

MICHAEL L. NICHOLLS
Professor of History, Emeritus
Department of History
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-0710
July 2009

EDUCATION

College of William and Mary	Ph.D. 1972
University of Dayton	M.A. 1967
Cedarville College	B.A. 1966

DISSERTATION

Origins of the Virginia Southside, 1703-1753: A Social and Economic Study. Richard Maxwell Brown, Director.

CURRENT RESEARCH

“Gabriel’s Conspiracy: The Failed Rebellion that Shook Virginia, 1800” (monograph)

“No Place of Refuge: African-American Life in Early Virginia Towns, 1760-1810,” (A monograph for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation research monograph series.)

“Slave Runaways in Eighteenth-Century Virginia: A New World Perspective,” Co-author with Philip Morgan. (Forthcoming, University of Virginia Press).

"Petersburg’s Free People of Color: The First Generation" an edited and annotated edition of the Petersburg Free Black Register with historical introduction, with Lenaye Howard.

“Making a Name: Caesar Hope, ‘the famous barber of York.’” (essay)

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS

“Aspects of the African-American Experience in Eighteenth-Century Williamsburg and Norfolk,” (Research Report, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1990). Partly reprinted as *“Revolutionary Opportunities for African Americans,”* The Colonial Williamsburg Interpreter, Fall, 1996.

BOOK CHAPTERS

“Slave Flight: Mount Vernon, Virginia, and the Wider Atlantic World”, in George Washington’s South, co-author with Philip Morgan, ed. by Tamara Harvey and Greg O’Brien, (University Press of Florida, 2004.)

“Recreating A White Urban Virginia,” in Lois Green Carr: The Chesapeake and Beyond A Celebration (Maryland Historical and Cultural Publications, 1992.)

“Competition, Credit and Crisis: Merchant-Planter Relations in Southside, Virginia,” in Merchant Credit and Labour Strategies in Historical Perspective Rosemary E. Ommer, ed. (Acadiensis Press, Fredericton, New Brunswick, 1990.)

ARTICLES

“Strangers Setting Among Us: The Sources and Challenge of the Urban Free Black Population of Early Virginia” Virginia Magazine of History, vol. 108, no. 2. 2000.

“‘The Squint of Freedom:’ African American Freedom Suits in Post-Revolutionary Virginia,” Slavery and Abolition, August, 1999.

“Piedmont Plantations and Farms: Transplanting Tidewater Traditions?” Magazine of Albemarle County History, 1991.

“Skilled Black Virginians and the American Revolution,” Historic Trades, vol II, 1990.

“Slaves in Piedmont Virginia, 1720-1790,” William and Mary Quarterly, April 1989, co-author with Philip Morgan. Reprinted in Plantation Societies in the Era of European Expansion, 1450-1800 ed. by Judy Bieber, (Ashgate Publishing, 1997.)

“Searching for Eden,” Virginia Cavalcade, Autumn, 1986.

“Passing Through This Troublesome World: Free Blacks in the Early Southside” Virginia Magazine of History, January 1984. Reprinted in Paul Finkelman, ed. Free Blacks in a Slave Society, Garland Publishing, Inc., 1990.

“In the Light of Human Beings: Richard Eppes and His Island Plantation Code of Laws.” Virginia Magazine of History, January, 1981.

“News from Monrovia,” Virginia Magazine of History, January, 1977.

“The Mormon Genealogical Society and Research Opportunities in Early American History,” William and Mary Quarterly, October 1975, co-author with Larry Gerlach.

EDITED WORKS

Legacies of the American Revolution, Associate Editor with Larry Gerlach and James Dolph. (Utah State University Press, 1978.)

American Civilization: A Reader, co-editor with F. Ross Peterson. (Burgess Publishing Company, 1985.)

ELECTRONIC

“Notes on Manumissions: Selected Virginia Counties (ca. 1782-1818) with Lenaye Howard, at <http://www.usu.edu/history/faculty/nicholls/index.htm>.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

“Getting Gabriel Straight” presentation at annual meeting of Front Range Early American Consortium, Tucson, AZ, October 2008.

“Looking for the Famous Barber of York,” The Timothy Donovan Lecture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 14 February, 2005.

