

J. Brent Morris, Ph.D.

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•EDUCATION

Ph.D 2010, **Cornell University** (United States / African American History)

- Dissertation: “‘Be not conformed to this world’: Oberlin and the Fight to End Slavery.”

(Nominated for the Society of American Historians’ Allan Nevins Prize for the best written dissertation on an American subject and the Cornell University Messenger-Chalmers Prize for the best dissertation on human progress and the evolution of civilization)

Dissertation Committee:

Edward E. Baptist, Cornell University, Chair (Department of History)

Jon W. Parmenter, Cornell University (Department of History)

Richard F. Bensel, Cornell University (Department of Government)

Paul E. Johnson, University of South Carolina (Department of History)

MA, 2008, **Cornell University** (United States History)

Graduate Fields:

African American History, American History, American Indian Studies, Latin American History

BA, *Magna Cum Laude*, 2001, **University of South Carolina** (English Language/Lit.)

•ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of South Carolina Beaufort, 2012 - present

- Assistant Professor of History

University of South Carolina Aiken, 2010-2012

- Instructor of History, August 2011-2012
- Lecturer of History, August 2010-August 2011

University of South Carolina Sumter, August 2010- August 2011

- Senior Lecturer of History

University Courses:

Introduction to American History (I and II)

U.S. Constitutional History

The Old South

The New South

The Historian's Craft

Civil War and Reconstruction

African American History

Sections & Nation 1828-1860

Native American History

History of Slavery

•PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- *Oberlin, Hotbed of Abolitionism: College, Community, and the Fight for Freedom and Equality in Antebellum America*. (University of North Carolina Press, 2014).

(Nominated for the Gettysburg College/Gilder Lehrman Center Lincoln Prize, Frederick Douglass Book Prize of the Gilder Lehrman Center, Avery O. Craven Award of the Organization of American Historians, Tom Watson Brown Book Award of the Society of Civil War Historians, Frederick Jackson Turner Award of the Organization of American Historians, Ray Allen Billington Prize of the Organization of American Historians, Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society Best First Book Prize, Ohio Genealogical Society Henry Howe Award)

- *Yes Lord I Know the Road: A History of African Americans and South Carolina, 1526-2008, with Documents*. (University of South Carolina Press, in production).
- *Dismal Freedom: The History of the Maroons of the Great Dismal Swamp* (manuscript in progress).
- (editor, with Vernon Burton) *Reconstruction at 150: Reassessing America's "New Birth of Freedom"* (work in progress)

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- "‘A perversion of the ballot boxes’: The South Carolina ‘Dual House’ of 1876-1877 and the End of Federal Reconstruction," in *Reconstruction at 150: Reassessing the Revolutionary New Birth of Freedom*, ed. Burton and Morris (forthcoming 2018).
- "Constructing Reconstruction: Race, Memory, and the Post-bellum Divide," in *The Routledge Handbook of the American South*, ed. Maggi Morehouse (Routledge, forthcoming 2016).
- "I have at last found my ‘sphere’": The Unintentional Development of a Female Abolitionist Stronghold at Oberlin College," in *Slavery and the University: Histories and Legacies*, ed. Leslie Alexander, et al (University of Georgia Press, forthcoming 2016).
- "‘No peer in his race’: Robert Brown Elliott and the Radical Politics of Reconstruction Era South Carolina," in *Before Obama: A Reappraisal of Black Reconstruction Era Politicians*, ed. Matthew Lynch (Routledge, 2012).
- "‘All the truly wise or truly pious have one and the same end in view’: Oberlin, the

West, and Abolitionist Schism,” *Civil War History*, Vol.LVII, No.3 (September 2011), 234-267.

- ““We are verily guilty concerning our brother’: The Abolitionist Transformation of South Carolina Planter William Henry Brisbane,” *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, Vol.111, Nos.3-4 (July-Oct. 2010) [published 2011], 118-150.

(Winner of the 2010 South Carolina Historical Society Malcolm C. Clark Award, presented annually for the best article published in the journal)

- ““Running Servants and All Others’: The Diverse and Elusive Maroons of the Great Dismal Swamp,” in *Voices from Within the Veil: African Americans and the Experience of Democracy*, ed. William Alexander, Cassandra Newby-Alexander, and Charles Ford (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2008), 85-112.

