

James E. Lewis Jr.
Department of History
Kalamazoo College
1200 Academy St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
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Education:

Ph.D., History, University of Virginia, 1994
M.A., History, The American University, 1988
B.A., Government and Foreign Affairs, College of William and
Mary, 1986

Employment Record:

Professor of History, Kalamazoo College, Spring 2017--
Chair, Department of History, Kalamazoo College, Summer
2012-Fall 2016
Associate Professor of History, Kalamazoo College, Spring
2007-Spring 2017
Assistant Professor of History, Kalamazoo College, Fall
2004-Spring 2007
Adjunct Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Kalamazoo
College, Winter 2003-Spring 2004
Adjunct Lecturer in History, University of Pennsylvania, Spring
2001
Adjunct Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Widener
University, Spring 2000
Assistant Professor of History, Louisiana State University,
1995-99 (resigned)
Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Hollins College,
1994-95
Instructor in History (two-thirds time), University of
Virginia, Spring 1994
Instructor in History, University of Virginia, Summer 1993
Instructor in History (one-third time), University of Virginia,
Fall 1990
Editorial Assistant (part-time), Papers of James Madison
Project, 1990-93

Theses:

"'We Shall Have Good Neighbours': The American Union and the
Collapse of the Spanish Empire, 1783-1829," Ph.D. Dissertation,

University of Virginia, 1994.

"Civil Disobedience and an Analysis of the Sanctuary Movement,"
B.A. Honors Thesis, College of William and Mary, 1986.

Publications:

Books:

The Burr Conspiracy: Uncovering the Story of an Early American Crisis (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2017).

The Louisiana Purchase: Jefferson's Noble Bargain?, Monticello Monograph Series (Charlottesville, Va.: Thomas Jefferson Foundation, 2003).

John Quincy Adams: Policymaker for the Union, Biographies in American Foreign Policy Series (Wilmington, Del.: SR Books, 2001).

The American Union and the Problem of Neighborhood: The United States and the Collapse of the Spanish Empire, 1783-1829 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998).

Essays:

"'The Strongest Government on Earth' Proves Its Strength: The Jefferson Administration and the Burr Conspiracy," in Joanne Freeman and Johann Neem, eds., Jeffersonians in Power, 1800-1824 (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, forthcoming).

"'The Western States Would Be the Last to Withdraw from the Union': The Burr Conspiracy and Western Secessionism," in A. Glenn Crothers, Kevin Barksdale, and Frank Towers, eds., Secessions (Athens: Ohio University Press, forthcoming).

"A Tornado on the Horizon: The Jefferson Administration, the Retrocession Crisis, and the Louisiana Purchase," in Peter J. Kastor and François Weil, eds., Empires of the Imagination: Transatlantic Histories of the Louisiana Purchase (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2009), 117-40.

"The Geopolitical Context of the Expedition," in Alan Taylor, ed., Lewis and Clark: Journey to Another America (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 2003), 88-103.

"The Burr Conspiracy and the Problem of Western Loyalty," in Peter J. Kastor, ed., The Louisiana Purchase and the Emergence of the American Empire (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2002), 64-73.

"'What is to Become of Our Government?': The Revolutionary Potential of the Election of 1800," in James Horn, Jan Ellen Lewis, and Peter S. Onuf, eds., The Revolution of 1800: Democracy, Race, and the New Republic (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2002), 3-29.

"Jefferson's Mississippi Crisis and the Problem of Union, 1801-1803," in Kyle O. Eidahl, et al., eds., The Consortium on Revolutionary Europe, 1750-1850: Selected Papers, 1997 (Tallahassee, Fl.: Institute on Napoleon and the French Revolution, Florida State University, 1997), 271-79.

"The United States and the Napoleonic Wars: A Commentary," in Kyle O. Eidahl, et al., eds., The Consortium on Revolutionary Europe, 1750-1850: Selected Papers, 1997 (Tallahassee, Fl.: Institute on Napoleon and the French Revolution, Florida State University, 1997), 396-97.

Excerpted material:

"Ineffective Defense, At Best," in Dennis Merrill and Thomas G. Paterson, eds., Major Problems in American Foreign Relations, Vol. 1, To 1920, 6th ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005), 140-47 [from John Quincy Adams: Policymaker for the Union].

Edited works:

(contributing ed.), "The Early National Period," chapter 5 in Robert L. Beisner, ed., Guide to American Foreign Relations Since 1600, 2 vols. (Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2003), 1:177-255.