Commentator on session at Conference on “*From Slavery to Freedom: Manumission in the Atlantic World*,” College of Charleston, October, 2000.

“*The Origins of the Free Black Populations of Alexandria and Fredericksburg Virginia*,” paper presented to the conference “Jamestown to Jubilee: The Urban Black Experience in Antebellum Virginia.” The Lyceum, Alexandria, VA, January, 1998.

“*The 18th Century Virginia Runaway Slave Revisited*,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Front Range Early American Consortium, May, 1995.

“*Wolf by the Ears’: Slaves and Free Blacks in Jefferson’s Virginia*,” a lecture in the Alumni College, College of William and Mary, June, 1993.

“*Free People of Color in a Slave Society*,” paper presented at Sixth Colonial Williamsburg History Forum, November, 1992.

“*Recreating a White Urban Virginia*,” paper presented at conference “Lois Green Carr: The Chesapeake and Beyond—A Celebration,” University of Maryland, May, 1992.

“*Straddling Hell’s Boundaries: Profiles of Free People of Color in Early Virginia*,” the Annual Faculty Honor Lecture in the Humanities, Utah State University, November, 1991.

Commentator on session “*Free Blacks in Early Virginia*,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky, April, 1991.

Commentator on session at Conference on “*Recreating the World of the Virginia Plantation 1750-1820*,” University of Virginia, June, 1990.

“*Slavery and the Problem of Control in Early Virginia Towns*,” an address to Phi Alpha Theta Regional Meeting, Virginia Wesleyan College, March, 1990.

“*Slave Runaways in Eighteenth-Century Virginia*,” paper presented with Philip Morgan to the Organization of American Historians annual meeting, Washington, D.C., March, 1990.

“*Scholarship and the Public: The Problem of Translation*,” at Interpreting African-American Culture of the Eighteenth Century: A Charrette - The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, February, 1990.

“*Competition, Credit and Crisis: Merchant-Planter Relations in Southside, Virginia*,” paper presented to the conference on “Merchant Credit and Labour Strategies in the Staple Economy of North American,” Memorial University, St. John’s, Newfoundland, August, 1987.

“*Farmers, Debtors and Court Closures in Early America*,” presentation and workshop seminar at “Farmers in Revolt, 1786-1986: A Public Forum” Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho, November, 1986.

“*The Expansion of Southside Virginia, 1700-1775*,” paper presented to the Southern Historical Association annual meeting, November, 1980, Atlanta, Georgia.

“*Credit Crisis and Court Closure: The Impact on Pittsylvania County Virginia 1767-1776*,” paper presented to Pacific Coast Branch Meeting, American Historical Association, San Francisco, August, 1978.

“*Virginia in the Revolution*,” Distinguished Professors Series Lecture. Chico State University, Chico, California, February, 1976.

Commentator in session on “*Social Structure*,” at The Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake, the Thirty-Second Conference on Early American History, College Park and St. Mary’s City, Maryland, November, 1974. Sponsored by Department of History, University of Maryland, St. Mary’s City Commission, and the Institute of Early American History and Culture.

“*Eighteenth Century Virginia County Court Records and Social and Economic History*,” paper presented to the 3rd annual meeting of the American Society for Legal History, November, 1973.

“*The Origins of the Virginia Southside, 1703-1753*,” paper presented to the 38th annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association, November, 1972.

BOOK REVIEWS (18)

William and Mary Quarterly
Virginia Magazine of History and Biography
The Historian
Western Historical Quarterly
Journal of American History
Journal of Southern History
Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography
The Eighteenth Century: A Current Bibliography
The Smithfield Review

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWSBOOKS

Rowman and Littlefield Publishers
 Institute of Early American History and Culture
 University of Virginia Press

ARTICLES

William and Mary Quarterly
Virginia Magazine of History and Biography
The Journal of Southern History

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

“Grandpa’s World,” Valley Magazine, Logan Herald Journal, July 1982.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Utah State University, 1970 to present
 College of William and Mary, Summers 1968-1972

WORKSHOPS AND INSTITUTE PRESENTATIONS

Utah Charter Schools Consortium (Connections) Teaching American History institute for public school teachers–2006-09.