BOOK REVIEWS

- “Review of Judith Wellman, *Brooklyn’s Promised Land: The Free Black Community of Weeksville, New York* (New York: NYU Press, 2014),” in *American Historical Review* (forthcoming).
- "Review of Christopher Cameron, *To Plead Our Own Cause: African Americans in Massachusetts and the Making of the Antislavery Movement* (Kent: Kent State University Press, 2014)," in *Journal of Southern History* (forthcoming).
- "Review of Catherine W. Bishir, *Crafting Lives: African American Artisans in New Bern, North Carolina, 1770-1900* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013)," in *Journal of African American History* (forthcoming).
- "Review of Nathaniel Millett, *The Maroons of Prospect Bluff and Their Quest for Freedom in the Atlantic World* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2013)," *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (Vol.112, No.4 (Autumn 2014),670-672.
- “Review of Matthew Pratt Guterl, *American Mediterranean: Southern Slaveholders in the Age of Emancipation* (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2013)," *Civil War History* (Vol.61, No.1 (March 2015), 84-86.
- “Review of Tony Horwitz, *Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid that Sparked the Civil War* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2012),” *Civil War History*, Vol.59, No.4 (November, 2013), 530-531.
- “Review of Richard Follett, Eric Foner, and Walter Johnson, *Slavery’s Ghost: The Problem of Freedom in the Age of Emancipation* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011),” *Civil War History*, Vol.59, No.2 (June 2013), 245-247.

- “Review of Phillip W. Magness and Sebastian N. Page, *Colonization after Emancipation: Lincoln and the Movement for Black Resettlement* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2011),” *The Journal of African American History*, Vol.98, No.1 (Winter 2013), 145-147.
- “Review of George M. Frederickson’s *Big Enough to be Inconsistent: Abraham Lincoln Confronts Slavery and Race* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008),” *Southern Studies* Vol.24, No.1 (Winter 2011), 122-123.
- “Review of Douglas Walter Bristol, Jr., *Knights of the Razor: Black Barbers in Slavery and Freedom* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009),” *The Journal of African American History*, Vol.96, No.1 (Winter 2011), 96-98.
- “Review of Timothy James Lockley, ed., *Maroon Communities in South Carolina: A Documentary Record* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2009),” H-SC, H-Net Reviews, March 2011. URL: <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=32425> .

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- “Abolitionists,” in *The World of the Civil War: A Daily Life Encyclopedia*, ed. Lisa Tendrich Frank (ABC-CLIO, 2015).
- “Dave (the slave potter),” in *Encyclopedia of Slavery in the Americas*, ed. Edward E. Baptist (Facts on File, in press).
- “Election of 1860,” in *Encyclopedia of the Early Republic and Antebellum America*, ed. Christopher Bates (M.E. Sharpe, 2010).
- “Frederick Douglass,” in *Encyclopedia of Slavery in the Americas*, ed. Edward E. Baptist (Facts on File, in press).
- “Gabriel’s Conspiracy,” in *Encyclopedia of the Early Republic and Antebellum America*, ed. Christopher Bates (M.E. Sharpe, 2010).
- “Gabriel’s Rebellion,” in *Encyclopedia of Slavery in the Americas*, ed. Edward E. Baptist (Facts on File, in press).
- “James G. Birney,” in *Encyclopedia of Slavery in the Americas*, ed. Edward E. Baptist (Facts on File, in press).
- “Liberty Party,” in *Encyclopedia of Slavery in the Americas*, ed. Edward E. Baptist (Facts on File, in press).

- “Slavery,” in *The World of the Civil War: A Daily Life Encyclopedia*, ed. Lisa Tendrich Frank (ABC-CLIO, 2015).

OTHER MEDIA

- “That Railroad Station At Which All Branches Converged,” *Oberlin Alumni Magazine*, Vol.109, No.4 (Fall 2014), 12-17.
- “Life in the Swamp,” *The New York Times*, Disunion/Opinionator, October 19, 2013.
- “You Too Can Recite the Gettysburg Address,” with film maker Ken Burns, *The Brian Lehrer Show*, WNYC/NPR, November 12, 2013.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Institutes, "America's Reconstruction: The Untold Story," (2014-2015)
- University of South Carolina Research Initiative for Summer Engagement (RISE) Grant (2014)
- Sea Islands Institute Research Grant (2013-2014, 2015-2016)
- University of South Carolina Institute for African American Research Faculty Research Fellowship (2012-13)
- Association for Documentary Editing Institute for Editing Historical Documents Fellowship (2012)
- National Endowment for the Humanities “We the People” Grant, “Nineteenth Century Tidewater Resistance Communities: The Forgotten Social History of the Great Dismal Swamp” (2010-13)
- South Carolina Historical Society Malcolm C. Clark Award, presented annually for the best article published in the *South Carolina Historical Magazine* (2011)
- University of South Carolina Institute for Southern Studies Research Fellowship (2009-12 yearly)
- Cornell University Mary E. and Anna K. Cunningham Fellowship (2004-10)
- Cornell University Society for the Humanities Research Grant (2009)

