

**Specialties**

Twentieth-Century United States  
Cold War  
Latin America

**Contact Information**

Mississippi State University - Meridian  
Department of Arts and Sciences  
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**Education:**

**Ph.D., History**, The University of Mississippi, 2006  
Dissertation “The Reagan Rhetoric: History and Memory in 1980s America”  
PhD. Examination Field: 20th Century U.S., the Cold War, and Latin American

**M. A., History**, The University of Mississippi, 2002  
Thesis: “‘Without doubt, history will do the gallant hero justice:’ Benjamin Mayberry Prentiss and the Failure of American History”

**B. A., History**, The University of Mississippi, 2000

**Professional Career:**

**Academic Experience**

Mississippi State University – Meridian  
Associate Professor, August 2008 – present

The University of Mississippi  
Visiting Assistant Professor, June 2006 – May 2008

**Publications**

**Books**

*The Reagan Rhetoric: History and Memory in 1980s America* (Dekalb, Illinois: Northern Illinois University Press, 2011).

**Articles**

"General Prentiss proved himself no better than a vulgar braggart!" General Benjamin Mayberry Prentiss and a Failure of Civil War Historiography," *The Journal of Mississippi History*, Volume LXXIII No. 3, Fall 2011.

## **Publications (cont.)**

### **Articles (cont.)**

“The Vietnam War and Mississippi,” for *Mississippi History Now*, The Mississippi Historical Society, November, 2009.

“An Opportunity Seized: J & B Services, Inc., the 1970s and 1980s Deregulation of the Motor Carrier System, and the Potential for Small Business,” in *Essays in Economic and Business History* 24 (2004): 81-95.

“Ronald Reagan in Mississippi,” in *The Mississippi Encyclopedia*, Ted Ownby, Ed., (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2017), 1063-1064.

### **Book Reviews**

*The Reagan Era: A History of the 1980s*. Doug Rossinow. New York: Columbia University Press, 2015. ISBN-10: 0231169884, ISBN-13: 978-0231169882, 393 pp., cloth, \$35.00 for Cercles, Revue pluridisciplinaire du monde Anglophone, upcoming fall 2016.

*The Civil War in Popular Culture: Memory and Meaning*. Eds. Lawrence A. Kreiser Jr. and Randal Allred. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-8131-4307-1, 248 pp., cloth, \$40.00 for *Journal of Civil War History*, Volume 62, Number 1, March, 2016, pp. 106-108.

*The Leading Man: Hollywood and the Presidential Image*. By Burton W. Peretti. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. 2012. Pp. x, 335. \$29.95 for *The American Historical Review*, Volume 119: February 2014, pp. 204-205.

*A Call to Conscience: The Anti-Contra War Campaign*. By Roger Peace. (Amherst and Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 2012. vii, 307 pp. ISBN 978-1-55849-932-4.) for *The Journal of American History*, Volume 100, September 2013, pp. 605-606.

*General Sterling Price and the Confederacy*. By Thomas C. Reynolds. Edited by Robert G. Schultz. (St. Louis: Missouri History Museum. Distributed by University of Missouri Press, c. 2009. Pp. 279. Paper, \$24.95, ISBN 978-1-884982-68-3.) for *The Journal of Southern History*, Volume LXXVII, No. 2, May 2011.

*Jimmy Carter's Economy: Policy in an Age of Limits* by W. Carl Biven, published by Economic History.net, or EH.Net, January 2004

*The Weather Channel: The Improbable Rise of a Media Phenomenon* by Frank Batten, published by Economic History.net, or EH.Net, October 2002

## **Conference Presentations**

“Long Live the King!” Memory Manipulation and Elvis Presley, 1977-1979, Popular Culture Association in the South & American Culture Association in the South (PCAS/ACAS) Conference in Nashville, TN, October 13-15, 2016.

“The General Did Not Enjoy His Stay,” General Benjamin Mayberry Prentiss and the King Edward Hotel, Mississippi Historical Society, Jackson, MS, March 5, 2016.

## **Conference Presentations (cont.)**

“Does Not Need An Action Figure, But Does Need Acknowledgement”: Benjamin Mayberry Prentiss and a Hole In Civil War Historiography,” Popular Culture Association in the South & American Culture Association in the South (PCAS/ACAS) Conference in Savannah, GA, October 3-5, 2013.

