-2019

ESL Tutor, Mississippi University for Women, 2012-2013