

Rebecca N. Brannon

James Madison University
951 Madison Dr., MSC 2001 Harrisonburg, VA 22807
brannon@jmu.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Department of History, University of Michigan	2007
M.A.	University of Michigan	2001
B.A. <i>magna cum laude</i>	Amherst College	1997

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

James Madison University		
Associate Professor		2016-present
Assistant Professor		2011-2016
University of South Carolina, Aiken		
Assistant Professor		2008-2011
University of Mississippi		
Visiting Assistant Professor		2007-2008

MAJOR AWARDS AND HONORS

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship	2023-2024
100 Best Books of the American Revolution List	2017
<i>Journal of the American Revolution</i>	
George C. Rogers, Jr. Book Award for 2016	2017
Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies	2017
Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Virginia Historical Society	2016
Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society	2015-2016
School of Liberal Arts Alumni Legacy Award [\$5,000]	2020
JMU Provost's Award for Research [\$6,000]	2016

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

From Revolution to Reunion: The Reintegration of the South Carolina Loyalists (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2016)

- Winner of the 2016 George C. Rogers, Jr. Award for the best book of the year on South Carolina history
- Named to the *Journal of the American Revolution's* 100 Best Books on the American Revolution List, March 2017
- Finalist for the 2016 Journal of the American Revolution book prize

Edited Volumes

The Consequences of Loyalism: Essays in Honor of Robert M. Calhoun, co-edited with Joseph S. Moore (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2019)

- Reviewed in the *American Historical Review*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *The Journal of Southern History*, *The Canadian Historical Review*, *The Journal of the American Revolution*, and *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History*

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- 2023 “The Failure of the War in the South,” Chapter 9, *The Cambridge History of the American Revolution*, 3 vols., edited by Marjoleine Kars, Michael A. McDonnell, and Andrew M. Schocket (publication expected 2023) [accepted]
- 2021 “Thomas Jefferson and the Quest for Legacy,” in *The Spirit of Inquiry in the Age of Jefferson: Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, vol. 110, Part 2 (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society Press, 2021) 313-327.
- 2021 “[Loyalists and the American Revolution](#).” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*. Oxford University Press, 2014—Article published April 26, 2021.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.013.848>.
- 2019 Liu J.C., Brantmeier N., Wilcox D., Griffin O., Calcagno-Roach J., **Brannon R.**, “Faculty Perceived Functionality of Learning Management System: Development and Validation of a Scale.” In: Ma W., Chan W., Cheng C., eds., *Shaping the Future of Education, Communication and Technology* (Singapore: Springer, 2019) 165-177.
- 2019 “America’s Revolutionary Experience with Transitional Justice,” in Rebecca Brannon and Joseph S. Moore, eds., *The Consequences of Loyalism: Essays in Honor of Robert M. Calhoun* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2019) 190-207.
- 2019 “Introduction” in Rebecca Brannon and Joseph S. Moore, eds., *The Consequences of Loyalism: Essays in Honor of Robert M. Calhoun*

(Columbia: University of South Carolina Press 2019) 1-8.

- 2017 “History of the American South,” in Maggi M. Morehouse, ed., *Routledge Handbook of the American South* (New York: Routledge 2017) 8-20.

Public Writing

- 2020 “Even George Washington faced questions about his age and mental fitness: Questions confronting Trump and Biden are nothing new,” *Washington Post*, August 7, 2020
- 2016 “Getting Old in the Young Republic,” *The American Historian* (May 2016) 27-31. [commissioned]

Solicited Public Blog Writings

- 2021 “Has the World Gone Mad? An Interview with Sarah Swedberg,” *Nursing Clio*, March 25, 2021, <https://nursingclio.org/2021/03/25/has-the-world-gone-mad-an-interview-with-sarah-swedberg-for-nursing-clio/>
- 2020 Rebecca Brannon, Lauren Duval, and Kacy Tillman, “Women Also Know Loyalists,” May 6, 2020, *Borealia: A Group Blog on Early Canadian History*, <https://earlycanadianhistory.ca/2020/05/06/women-also-know-loyalists/>
- 2020 Rebecca Brannon, Lauren Duval, and Kacy Tillman, “Women Also Know Revolution,” May 4, 2020, *Borealia: A Group Blog on Early Canadian History*, <https://earlycanadianhistory.ca/2020/05/04/women-also-know-revolution/>
- 2019 “Q&A with Rebecca Brannon and Joseph S. Moore, editors of *The Consequences of Loyalism*,” April 23, 2019, Christopher Minty, Rebecca Brannon, and Joseph Moore, *The Junto: A Group Blog on Early American History*, <https://earlyamericanists.com/2019/04/23/qa-with-rebecca-brannon-and-joseph-s-moore-editors-of-the-consequences-of-loyalism/#more-22792>
- 2018 “OI Books: Fertile Thoughts About Fertility,” *Uncommon Sense*, the blog of the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture, August 13, 2018, <https://blog.oieahc.wm.edu/oi-books-fertile-thoughts-about-fertility/>