“States’ Rights and Silence: The Neshoba County Murders in American Memory,” First National Conference on Civil Rights, Philadelphia, Mississippi, June 19-21, 2011.

“If Prentiss Had Died That Day...” Benjamin Mayberry Prentiss and Civil War leadership Not Recognized,” The University of Mississippi Conference on the Civil War: Leadership, Oxford, Mississippi, October 30-31, 2009.

“Remember The Good Stuff Rather Than The Bad!” Reagan’s Rhetoric and the Vietnam War Veteran,” Organization of American Historians 2007 Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN March 29 – April 1, 2007.

“A fictional version of the truth:’ Reagan’s Rhetoric and the Vietnam War Veteran,” The Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, November 10-12, 2005.

“Do We Get To Win This Time?’: Reagan’s Rhetoric and the Vietnam Veteran,” The Vietnam War - Thirty Years On: Memories, Legacies and Echoes University of Newcastle Society for War, Society and Culture, University of Newcastle, Australia April 14-15, 2005.

“Do We Get To Win This Time?’”: Reagan’s Rhetoric and the Vietnam Veteran,” Thirty-Fifth Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference, San Diego, CA March 23-26, 2005.

“An Opportunity Seized: J & B Services, Inc., the 1970s and 1980s Deregulation of the Motor Carrier System, and the Potential for Small Business,” Twenty-Eighth Annual Economic and Business Historical Society National Conference, Memphis, Tennessee, April 24-26, 2003.

“Without doubt, history will do the gallant hero justice.’ Benjamin Mayberry Prentiss and the Failure of American History,” Forty-Sixth Annual Missouri Valley History Conference, University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska, March 6-8, 2003.

“Without doubt, history will do the gallant hero justice.’ Benjamin Mayberry Prentiss and the Failure of American History,” Eighteenth Annual Ohio Valley History Conference, Austin Peay University, Clarksville, Tennessee, October 24-26, 2002.

## **Permanent Additions to University Course Catalogs**

HI4483/6483 American and the Cold War; Fall 2016, Mississippi State University Course Catalog

## **History Round Tables**

Making Sense of the Civil War, Mississippi Library Commission-National Endowment of the Humanities, Vicksburg, Mississippi, October – December 2012.

## **Academic Honors and Awards**

2011 Faculty Research Award – Division of Arts and Sciences - Mississippi State University – Meridian

2011 *Meridian Star* Reader’s Choice Teaching Award

2011 Nominee, Ralph E. Powe Research Excellence Award, Mississippi State University – Starkville - Meridian

2011 State Pride Award: Mission, Teaching, Service, Mississippi State University – Starkville – Meridian

2010 State Pride Award: Mission, Teaching, Service, Mississippi State University – Starkville - Meridian

2010 Outstanding Teaching Award, Division of Arts and Sciences, Mississippi State University - Meridian

2009 Outstanding Teaching Award, Division of Arts and Sciences, Mississippi State University - Meridian

Graduate Assistantship, Department of History, The University of Mississippi,  
August 2000 to May 2006

## **Administrative Experience**

### **Current:**

Mississippi Historical Society - Board of Directors – For the term 2017-2020

Rose Hill Company & Historical Society – Board of Directors – Meridian – 2015- to the present

Member - Faculty Grievance Panel – Mississippi State University – Starkville & Meridian  
April 2014 - Present

Member – Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee – Mississippi State University – Meridian  
March 2013 - Present

Member – Graduate Dean Search Committee for Mississippi State University – Starkville  
November 2012 - Present

Member of the Mississippi State University – Meridian Promotion and Tenure Document Committee  
July 2012 – Present

Member of the Website Committee Fall 2010- Present

Member of the Mississippi State University – Meridian Admissions Committee for the Bachelor of Science for  
Interdisciplinary Studies  
Fall 2008 – present

## **Previous Administrative Experience:**

Member - Criminology Faculty Search Committee for Mississippi State University – Meridian June-July 2015

Member - Psychology Faculty Search Committee for Mississippi State University – Meridian March – February 2013

Faculty Advisor – Mississippi State University – Meridian Student Association, 2010-2012

Member – Business Faculty Search Committee for Mississippi State University – Meridian February – March 2012

Member – Instructor and Director of Field Education for Social Work for Mississippi State University – Meridian February – March 2012

Chair – Mathematics/Statistics Search Committee for Mississippi State University – Meridian February – March 2011

Member - Psychology Faculty Search Committee for Mississippi State University – Meridian March - April 2010

Member - Dean Search Committee for Mississippi State University – Meridian June – August 2009

Founding Member of the History Graduate Student Advisory Committee, University of Mississippi August 2000-May 2006.