- Oberlin College Frederick B. Artz Research Fellowship (2009)
- Cornell University Daughters of the American Revolution Fellowship (2008-09)
- Cornell University American Studies Research Grant (2008, 2009)
- Cornell University Sage Fellowship (2004-5, 2009-10)
- National Endowment for the Humanities “We the People” Grant, New York Council for the Humanities “Reading Between the Lines for Adults” Program (2004-05)
- Palmetto Fellow, University of South Carolina (1997-2001)

•TEACHING AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

- Nominated for 2016 University of South Carolina Breakthrough Rising Star Award
- Nominated for 2011 University of South Carolina Aiken Award for Excellence in Teaching
- Nominated for the 2007 Cornell University Dean’s Prize for Distinguished Teaching

•CONFERENCE / COLLOQUIUM PRESENTATIONS

- “Dismal Freedom: Self-Emancipation, Marronage, and the Resistance Communities of the Great Dismal Swamp,” (2016 Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, *upcoming*).
- “Decidedly the Best Anti-Slavery Field in the Country”: Oberlin, the West, and Abolitionist Schism,” (2016 Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, *upcoming*).
- “Never Has There Been a More Friendly Schism”: Western Antislavery and Abolitionist Divisions,” (Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Historical Association, March 2015).
- “Mingled Fear and Ferocity: The Forgotten Social History of the Resistance Communities of the Great Dismal Swamp,” (2014 Annual Meeting of the Southern Historical Association, November 2014).
- “Sable Outlaws: The Maroons of the Great Dismal Swamp, 1607-1865,” (USC Institute for African American Research Colloquium Series, April, 2014).

- “To Drink of the Healing Stream: Oberlin College and the Fight to End Slavery and Inequality in Antebellum America,” (2014 Triangle African American History Colloquium, February 2014).
- “New Perspectives on John Brown’s War Against Racism and Slavery” (Chair/Comment), (2013 *Southern American Studies Association Meeting*).
- “John Brown’s Shadow Army: Harper’s Ferry, Southern Paranoia, and Mobilization for Civil War,” (2013 *Southern American Studies Association Meeting*).
- “‘A perversion of the ballot boxes’: The South Carolina ‘Dual House’ of 1876-1877 and the End of Reconstruction,” (2012 *Palmetto Connections Symposium*).
- “The Importance of Marronage in the Study of North American Slave Resistance,” (2012 *Meeting of the South Carolina Historical Association*).
- “The Dog that Barked and the One that Did Not: Black Rebellion and White Reaction in South Carolina, 1821-1823” (2012 *Meeting of the American Historical Association*).
- “‘They are seldom, if at all, reclaimed’: Finding the Great Dismal Swamp Maroons in the Documentary Record” (2011 *American University Public Anthropology Conference*).
- “‘The Celebrated Bandit Joe’: Uncovering Forest Joe’s Lowcountry Maroon Campaign of 1821-1823,” (2011 *Meeting of the South Carolina Historical Association*).
- “The Black Man’s Burden: The Reciprocal Realms of Turn of the Twentieth Century Foreign- and Domestic Southern Policy,” (2011 *Southern American Studies Association Meeting*).
- “‘A Hot-Bed of Abolitionism’: Oberlin and the Fight to End Slavery,” (2011 *Slavery and the University: Histories and Legacies, Emory University*).
- “Renegades and Runaways: The Great Dismal Swamp and the Underground Railroad in Tidewater Virginia,” (*Waterways to Freedom: The Underground Railroad Journey from Hampton Roads, Virginia*, an educational Symposium, Norfolk, Virginia, 2009).
- “I have at least found my ‘sphere’: Oberlin’s Co-educational Experiment in Theory and Practice,” (*The Americas Colloquium*, Cornell University, 2009).
- “The Path of the Orator: The *Columbian Orator*, Frederick Douglass, and his March Towards Independence,” (*The Americas Colloquium*, Cornell University, 2008).