Encyclopedia entries:

Entry on "The Louisiana Purchase," in Encyclopedia Virginia (Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, online, forthcoming).

Entry on "The Louisiana Purchase," in Mark G. Spencer, ed., Encyclopedia of the American Enlightenment (Boston: Bloomsbury Publishing, Inc., 2015).

Entries on "Black Hawk" and "Black Hawk War," Encyclopædia Britannica Online Academic Edition (Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 2012).

Entries on "Burr Conspiracy," "Latin American Revolutions, American Response to," "Monroe Doctrine," and "Transcontinental Treaty," in Paul Finkelman, ed., Encyclopedia of the New American Nation, 3 vols. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2006), 1:232-33, 2:277-79, 2:395-96, and 3:218-82.

Entries on "Constitution, Ratification" (with Paul Finkelman), "Embargo," "James Monroe," "Territorial Government and New State Formation," and "The War of 1812," in Paul Finkelman, et al., eds., Encyclopedia of American Political History (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2001), 104-106, 136-37, 254-55, 400-402, and 431-32.

Entries on "Fox, Charles James," "French and Indian War," and "Pitt, William," in Bruce W. Jentleson and Thomas G. Paterson, eds., The Encyclopedia of U.S. Foreign Relations, 4 vols. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), 2:162, 2:189-90, and 3:399-400.

Book reviews published or forthcoming in:

American Historical Review

Common-place

Diplomatic History

H-Diplo (x4)

The Historian

Journal of American History

Journal of Interdisciplinary History

Journal of the Early Republic (x6)

Michigan Historical Review (x2)

South Carolina Historical Magazine

Virginia Magazine of History and Biography (x2)

William and Mary Quarterly

Article reviews published or forthcoming in:

H-Diplo

Current and Future Projects:

"'Bring Them to Light or Consign Them to Oblivion': The Strange Career of the Blennerhassett Papers" (article-length manuscript)

"'Not Less Novel and Scarcely Less Interesting': The Panama Congress and the Diplomatic Transformation of the 1820s" (article-length manuscript)

"A Problematic of Jeffersonian Expansion: Sociology and Policy in American Expansionism, 1783-1826" (article-length manuscript)

"Quieting the Southern Frontier: President Madison, General Jackson, and the Southern Indians after the War of 1812" (article-length manuscript)

Academic Honors:

Earned a mark of "Passed with Distinction" at dissertation

defense, January 1994.

Earned a mark of "Passed with Distinction" at comprehensive oral examination, June 1990.

Selected to Phi Alpha Theta, 1987.

Graduated with "High Honors" in Government and Foreign Affairs from the College of William and Mary, 1986.

Awards and Prizes:

The Burr Conspiracy named a finalist for the George Washington Book Prize for 2017

Guide to American Foreign Relations Since 1600 named a Choice Outstanding Academic Book for 2003

The American Union and the Problem of Neighborhood named a Choice Outstanding Academic Book for 1999

Professional Activities:

Invited Speaker:

"Peter Onuf's West," Jeffersonians in Power: A Celebration of the Work of Peter Onuf Conference, International Center for Jefferson Studies, Charlottesville, Va., May 2014

"A Problematic of Jeffersonian Expansion," keynote address, Building an American Empire, 1783-1861, Conference, Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University, Oxford, England, May 2011

Papers:

"'The Western States Would Be the Last to Withdraw from the Union': The Burr Conspiracy and Western Secessionism," Secessionism Conference, Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky, October 2010

"Thomas Spotswood Hinde's 'Burrs Conspiracy,'" Faculty Study Group, Kalamazoo College, October 2005

"'Rumor Says': The Circulation of Information in the Early Republic," Early American Seminar, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia, November 2003

"'Bring them to Light or Consign them to Oblivion': The Strange Career of the Harman Blennerhassett Papers," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Ohio State University, Columbus, July 2003

"A Tornado on the Horizon: The Jefferson Administration, the Retrocession Crisis, and the Louisiana Purchase," The Louisiana Purchase in French-American Perspective Conference, Paris, June 2003, and Charlottesville, Va., October 2003

"'Who is Blennerhassett?': The Narrative of William Wirt," Early American Seminar, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia, October 2002

"'Discovered in Disguise': Dress and Gentility in the Arrest of Aaron Burr," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., July 2001

"'A Clock or Watch Run Down': The Revolutionary Potential of the Election of 1800," Revolution of 1800 Conference, International Center for Jefferson Studies, Charlottesville, Va., December 2000