## **Community Service Activities**

“Mississippi Approaches Year 200,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, October 11, 2017.

“The Vietnam War and the state of Mississippi,” WZKR – Radio, Meridian, MS, September 26, 2017.

“Godzilla & Global Warming Class as new Methodology,” WZKR – Radio, Meridian, MS, July 18, 2017.

“Something Bigger Than Yourselves,” Commencement, Leadership Lauderdale, June 13, 2017.

“Presidential Elections & Scandels of History,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, June 12, 2017.

“Ronald Reagan & the End of the Cold War,” Quitman High School, March 24 & 28, 2017.

“Donald Trump: 100 Days & Early Historical Legacy,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, February 28, 2017.

“Meridian & The Gypsy Queen,” Rose Hill Historical Society, February 4, 2017.

“Big Foot in Mississippi,” WZKR – Radio, Meridian, MS, January 3, 2017.

“A Month Since the Election: What Now Part II?”, WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, November 14, 2016.

“The 2016 Presidential Election: What Now?”, WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, November 9, 2016.

## **Community Service Activities (cont.)**

“Elvis Presley, History, and Memory Manipulation,” WZKR – Radio, Meridian, MS, October 19, 2016.

“Elvis Presley, History, and Memory Manipulation,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, October 12, 2016.

“The 2016 Presidential Election: The Day Approaches,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, October 7, 2016.

“Odd United States’ Presidential Elections,” Samuel Dale Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Meridian, MS, October 5, 2016.

“Ready or Not, Part II: the 2016 Presidential Election,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, September 22, 2016.

“Public History and the Rose Hill Cemetery,” WALT - Radio, Meridian, MS, September 15, 2015.

“Ready or Not: the 2016 Presidential Election,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, September 7, 2016.

Engaging Students Through Writing,” Maroon and Write Workshop, Mississippi State University – Meridian, February 26, 2016.

“History and the Presidential Election,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, February 12, 2016.

“Honoring Our Veterans,” Riley Center – Aldersgate, Meridian, MS, November 11, 2015

Advantages of a B.A. in History, Visit and Lunch, East Central Community College, Decatur, MS, September 29, 2015.

“History of Rose Hill Cemetery,” Public Tour, Meridian, MS, September 26, 2015.

“Folklore vs. History,” WJDQ – Radio, Meridian, MS, September 22, 2015.

“MSU-History and Rose Hill Cemetery,” WTOK “Mornings in Meridian, September 18, 2015.

“The Good ‘Ole Days, If You Are White & Male,” 1950s America, Mississippi State University – Meridian Elementary Education Majors, Meridian, MS, August 26, 2015.

“Higher Education & Interdisciplinary Studies,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, July 14, 2015.

“History & Politics,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, February 23, 2015.

“Ronald Reagan and Alzheimer’s,” Meridian Community College, March 20, 2014.

“Commencement Speaker: Community College of the Air Force – Key Field Air National Guard Base,” March 1, 2014.

“Elvis and American History,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, January 8, 2014.

“Scholarships Awarded,” WTOK – Channel 11 – ABC Television – October 17, 2013.

“Thomas Kimmel Speaks,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, August 6, 2013.

## Community Service Activities (cont.)

“Thomas Kimmel: Grandson of Admiral Husband Kimmel,” Mississippi State University – Meridian, August 5, 2013.

“Righting A Wrong: The Fight For Admiral Husband Kimmel,” WALT – Radio, Meridian, MS, August 2, 2013.

“Religion & the Founding of the United States,” Meridian Civitan Club, Meridian, MS, April 9, 2013.

“Misremembering the Most Remembered War,” Holmes Community College, Grenada, MS, April 2, 2013.

“Women and the Progressive Movement,” Jones County Junior College, Ellisville, MS, March 28, 2013.

“Book Talk of *The Reagan Rhetoric*,” Collinsville, MS Book Club, November 27, 2012.