- “‘Running Servants and All Others’: The Diverse and Elusive Maroons of the Great Dismal Swamp, 1619-1861” (2007 *Federal Jamestown 400th Conference: Voices From Within the Veil*).
- “Way (Way) Down South in Dixie: Confederate Exiles, Identity, and Race in Nineteenth-Century Brazil,” (2007 *Cornell University Graduate Latin American Studies Program Conference*).
- “‘You Ain’t Right Yet, Marster’: Constructions of Masculinity in the Antebellum South and the Power Counterpoint Between Men,” (2007 *Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora Biannual Conference*).
- “A Concentrated Diversity: The Maroons of the Great Dismal Swamp of Virginia and North Carolina, 1619-1860,” (2006 University of Sussex (UK) *Fresh Perspectives Postgraduate Conference*).

• INVITED LECTURES

- “The ‘Constitutional Revolution’ of Reconstruction,” University of South Carolina Beaufort Constitution Day Lecture, September 17, 2015.
- “History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme,” USC Beaufort Fall 2015 Convocation Keynote Address, August 19, 2015.
- “Constructing Reconstruction: Race, Memory, and the Post-Bellum Divide,” Opening Address of 2015 National Endowment for the Humanities institute America’s Reconstruction: The Untold Story, July 12, 2015.
- “Remembering and Forgetting American History, 1865 to Today,” Meeting of Paul Hamilton Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (June 19, 2015).
- “U.S. History: A Southern Perspective,” University of Pennsylvania Wharton Business School, Lauder Global Program (June 1, 2015).
- “The History of Slavery in America,” University of Pennsylvania Wharton Business School, Lauder Global Program (June 1, 2015).
- “‘No peer in his race’: Robert Brown Elliott and the Radical Politics of Reconstruction Era South Carolina,” Historic Beaufort Foundation (May 18, 2015).
- “South Carolina and the Birth and Death of Reconstruction in America,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (April 21 and 28, 2015).
- “I have at last found my ‘sphere’”: The Unintentional Development of a Female Abolitionist Stronghold at Oberlin College,” Beaufort Daughters of the American

Revolution (April 9, 2015).

- "I have at last found my 'sphere'": The Unintentional Development of a Female Abolitionist Stronghold at Oberlin College," American Association of University Women, February 10, 2015.
- "Life Before Mitchelville," Mitchelville Preservation Project Forum, October 11, 2014.
- "Be not conformed to this world: Oberlin and the Antebellum Fight for Freedom and Equality," Oberlin College Library, September 29, 2014.
- "A perversion of the ballot boxes': The South Carolina 'Dual House' of 1876-1877 and the End of Reconstruction," Country Club of Hilton Head, September 25, 2014.
- "The Constitution that Almost Was: Freedom, Slavery, and the Making of America," University of South Carolina Beaufort Constitution Day Lecture, September 17, 2014.
- "The History of the South: Economics, Society, and Culture," University of Pennsylvania Wharton Business School, Lauder Global Program, June 2014.
- "Slavery in Early America," University of Pennsylvania Wharton Business School, Lauder Global Program, June 2014.
- "Remembering and Forgetting the Civil War," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, April 2014.
- "The Most Hated Man in the Beaufort District: The Transformation of Planter-Turned Abolitionist William Henry Brisbane," South Carolina Historical Society, March 2014.
- "The Life of Planter-Turned Abolitionist William Henry Brisbane," Beaufort County Historical Society, January 2014.
- "The Most Hated Man in the Beaufort District: The Transformation of Planter-Turned Abolitionist William Henry Brisbane," Coastal Discovery Museum, December 2013.
- "Slavery in Early America," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, September 2013.
- "The Constitution that Almost Was: Freedom, Slavery, and the Making of America," University of South Carolina Beaufort Constitution Day Lecture, September 17, 2013.

- “‘A perversion of the ballot boxes’: The South Carolina ‘Dual House’ of 1876-1877 and the End of Reconstruction,” Coastal Discovery Museum / Hilton Head Civil War Roundtable, May 6, 2013.
- “Slavery and Freedom in Early America,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, April 2013.
- "Life of Planter-Turned-Abolitionist William Henry Brisbane," Bray's Island Plantation, (February 2013)
- “Renegades and Runaways: The Great Dismal Swamp and the Underground Railroad in Tidewater Virginia,” (*Waterways to Freedom: The Underground Railroad Journey from Hampton Roads, Virginia*, an educational Symposium, Norfolk, Virginia, 2009).

