

J. Jacob Calhoun

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Education

University of Virginia May 2024

Ph.D. Candidate, American History, expected May 2024

Dissertation: “Reconstruction through Rifles: The Role of Violence in Black Americans’ Fight for Liberty in the Postemancipation Era”

Committee: Justene Hill Edwards, Elizabeth Varon, Caroline Janney, Kidada E. Williams

Comprehensive Examination Fields (passed with Distinction):

- African American History
- Nineteenth Century US History
- History of Slavery and Emancipation

University of Virginia December 2021

M.A., History

Master’s Essay: [“Canoniers and Cane Knives: The Violence of Black Citizenship and the Donaldsonville Incident of 1870”](#)

Advisor: Justene Hill Edwards

University of Maryland 2016-2018

M.A., History

Thesis: [Cultivating Politics: The Formation of a Black Body Politic in the Postemancipation Louisiana Sugar Parishes](#)

Advisor: Christopher Bonner

Loyola University New Orleans 2012-2016

B.A., History, *with Honors*

Thesis: *Eatin’ Cotton: The Story of the Jacksonville, Alabama, Cotton Mill and Its Workers*

Advisor: Mark Fernandez

Fellowships

Bradley Fellow of the Nau Center of Civil War Studies 2022

J. Carl Sewell Graduate Fellow of Civil War History 2022

John L. Nau III History and Principles of Democracy Lab Graduate Fellow 2021-2022

Publications

[“The Black Lawmen of Reconstruction,”](#) Nau Center for Civil War History Blog, University of Virginia, June 13, 2023.

Book Review of *The Bone and Sinew of the Land: America's Forgotten Black Pioneers and the Struggle for Equality* by Anna Lisa Cox, *Indiana Magazine of History* 118, no. 4 (December 2022).

Book Review of *The Women's Fight: The Civil War's Battles for Home, Freedom, and Nation* by Thavolia Glymph, *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association* 62, no. 2 (Spring 2021): 240-24.

“Closely Knit: Cloth and Community in Colonial New England.” *Loyola Student Historical Journal* 46, (2014-2015): 7-14.

Works in Progress

“Canoniers and Cane Knives: The Violence of Black Citizenship and the Donaldsonville Incident of 1870,” *The Journal of the Civil War Era* (Revise and Resubmit).

“We Invoke the Presence of the Military Arm of the Federal Government,” *America's Civil War* (Forthcoming)

Digital Projects

“Jacques Cartier's Intrusions,” University of Virginia- MapScholar, Fall 2019, <http://viseyes.org/mapscholar/?2724>

“Remembering the Yamasee War,” University of Virginia ArcGIS, Fall 2019, <https://arcg.is/0nKWve>

“Visualizing Rowlandson's Removes,” Produced in concert with S. Max Edelson's Geospatial Visualization Course, University of Virginia ArcGIS Fall 2019, <https://arcg.is/019fv0>

“The March on Donaldsonville” (Interactive Map), Advised by Laurent Dubois, University of Virginia ArcGIS, Spring 2021, <https://arcg.is/10bmKy>

“The March on Donaldsonville” (StoryMaps Project), Part of “Mapping Reconstruction Violence,” University of Virginia ArcGIS, Publication set for April 2024

“RPG: Confederacy” (Podcast Project), University of Virginia- Scholar's Lab, First Episode set for release January 2024

Public History Experience

The Memory Project

September 2021 – present

Working with fellow researchers, conducted research to discover the history of human trafficking that took place at Court Square in Charlottesville, VA during the nineteenth century. The team identified hundreds of enslaved men, women, and children who were trafficked at the

site and produced a report for the Historic Resources Commission. The team collaborated with local descendant communities to ensure the ethical use of genealogical data acquired through archival research.

Central Virginia History Researchers October 2021 – present
Member of a historical society composed of professional researchers, local scholars, and the descendants of enslaved communities. Led multiple public presentations on the history of human trafficking in Charlottesville during the antebellum period and participated in additional meetings.

Teaching Experience

University of Virginia Fall 2020 – Spring 2023
Teaching Assistant, Corcoran Department of History
Courses:

- Democracy in Danger
- American Slavery
- Modern U.S. Legal History
- Modern China

University of Maryland Spring 2019 – Spring 2021
Instructor, Department of Public Health
Courses:

- History of Public Health
- Senior Capstone Seminar

University of Maryland Fall 2016 – Spring 2018
Teaching Assistant, Department of Public Health
Courses:

- History of Public Health

Conference Presentations

“Pistols and Politics: Black Resistance during the Twilight of Reconstruction.”
The Southern Historical Association 89th Annual Meeting
Charlotte, North Carolina
November 9-12, 2023

“‘They Would Carry Their Flag to Victory’: Black Self-Armament and the Opelousas Massacre of 1868”
Slavery Past, Present & Future: Seventh Global Meeting
Webster University Ghana, Accra, Ghana
July 2-8, 2023

“Canoniers and Cane Knives: The Violence of Black Citizenship and the Donaldsonville Incident of 1870”
The Society of Civil War Historians Conference
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 2-4, 2022

"Falsely Framing the Narrative: Louisiana Newspapers in the Reconstruction Period"
Symposium on the Nineteenth Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Chattanooga, Tennessee
November 7-9, 2019

"Monuments of Public Vengeance: Questions of Slave Punishments and Proportionality in Early National Virginia"
Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference
University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, Colorado
October 6-8, 2017

"By Bayonets and Gatling Guns"
Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Conference
Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, Virginia
March 18-19, 2017

"'Eatin' Cotton: The Story of the Jacksonville, Alabama, Cotton Mill and Its Workers"
Awarded Honorable Mention
Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference
University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana
March 18-19, 2016

"The Weeklies and the World: An Examination of Frontier Journalism and Yellow Journalism"
Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference
University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana
March 6, 2015

Professional Service

Graduate History Student Association 2022 – present
President

Revitalized GHSA after two years of inactivity, which included organizing professional workshops and events pertaining to professional development, the sharing of scholarly work, and trauma counseling. Led efforts to welcome new students by planning and hosting events for perspective students visiting the University of Virginia.

Graduate Chair of Civil War Seminar August 2022 – June 2023
Organized bi-weekly seminars and workshops for the Nau Center of Civil War Studies. Led discussions intended to provide junior and senior scholars with constructive feedback. Assisted in networking with prominent scholars of the Civil War Era and coordinating their visits to the University of Virginia.

Karsh Institute of Democracy Workshop 2021 – present

Participated in workshops and attended lectures on topics revolving around the cultivation and preservation of democratic principles. Presented at a workshop in Fall 2022 on the history of enslavement and human trafficking in Charlottesville in the nineteenth century.

UVA History Department Diversity & Inclusion Working Group 2019 – present

Participated in discussion groups and pedagogical workshops designed to address concerns of diversity and inclusion within the UVA History Department and foster a more equitable, inclusive scholarly atmosphere.

References

Justene Hill Edwards 

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Christopher Bonner 

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Department of History
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Laurent Dubois 

John L. Nau III Bicentennial Professor in the History & Principles of Democracy
Co-director for Academic Affairs, Democracy Initiative
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Kevin Gaines 

Julian Bond Professor of Civil Rights and Social Justice
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Caroline Janney 

John L. Nau, III, Professor in History of the American Civil War
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Elizabeth R. Varon 

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