“Women’s Equality Day Community Talk,” Newton City Library, Newton, MS, August 23, 2012.

“Hollywood and History,” WALT Radio, 102.1 – Meridian, MS, July 24, 2012.

“The Reagan Years,” Pushmataha Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Meridian, MS, May 9, 2012.

“Reagan and American Memory,” Samuel Dale Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Meridian, MS, May 2, 2012.

“Promotion of *The Reagan Rhetoric*,” National Radio Interview – The Bob Dutko Show, WMUZ 103.5, Detroit Michigan, January 31, 2012.

“70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pearl Harbor,” WALT Radio, 102.1 – Meridian, MS, December 7, 2011.

“Promotion of *The Reagan Rhetoric*,” National Radio Interview – The Bryan Fischer Show: Focal Point - Tupelo, MS – December 1, 2011.

“Discussion of Alcohol Advertising 1940s-2010,” Meridian Civitan Club, September 13, 2011.

“Promotion of *The Reagan Rhetoric*,” WALT Radio, 102.1 – Meridian, MS.

“Promotion of *The Reagan Rhetoric*,” 105.7 “The Beat” Radio, July 13, 2011.

“Promotion of *The Reagan Rhetoric*,” "Mornings with Scott and Ken," WOKK Radio, July 13, 2011.

“Promotion of *The Reagan Rhetoric*,” "Mornings with Scotty Ray and Debbie," B-103 Radio, July 12, 2011.

“Promotion of *The Reagan Rhetoric*,” Interviewed on WMOX – 1010AM – Talk Radio, July 12, 2011.

“Promotion of *The Reagan Rhetoric*,” WTOK – Channel 11 – ABC Television – July 12, 2011.

“Promotion of *The Reagan Rhetoric*,” *The Meridian Star*, May 17, 2011.

## Community Service Activities (cont.)

“New Book”, *The Meridian Star*, May 17, 2011.

“Discussion of *The Reagan Rhetoric: History and Memory in 1980s America*,” Meridian Civitan Club, May 3, 2011.

“150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War,” WTOK – Channel 11 – ABC Television, April 12, 2011.

“Freedom Summer Remembered,” First Union Baptists Church, Meridian, MS, March 21, 2011.

“Discussion of *The Reagan Rhetoric: History and Memory in 1980s America*,” Exchange Club of Meridian, February 15, 2011.

“College Career Day,” West Lauderdale High School, January 11, 2011.

“Discussion of *The Reagan Rhetoric: History and Memory in 1980s America*,” WALT – 910AM - Talk Radio, December 28, 2010.

“Anne Frank and Her Importance to History,” WTOK – Channel 11 – ABC Television, November 9, 2010.

“The Tragedy of the Holocaust Brought to Life through Then and Now Photography,” The Diary of Anne Frank Presentation, Mississippi State University – Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts, November 9, 2010.

“Upcoming Fall 2010 History Classes,” WGBC – TV - Channel 30 – FOX Television, Meridian, MS, August 2, 2010.

“History All Around Us,” Lions Club, February 11, 2010, Meridian, Mississippi.

Research Showcase for the College of Arts and Sciences “Surprised in his tent, wounded, valiant charge, dead horse, captured, escape”: How Civil War Newspapers Moved General Benjamin Prentiss from Shiloh Champion to Shiloh Coward,” October 22, 2009, Starkville, Mississippi.

“Historical Origins of Everyday Phrases,” Samuel Dale Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Meridian, MS, October 7, 2009.

“2<sup>nd</sup> Year of the History Degree,” Interviewed for 5p, 10p, and *Mornings in Meridian* on WTOK – Channel 11 – ABC Television, July 23, 2009.

“100 Years of the NAACP,” Interviewed for 5p, 10p, and *Mornings in Meridian* on WTOK – Channel 11 – ABC Television, May 19, 2009.

“The Battle of Shiloh in Memory,” Lions Club, April 23, 2009, Meridian, Mississippi.

“Emmett Till: Five Decades Later,” Interviewed for *News at Five* on WTOK – Channel 11 - ABC Television, April 9, 2009.

“Emmett Till: Five Decades Later,” A talk to local high schools to promote the Emmett Till Traveling Exhibit, April 9, 2009, Meridian, Mississippi.

“The Inauguration of Barack Obama,” WALT – 910AM - Talk Radio, January 20, 2009.