Encyclopedia and Textbook Articles

“Decision Point: Loyalist or Patriot” and “Whiskey Rebellion,” Bill of Rights Institute. *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness*. 1st edition. OpenStax, 2020.

“Loyalists,” *America in the World, 1776 to the Present: A Supplement to the Dictionary of American History*. Blum, Edward J., ed. 2 vols. (Farmington Hills, MI: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2016) 1: 628-30.

“Old Age,” *The World of the American Revolution: A Daily Life Encyclopedia*, Merril D. Smith, ed., 2 vols. (New York: Greenwood Press, 2015) 1: 220-22.

Book Reviews

- Kyle Roberts. *Maryland Loyalism Project*. American Philosophical Society, 2020. *Scholarly Editing*, vol. 39 (April 2022), DOI: [10.55520/NM94Q8Z0](https://doi.org/10.55520/NM94Q8Z0)
- Bruce E. Stewart, *Redemption from Tyranny: Herman Husband’s American Revolution* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2020), *Agricultural History* vol. 96, no. 1-2 (May 2022): 289-91
- Jay Cost, *The Price of Greatness: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and the Creation of American Oligarchy*. H-FedHist, H-Net Reviews. August, 2021. URL: <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=53686>
- Kacy Dowd Tillman, *Stripped and Script: Loyalist Women Writers of the American Revolution* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2019), *New England Quarterly* vol. 93, no. 1 (March 2020): 126-128.
- Peter Onuf, *Jefferson and the Virginians: Democracy, Constitutions, and Empire* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2018), *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*, vol. 127, no. 4 (Dec. 2019): 343-44.
- Caroline Cox, *Boy Soldiers of the American Revolution* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016), *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d ser., 74, no. 4 (Oct. 2017): 791-94.
- Roy Talbert Jr. and Meggan A. Farish, eds., *The Journal of Peter Horry, South Carolinian: Recording the New Republic, 1812-1814* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press 2012), *The South Carolina Historical Magazine*, vol. 115, no. 2 (April 2014): 156-58.
- Carl P. Borick, *Relieve Us of this Burthen: American Prisoners of War in the Revolutionary South, 1780-1782* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press 2012), *The Journal of Southern History*, vol. 79, no. 3 (August 2013): 692-93.
- Edward G. Lengel, ed., *A Companion to George Washington* (Malden, Mass.: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), *The Journal of Military History*, vol. 77, no. 3 (July 2013): 1110-1111.

Ongoing Research

Ageing Founding Fathers and Mothers: How the First Generation to Grow Old in a New Nation Is A Window into Our Own Ageing, book manuscript in progress

A Cultural History of Old Age in the Era of Enlightenment and Revolution (1650-1800), co-edited with Susannah Ottaway (Bloomsbury Press, expected 2024) under contract

MEDIA APPEARANCES

National

- Featured Guest, “Was the Revolutionary War America’s First Civil War? *The Fabric of History* Podcast for the Bill of Rights Institute, April 2022, <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/podcasts/was-the-revolutionary-war-americas-first-civil-war>
- “Age and the American Revolution,” Lectures in American History, C-Span, May 29, 2021, <https://www.c-span.org/video/?511335-1/age-american-revolution>
- Plenary Panel Speaker at the SHEAR conference, “Life After the Declaration of Independence,” C-Span American History TV, initial air date Sept. 2019, <https://www.c-span.org/video/?462646-1/life-declaration-independence&start=378>
- Featured Guest, Season Finale of *Who Do You Think You Are?* on TLC with Matthew Morrison, air date Dec. 17, 2018
- Featured Guest, *BackStory*, NPR podcast, “Divided States of America?: The History of An Often Disjointed Union,” <https://www.backstoryradio.org/shows/divided-states-of-america/>, Nov. 2018
- Featured Guest, *With Good Reason*, NPR, “American Presidents” episode, January 6, 2018 air date
- Featured Guest, *Ben Franklin’s World*, Episode 126, podcast, March 2017 air date <https://www.benfranklinsworld.com/episode-126-rebecca-brannon-reintegration-american-loyalists/>
- Featured Guest, *Bill O’Reilly’s Legends and Lies: The American Patriots*, episode on Francis Marion, 2016
- Featured Guest, “Let’s Make Up: Reconciliation and its Limits,” *Backstory with the History Guys*, NPR, November 2014
- Featured Guest, *Horse Creek Valley: A Tale Worth the Telling*, 2011 [airs once a quarter on South Carolina’s PBS stations]