•DOCUMENTARY FILM PROJECTS

- “The Inevitable Evolution of Fort Frederick,” produced by SCDNR and Koelker & Associates (2014).
- "Landscape of Power: Freedom and Slavery in the Great Dismal Swamp," produced by Nina Shapiro-Perl (2014).
- “Dismal History: A History of Marronage in the Great Dismal Swamp of Virginia,” produced by Imtiaz Habib and Richard Green, Old Dominion University (2011).
- “Before Obama: A Reappraisal of Black Reconstruction Politicians,” produced by Matthew Lynch, Langston University (in development)
- (co-producer) “The American Experience: The Port Royal Experiment,” produced by Koelker & Associates and J. Brent Morris (in development)
- (co-producer) “SCETV Carolina Stories: The Port Royal Experiment,” produced by Koelker & Associates and J. Brent Morris (in development)

• CONFERENCES / PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2016 South Carolina Humanities Festival, SC Humanities Council, Program Committee (2015-2016).
- 2016 Meeting of the American Historical Association, “Finding Freedom: New Perspectives on Movement, Mobility, and Self-Emancipation from Slavery in the Early Republic,” panel organizer (upcoming)
- Scholarly Forum: “Briggs v Elliott and the Fight for Desegregation,” Taw Caw

Community Outreach Center, Summerton, SC, July 29, 2015.

- 2015 Phi Alpha Theta Carolinas Region Conference, principle organizer
- 2015 Palmetto Connections Symposium, principle organizer
- 2015 National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Conference, program committee
- 2013 Southern American Studies Association Conference, “New Perspectives on John Brown’s War Against Racism and Slavery,” panel organizer

•COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

- *Great Dismal Swamp Landscape Study*, 2010-present (Publicly engaged historical archaeology research group housed at American University focused on the maroon communities of the Great Dismal Swamp of NC/VA c. 1607-1860; The GDSLS is partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture and has been supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the "We the People" and Collaborative grants program)
- *Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture* and *Great Dismal Swamp Landscape Study*, Development of a Dismal Swamp Maroon Exhibit as one of the NMAAHC’s ten permanent displays when it opens in 2015.
- National Gullah Cultural Center of Hilton Head Island (in partnership with the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor), 2013.
- Gullah Preservation Initiative of Beaufort County, 2013- present.

•RESEARCH/ACADEMIC INTERESTS

- Slavery, Abolition, and Antislavery
- African American History
- Histories of Marronage and Slave Resistance
- 19th Century United States History

•UNIVERSITY / PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Director, USCB Robert Smalls Lecture Series
- Board of Directors, Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage (2015 -)
- Faculty Manual Committee (2015 -)
- Curator, “Lift Every Voice: The Photography of Cecil Williams from the Second Reconstruction,” USCB Sea Islands Center Gallery, July 27, 2015.
- Chair, Philosophy Faculty Search Committee (2015)
- Principle organizer, Phi Alpha Theta Carolinas Regional Conference (2014-2015)
- Principle organizer, Palmetto Connections Symposium (2014-2015)
- University Content (GNED) representative for NCATE Board of Examiners (2015)
- Board of Directors, Hilton Head Heritage Library Foundation (2014 -)
- Chancellor's Enrollment/Retention Task Force (2014)
- Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society Founding Faculty Advisor (2013 -)
- Philosophy/Liberal Studies Faculty Search Committee (2013-2014)
- Courses and Curriculum Committee (2013 -)
- Consultant and USCB Liaison, Gullah Preservation Initiative of Beaufort County (2013 -)
- Member/Consultant, The Jubilee Project (2013 -)
- Consultant, Penn Center/Gullah Culture Consortium (2013)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Civil War History* (2013)
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of American History* (2012, 2013)
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Course Instructor (2012 -)
- Consultant, Hilton Head Island 350th Anniversary Celebration, Hilton Head Heritage Library (2012-2013)

•PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Historical Association
- Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
- Organization of American Historians
- Society of Civil War Historians
- South Carolina Historical Association
- Southern Historical Association
- Association for Documentary Editing