## **Community Service Activities (cont.)**

“Historical Significance of Barack Obama,” WALT – 910AM - Talk Radio, November 4, 2008.

Research Showcase for the College of Arts and Sciences “A Crime They Did Not Commit: Ronald Reagan, American Memory, and the Vietnam War,” October 17, 2008, Starkville, Mississippi.

“Meridian group to celebrate Obama's speech, By Jennifer Jacob,” Interviewed by *The Meridian Star* regarding the presidential candidacy of Barack Obama, August 23, 2008.

“New History degree and Gender Studies minor,” Interviewed on WMOX – 1010AM – Talk Radio, August 11, 2008.

“New History degree and Gender Studies minor,” Interviewed on WALT – 910AM - Talk Radio, August 4, 2008.

“New History Major at Mississippi State University – Meridian,” Interviewed on *Mornings in Meridian*, WTOK – Channel 11 - ABC Television, July 22, 2008.

“New History Major and Faculty at Mississippi State University – Meridian,” Interviewed on *Live at Five*, WTOK – Channel 11 - ABC Television, July 17, 2008.

“MSU-Meridian to offer new bachelor’s degree in history,” Interviewed by *The Meridian Star*, July 13, 2008.

Interhostel Lecture “State’s Rights and Silence: Reagan, Dukakis, and the Place of the 1964 Neshoba County Murders in American Memory,” April 8, 2005, Oxford, Mississippi.

## **Book Publicity**

Signing – Mississippi State University – Meridian – July 14, 2011

Signing – Reed’s Gum Tree Bookstore – Tupelo, MS – July 21, 2011

Signing – Reed’s Gum Tree Bookstore Authorpalooza – Tupelo, MS – December 1, 2011

National Radio Interview – The Bryan Fischer Show: Focal Point - Tupelo, MS – December 1, 2011

National Radio Interview – The Bob Dutko Show – WMUZ Radio (103.5 FM), Detroit, MI – February 1, 2012

## **Consulting Experience**

Reviewed *The Frontiers of Mexican History: A New History of Mexico from Earliest Times*, Raphael B. Folsom, Assistant Professor of History, University of Oklahoma, for Oxford University Press, Inc., Higher Education Group, 198 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016. January 17-30, 2014.

Consultant and Interviewed Participant, *Back To Our Future: How the 1980s Explain the World We Live in Now--Our Culture, Our Politics, Our Everything*, Futuristic Studios, Hollywood, California, June 1-3, 2012.

Workshop Instructor for the National Endowment For The Humanities, “War, Death, and Remembrance: The Memory and Commemoration of the American Civil War” June 4-8 and June 11-15, 2007, the University of Mississippi.

Served as research assistant, Fall 2001-Spring 2004, for *The Journal of the Economic & Business Historical Society*.

## **Consulting Experience (cont.)**

Served as research assistant for articles in *Beacham's Encyclopedia of Social History: America in the Twentieth Century* (2001).

Cited draft reviewer of Gregory S. Taylor's *The History of the North Carolina Communists Party* (Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 2009).

Cited early draft reviewer for Gene Smiley's *Rethinking the Great Depression* (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee Publisher, 2002).

History Day, University of Mississippi, 2005 and 2006, Judging competitions dealing with a knowledge of United States and World history among various Mississippi high schools.

Generated test bank of Latin America questions for History Day 2009, University of Mississippi

History High School Day, University of Mississippi, Spring 2001, 2003, Emphasizing to high school students the career opportunities presented with a History degree.

## **Courses Taught (*italics denote new class preps*)**

*Revolutionary America*

*Diplomatic History of the United States*

United States History to 1877

United States History from 1877

*The American West*

*The Civil War 1850-1877*

*United States 1877-1917*

United States History 1917-1945

United States Since 1945

*American Life and Thought*

*Adolf Hitler and Historiography*

*America's Vietnam War*

*Modern Civil Rights Movement*

The Cold War

The Presidency of Ronald Reagan

*American History and Memory*

*Mississippi History*

*United States and Latin America*

*Twentieth Century Latin American Revolutions*

*Modern Mexico*

*Bad Meat and Bigfoot*

## **Professional Membership**

American Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

The Southern Historical Association

Mississippi Historical Association

American Culture Association

Popular Culture Association

Popular Culture Association of the South

Phi Alpha Theta