Local

- “Northam proclamation & Virginia’s Native Americans,” WHSV, 1:1 with Bob Corso, Oct. 9, 2020, <https://www.wHSV.com/2020/10/10/1on1-northam-proclamation-virginias-native-americans/>
- “100th anniversary of women’s right to vote,” WHSV, 1:1 with Bob Corso, August 26, 2020
- “JMU offers “COVID-19 in Perspective” course this fall,” WHSV, July 24, 2020, <https://www.wHSV.com/2020/07/24/jmu-offers-covid-19-in-perspective-course-this-fall/>
- profiled in “Historically Human,” *Madison Magazine*, Winter 2017
- Featured Guest, Coastline live show on NPR Wilmington, NC affiliate, January 2017 <http://whqr.org/post/thursday-coastline-revolution-reunion-reintegration-south-carolina-loyalists#stream/0>
- Madison Scholars profile “Taking on Tomorrow,” Episode 6, James Madison University, January 2016 <https://youtu.be/RvcfgLIWDoA>
- Featured Guest, Conversation on the War of 1812, Virginia Insight show on WMRA, Harrisonburg’s local NPR affiliate, July 2012

INVITED TALKS

- Plenary Panel | “Considering the Revolution: The Identities Created by the American Revolutionary War,” co-sponsored by the National Park Service and the National Council on Public History, May 2022
- “Liberty during the American Revolution,” Cliveden (historic house museum), Philadelphia, PA, June 10, 2021
- “Constituting Post-Revolutionary America,” Presidential Plenary Panel with Annette Gordon-Reed, Society for Historians of the Early Republic, July 2019
- “Backcountry South Carolina and the American Revolution,” University of South Carolina Upstate Revolutionary War Roundtable, April 2018
- “From Faithless Tories to Beloved Friends: South Carolina’s Genius at Healing the Revolution,” David Library of the American Revolution, April 2017
- “From Revolution to Reunion: The Reintegration of the South Carolina Loyalists,” Friends of the Daniel Library at The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina, February 2017
- “George Mason and American Rights,” Gunston Hall, Virginia, August 2016
- “Getting Old in the Young Nation,” Brownbag Series, Massachusetts Historical Society, May 2016
- “A Popular War (in which almost nobody actually fought or died): The War of 1812,” Daughters of the American Revolution, Shenandoah Valley, February 2013

RECENT SELECTED SEMINAR/WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- “Just the Right Food and Drink: The Longevity Industry and Obsession,” Providence College Early American History Seminar, April 2023 (accepted)
- “The Caretaking Dilemma of Old Age, or someone still has to empty the bedpans,” David Library of the American Revolution Seminar Series at the American Philosophical Society, February 2023 (accepted)
- “The Great Fear of ‘Dying at the Top’: Why and How Americans Became Afraid of Dementia in their Last Years,” CUNY Early American History Seminar, October 2022
- “‘it is at most but the life of a cabbage’: The New Fear of Dementia after the Revolution,” Triangle Early American History Seminar, January 2021
- “Legacies of the Revolution: Elderly Founding Fathers, Memory-Making, and the Legacy Imperative,” McNeil Center Friday Seminar/Museum of the American Revolution joint seminar, February 2020

RECENT SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Papers Presented

Roundtable, “Benjamin Quarles’s *The Negro in the American Revolution* at 50,” Omohundro Institute Annual Meeting, October 2022

“‘just about to step from Time into Eternity’: John Dickinson’s Late Life,” John Dickinson Conference with the American Philosophical Society, October 2022

“War and Revolution,” Roundtable Panel at the American Philosophical Society’s Meanings of Independence Conference, October 2021

“Benjamin Franklin’s Quest for a Healthy and Independent Old Age,” Organization of American Historians (OAH), April 2019

“‘Infirmities of old Age:’ Aged Bodies in Early America,” Society of Early Americanists, February 2019