"'Who is Blennerhassett?': The Competing Burr Conspiracy Narratives of William Wirt and Harman Blennerhassett," Columbia University Seminar on Early American History and Culture, New York, N.Y., October 2000

"The Burr Conspiracy and the Threat to the Union," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y., July 2000

"Rethinking and Rereading the Burr Conspiracy: A Prospectus," McNeil Center for Early American Studies Brown Bag series, Philadelphia, Pa., October 1999

"Jefferson's Mississippi Crisis and the Problem of Union, 1801-1803," Consortium on Revolutionary Europe annual meeting, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La., February 1997

"'Laying the Foundation of Good Neighbourhood': The Adams Administration and an Independent New World," Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations annual meeting, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., June 1995

"The American Neighborhood Redefined: The Recognition Decision and the Monroe Doctrine," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Boston College, Boston, Mass., July 1994

Book events (The Burr Conspiracy):

Book talks --

International Center for Jefferson Studies,
Charlottesville, Va., June 2018

Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, May 2018

William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann
Arbor, February 2018

The Bookbug/This is a Bookstore, Kalamazoo, Mich.,
November 2017

David Library of the American Revolution, Washington
Crossing, Pa., November 2017

Smithsonian Associates, Ripley Center, Smithsonian
Institution, Washington, November 2017 (filmed for C-SPAN3, aired
December 2017 and available at *)

Department of History, University of Aberdeen, Scotland,
October 2017

Podcast interviews --

Ben Franklin's World, *, July 2018

In the Past Lane, *, July 2018

The Age of Jackson, *, February 2018

Not Old Better, notold-better.com, September 2017

Radio interview --

"Between the Lines," WMUK (Kalamazoo, Mich.), January 2018
(aired February 2018 and available at *)

Panelist:

"Biography and the Study of U.S. Foreign Relations: A Roundtable
Discussion," Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations
annual meeting, American University, Washington, D.C., June 2001

"Was There a Revolution of 1800? Thomas Jefferson and the
Democratizing of the American Revolution," American Society for
Eighteenth-Century Studies annual meeting, Philadelphia, Pa., April
2000

Chair and Commentator:

"Cultural Politics and Political Cultures in the Age of Revolution," Society for Historians of the Early American republic annual meeting, New Haven, Conn., July 2016

"Trans-Appalachia and the Atlantic World," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Philadelphia, Pa., July 2014

"Pursuing Happiness Elsewhere: American Emigration and the Southwestern Borderlands, 1783-1830," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Baltimore, Md., July 2012

"War and Society in Early America," Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Mich., October 2004

"James Monroe, National Boundaries, and National Defense," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Transylvania University, Lexington, Kent., July 1999

"The United States and the Napoleonic Wars," Consortium on Revolutionary Europe annual meeting, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La., February 1997

Commentator:

"Problems with Peace: The Reshaping of American Politics after the War of 1812," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Rochester, N.Y., July 2010

"Comparing the Canadian and Spanish Borderlands," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, July 2006

"Early American Expansion," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Brown University, Providence, R.I., July 2004

"Juxtaposed Identities: Bermuda and Baltimore, 1783-1814," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Harpers Ferry, W.Va., July 1998

"New Perspectives on Jeffersonian Territorial Expansion," Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., July 1996

Chair:

"Secrecy, Conspiracy, and Subterfuge in the Early Republic,"
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting,
St. Louis, Mo., July 2013

"Not a Nation but an Empire: Another View of the American West,"
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual meeting,
Springfield, Ill., July 2009

"Mythic Republic, Global Republic: Misperception, Jacksonian
America, and the World," Society for Historians of the Early American
Republic annual meeting, Philadelphia, Penn., July 2008

Participant:

"John Quincy Adams and Liberty," Liberty Fund Colloquium,
Colorado Springs, Colo., November 2008

"The Old World and the New: Exchanges Between America and Europe
in the Age of Jefferson," Robert H. Smith International Center for
Jefferson Studies and The Salzburg Seminar, Salzburg, Austria,
October 2005

Manuscript Referee (Book):

University of South Carolina Press, 2004

University of Virginia Press, 2006, 2005

University Press of Kentucky, 2016

Manuscript Referee (Article):

Diplomatic History, 2010

The Historian, 2005

Journal of American History, 2007 (x2), 2003

Journal of Southern History, 2018

Journal of the Early Republic, 2016, 2010, 2007, 2006 (x3),
2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 1999, 1998 (x2), 1992

Ohio Valley History, 2009, 2006

Western Historical Quarterly, 2009

William and Mary Quarterly, 2015, 2010, 2004, 2002

Project Referee:

National Historical Publications and Records Commission, 2004

Outside Reader (Dissertation):

David Head, "Sailing for Spanish America: The Atlantic
Geopolitics of Privateering in the Early American Republic," State
University of New York at Buffalo, 2009

Program Committee Member:

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic annual

meeting, Transylvania University, Lexington, Kent., July 1999

Editorial Board Member:

Journal of the Early Republic, 2016--
Essays in History, 1990-91

Book Prize Committee Member:

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, 2009-12
(chair, 2011-12)

Nominating Committee Member:

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, 2013-16
(co-chair, 2015-16)

Public History Activities:

On-camera Appearances:

Documentary entitled "The Louisiana Purchase," Jonathan Gruper
Productions, aired on The History Channel, April 2003

Consultant:

Text and other material for "Prairie Fire," a website of the
Abraham Lincoln Historical Digitization Project, Northern Illinois
University (<http://dig.lib.niu.edu/prairiefire>)

Text and other material on the Black Hawk War for "Lincoln/Net,"
a website of the Abraham Lincoln Historical Digitization Project,
Northern Illinois University (<http://lincoln.lib.niu.edu>)

Course and reader titled Lewis and Clark: A Journey Across
American Space and Time, The OASIS Institute

Documentary titled "Thomas Jefferson: A View from the
Mountain," Journey Communications, aired on PBS, April 1995

Documentary titled "Thomas Jefferson: A Complex Legacy,"
Journey Communications, aired on PBS, April 1993

Instructor:

"Federal Trials and Great Debates in United States History,"
Summer Teacher Institute, Federal Judicial Center, Washington, D.C.,
June 2008

"American Diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean," a
seminar for a National Endowment for the Humanities' Teaching
American History Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center,
Fremont, Ohio, March 2006

Week 9 of National Endowment for the Humanities' Teaching American History Grant, Tri-State History Consortium, December 2004

Presentations:

"The Election of 1800," Jefferson Lecture (inaugural), Detroit Country Day School, Birmingham, Mich., October 2016

"What Was the Framers' Original Intent? The Lessons of Europe and the Origins of the Constitution," Constitution Day Lecture, Liberal Arts Colloquium, Kalamazoo College, September 2008

"American Heroes," Fall Lecture Series, The Fountains at Bronson Park, Kalamazoo, Mich., November 2007

"'My Character as a Republican is So Well Known': Robert R. Livingston's Paris Mission," Columbia's Legacy Conference, Columbia University and New-York Historical Society, December 2004

"Before Republicans and Democrats," Fall Lecture Series, The Fountains at Bronson Park, Kalamazoo, Mich., September 2004

"The Louisiana Purchase: Jefferson's Noble Bargain?," Virginia Festival of the Book, Charlottesville, Va., March 2004

"The Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition," Institute for Learning in Retirement, Kellogg Community College, Battle Creek, Mich., February 2004

"Americans Imagine Themselves in the World, 1776-1826," Summer Institute for Secondary School Teachers sponsored by the Center for Western European Studies, Kalamazoo College, June 2003

"The Transformation of the World During an Era of Revolution, 1776-1826 [Part II, 1801-1826]," Chesterfield County (Va.) School Board Summer Seminar, June 1994

"The Federal Union and the Political Economies of Jefferson and Hamilton," The Jefferson Symposium, University of Virginia, June 1994

"Jefferson's Mississippi Crisis," Elderhostel Program, University of Virginia, June 1993

"Jefferson as Politician," The Jefferson Symposium, University of Virginia, June 1993

Conference Coordinator:

Jeffersonian Legacies Conference, University of Virginia,
1991-93

Grants and Fellowships: (excludes Kalamazoo College Faculty
Development Grants to reimburse conference travel)

Fellowship (one-month), Robert H. Smith International Center
for Jefferson Studies, 2018

Sabbatical (full-year), Kalamazoo College, 2017-18

Faculty Development Grant (research), Kalamazoo College, 2016

Faculty Development Grant (research), Kalamazoo College, 2015

OK-UM Mellon Sabbatical Enhancement Fellowship, Kalamazoo
College, 2010-11

Faculty Development Grant (research), Kalamazoo College, 2009

OK-UM Mellon Grant (research), 2009

Faculty Development Grant (research), Kalamazoo College, 2008

Gilder-Lehrman Junior Postdoctoral Fellowship, International
Center for Jefferson Studies, 2002-3