Professional Academy For The Teaching of History in the Schools (PATHS) - summer institute on Teaching American History for public school teachers - Logan and Cache County Utah School Districts, 2002-07.

Teaching American History Summer Institute for public school teachers - Jefferson County, Colorado, 2003-09, Patricia Limerick and David Wrobel directors.

Teaching American History Institute for Public School Teachers, Douglas County, Colorado. September, 2009.

Evans Biography workshop, Mountain West Center for Regional Studies, Utah State University, several summers.

“Urban Blacks in the Age of Jefferson,” a lecture and seminar to NEH Seminar for College Teachers on “Educating A Citizenry: School and Society in the World of Thomas Jefferson.” College of William and Mary, June 10, 1993, Robert Gross and Peter Onuf, Directors.

GUEST LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Hampton University
 Chico State University
 Idaho State University
 Christopher Newport College
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Dixie College
 College of William and Mary
 Virginia Center for the Humanities
 University of Montana
 Wheaton College
 University of Arkansas

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Resident Fellow, Virginia Center for the Humanities, Charlottesville, VA, Spring 1993
 Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Research Fellow 1988-1990
 St. Mary’s City Commission Research grant, 1976-1977
 Utah State University Mineral Leasing Research Grant, 1975
 Utah State University Mineral Leasing Research Grant, 1974
 Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Summer Research Grant, 1970

CONSULTANT/ADVISORY BOARD

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for ongoing interpretations of African-American life in Williamsburg.

Virginia Center for Digital History, “The Geography of Slavery in Virginia,” An NEH funded project.

Carlyle House Historic Park for NEH sponsored exhibit “Don’t Get Weary: African Americans in 18th Century Alexandria,” 1993-94.

INVITED SEMINARS

NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers - University of Rochester, Summer 1982, “Application of Economic Analysis to Historical Problems,” Stanley L. Engerman, Seminar leader.

Newberry Library, Family, and Community History Center, Seminar on Quantitative History, June 5 - July 5, 1979.

NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers - Boston University, Summer 1977, “The Plain People of Early America” Richard Bushman, Seminar leader.

NHPC Historical Editing Institute, Internship, 1972

COMMITTEES AND OTHER SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

Utah State University

Professional Academy For The Teaching of History in the Schools (PATHS)
 Advisory Board and Co-PI, US Department of Education Grant 2001-2004
 Concurrent enrollment overseer - 2002-2007
 Honors Advisory Board 1974, 2001-2004
 Graduate Studies Director, 2001-05
 Interim Graduate Studies Director 2000
 University Athletic Council 1996-99
 University Book Store Committee 1994-96
 University Faculty Senate 1975, 1994-96
 University Council on Teacher Education 1991-97
 Departmental Advisory Council, 1992-97, 2000-05
 Acting Dean, School of Graduate Studies 1982-83
 Acting Head, Dept of History 1978-79
 College of HASS computer committee 1982-83
 University Graduate Council 1982-83
 HASS Graduate Council 1982-83, 2000-05
 American Studies Committee
 Jensen Historical Farm Advisory Committee
 Tanner Lectureship in the Humanities Committee, Chair

Significant Search Committee membership (recent)
WHQ Assoc. Editor 2003-04
 Head, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning 2003-04

University Archivist 2003-04
 Dean of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences 2001
 Women's Soccer Head Coach 2002-03
 Dean of College of Natural Resources 1996
 Various Departmental Search Committees

Professional Organizations

Membership Committee Southern Historical Association (3 terms)
 Founding Member of Front Range Early American Consortium and sometime
 annual conference organizer

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Utah State University - 1970 to 2007

AREAS OF INTEREST

Early American History to 1815
 Eighteenth Century American Social and Economic History
 Slavery and Free People of Color in Early Virginia

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

College of HASS Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year, 2007
 Department Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor, 2007
 Department Teacher of the Year - several years
 Teacher of the year, 2001. College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
 USU Alumni Association Professor of the Year - 2001
 USU Outstanding Faculty Member - 2001
 USU Bookstore Outstanding Faculty Book Award - 1997, 2001
 USU Mortar Board, "Top Prof" - 1995, 2001
 USU Student Services "Friend of Students" Award - 1996