“Loyalism in the Age of Atlantic Revolutions, Part 1: Roundtable on the State of the Field,” American Historical Association, January 2019

“Did the American Revolution Make Retirement a Goal for the Masses?,” Society for Historians of the Early Republic, July 2018

Roundtable, “Time’s Arrow: Age as a Category of Analysis in Early America,” Omohundro Institute Annual Meeting, June 2018

“Jefferson’s Enlightened Old Age,” Education in the Early Republic and the Founding of the University of Virginia, Monticello, May 2018

“Historicizing the Terror of Dementia,” Popular Culture Association, March 2018

“An old man is but the lame shadow of that which once he was:” The Diminishment of Age in Revolutionary America,” Organization of American Historians, April 2017

“The American Revolution as an Example of Transitional Justice,” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era 1750-1850, February 2017

“Healing a Different Civil War: American Loyalist Reconciliation in South Carolina,” Southern Historical Association, November 2016

Discussant/Responder

“Where Do I Belong? Ramifications for Women During the American Revolution,” Society for Historians of the Early Republic, July 2022

“Reconsidering Revolutionary New England,” Underrepresented Voices of the American Revolution, Massachusetts Historical Society, July 2022

“The Ambiguities of Allegiance in the American Revolution,” American Historical Association, January 2022

“Empire, Ethnicity and Allegiance in the American Revolution, c.1760s-1780s,” Southern Conference on British Studies (meets with the Southern Historical Association), November 2018

Panel Chair

New Perspectives on American Loyalists in the Revolutionary Era, Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, 1750-1850, February 2021

“Dissembling Rebellion & Contesting the Memory of the American Revolution,” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era 1750-1850, February 2014

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Editorial and Advisory Boards

Editorial Advisory Board Member, *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography* 2023-2025

Editorial Board Member, *Commonplace: the journal of early American history* 2021-present

DEI Advisory Board, Society for Historians of the Early Republic 2022-2025

Film Work

Consulting Producer, *The Good Americans: One Revolution, Two Nations* with Stormerlige Films, sponsored by the United Empire Loyalists of Canada and other funders, documentary budget \$158,000, release date 2022 *suspended due to COVID19

Producer, Stormerlige Films productions “Loyalist Scholarships” for Disney + social media streaming *now suspended due to COVID19 withdrawn financial grants

Historical Consultant, *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates* (2018), 2 episodes for Season 5 and 3 episodes for Season 6

Manuscript Reviewer

Book Manuscripts:

- Yale University Press
- University of Virginia Press (multiple manuscripts)
- SUNY Press
- University of South Carolina Press (multiple manuscripts)
- Lexington Press (multiple manuscripts)

Article Manuscripts:

- *William and Mary Quarterly* (multiple manuscripts)

- *Early American Studies*
- *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*
- *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*
- *Journal of Early American History*
- *Florida Historical Quarterly*
- *Proceedings of the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, 1750-1850* (multiple manuscripts)

Professional Societies

Membership Committee, Southern Historical Association 2019-2021

Fellowship Reviewer

United Empire Loyalists Fellowships 2020-present
James Madison Memorial Foundation 2014, 2016

SELECTED DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Chair, Curriculum Committee 2020-present
Chair, Search Committee for Ancient History 2022-2023
Assessment Co-Coordinator 2022-
Promotion and Tenure Committee 2018-2021
Chair, Americanists Committee 2016-2020
Search Committee, New Academic Unit Head 2018-2019
Member, Wilson Hall Renovation Committee 2016-2019
Chair, Latin American History Search Committee, USC Aiken 2010-2011

SELECTED UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Advisory Board Member, Medical Humanities Minor 2017-present
2019 Commemoration Committee @ JMU 2018-2020
New Faculty Academy Mentor 2018-2020
Provost's Task Force on Gender and Sexuality 2018-2019
Teaching for the 21st Century Peer Teacher and Mentor 2016-2019
Search Committee for Dean of Libraries and Educational Technology, James Madison University 2014
Teaching Through New Technology Working Group, James Madison University 2014-2015
History Representative, College of Arts and Letters Faculty Assistance 2013-2014
Quality Enhancement Project for Reaccreditation 2009-2011
University of South Carolina, Aiken

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Loyalist Research Network
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR)
Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture (OI)

Southern Historical Association (SHA)
Organization of American Historians (OAH)
American Historical Association (AHA)
Virginia Consortium of Early Americanists