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2001-2

Fellowship (one-month), International Center for Jefferson
Studies, 2001

Fellowship (one-month), International Center for Jefferson
Studies, 2000

Archie K. Davis Fellowship, North Caroliniana Society, 1999

Mellon Research Fellowship, Virginia Historical Society, 1998

Manship Summer Research Fellowship, Louisiana State
University, Summer 1998

Council on Research Summer Stipend, Louisiana State University,
Summer 1996

Faculty Development Grant, Hollins College, 1994-95

DuPont Fellowship, University of Virginia, 1992-93, 1991-92

Society of the Cincinnati Research Grant, 1991

Governor's Fellowship, University of Virginia, 1990-91,
1989-90

Academic Enhancement Program Fellowship, University of
Virginia, 1990-91, Summer 1990, 1989-90

Thomas Jefferson Graduate Fellowship in History, University of
Virginia, 1988-89

Courses at Kalamazoo College:

U.S. History since 1865 (survey)

Native American History

American Environmental History

Revolutionary America, 1760-1815

American Frontier and Western History

History of U.S. Foreign Relations since 1898
Post-World War II America
American Political Culture (junior seminar)
The Trial in American History (junior seminar)
History Senior Seminar

Additional Courses Taught Elsewhere:

U.S. History to 1865 (survey)
Discovering Native American History (freshman colloquium)
The Age of Jefferson and Hamilton
War and Peace in the Age of Jefferson (senior seminar)
History of U.S. Foreign Relations to 1914
History of International Relations, 1890-1945
History of U.S. Foreign Relations in the Nuclear Age
The Cold War (senior seminar)
World War II in American Memory (January term)
Reading Seminar in American History from 1607 to 1865 (graduate colloquiumj, co-taught)
Research Seminar in American History (graduate research seminar)

Professional Organizations:

American Historical Association
Organization of American Historians
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic

Service -- at Kalamazoo College

College:

Served on Educational Policies Committee, 2016-17.
Served on search committee for Modern European history position, 2015-16.
Chaired Faculty Development Committee, 2013-14.
Served on Faculty Development Committee, 2011-13.
Served on search committee for Collections Development and Digital Integration librarian position, 2011.
Chaired search committee for U.S. history sabbatical replacement position, 2010.
Chaired Educational Policies Committee, 2009-10.
Served on search committee for East Asian social sciences position, 2009-10.
Served on search committee for Early European history position, 2008-9.
Served on Distinctiveness Initiative Task Force/Revised, 2007-8.

Served as Summer Common Reading discussion group leader, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012.

Served as a mentor in OK-UM Graduate Student Mentorship Program, 2006.

Served on Educational Policies Committee, 2005-8.

Served on Weber Lecture Committee, 2005-9.

Participated in Junior Faculty Summer Conversation, 2005.

Served on search committee for Jewish Studies position, 2005.

Served on Health Insurance Review Group, 2004-5.

Served on American Studies advisory committee, 2004-10, 2011-17.

Served as an advisor, 2004-10, 2011-17.

Department:

Served as chair, Summer 2012-Fall 2016.

Directed four Senior Individualized Projects, 2015-16

Directed four Senior Individualized Projects, 2014-15.

Directed four Senior Individualized Projects, 2013-14.

Directed three Senior Individualized Projects, 2012-13.

Directed four Senior Individualized Projects, 2011-12.

Directed four Senior Individualized Projects, 2009-10.

Directed eight Senior Individualized Projects, 2008-9.

Directed four Senior Individualized Projects, 2007-8.

Directed five Senior Individualized Projects, 2006-7.

Directed four Senior Individualized Projects, 2005-6.

Directed four Senior Individualized Projects, 2004-5.

-- at Louisiana State University

University:

Represented the History Department in the University Faculty Senate, Fall 1996-Fall 1998.

Served as an advisor for Spring Testing students, 1996-98.

Served as Dean's Representative on Ph. D. dissertation defense committee in Education School, June 1997.

Served as outside reader on Honor's thesis committee in Political Science Department, April 1997.

Served as Dean's Representative on Ph.D. general exam committee in Education School, November 1996.

Department:

Presided over the second session of the Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History (Michael F. Holt, speaker), April 1999.

Superintended the History Department's monthly Works-in-Progress Seminar series, Fall 1996-Fall 1998.

Served on Ph.D. general exam committee (x5), November 1998.

Served on Ph.D. general exam committee, April 1998.

Presided over the second session of the Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History (James L. Axtell, speaker), April 1997.
Served on M.A. thesis defense committee, March 1997.
Served on Ph.D. general exam committee, November 1996.