

Christopher Ryan Mortenson

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Education

Ph.D., Texas A&M University, History, December 2007.

Ph.D. Dissertation: “Lew Wallace and the Civil War: Politics and Generalship,”
successfully defended, October 10, 2007.

Advisor:

Dr. Joseph G. Dawson III.

Readers:

Dr. Brian M. Linn.

Dr. R.J.Q. Adams.

Dr. Walter D. Kamphoefner.

Dr. Peter J. Hugill, Department of Geography.

M.A., University of Nebraska at Kearney, History, December 1999.

M.A. Thesis: “‘Elaborate Caution’: George Brinton McClellan and the Siege of
Yorktown, April 5—May 3, 1862,” successfully defended, November
18, 1999.

Advisor:

Dr. Vernon L. Volpe.

Readers:

Dr. James D. German.

Dr. Pradeep Barua.

Dr. James N. Gilbert, Department of Criminal Justice.

B.A., Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, History/Economics, 1997.

Teaching Experience

Summer 2015-Present: Associate Professor, Ouachita Baptist University (Department
Chairperson since July 2014).

Fall 2008-Spring 2015: Assistant Professor, Ouachita Baptist University.

Spring 2008-Summer 2008: Visiting Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University.

Fall 2004-Fall 2007: Graduate Assistant, Lecturer, Texas A&M University.

Fall 2005-Fall 2006: Adjunct Instructor, Blinn College of Bryan, Texas.

Spring 2003-Spring 2004: Graduate Assistant, Discussion Leader, Texas A&M University.

Fall 2000-Fall 2002: Graduate Assistant, Grader, Texas A&M University.

Spring 2000: Adjunct Instructor, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Fall 1998-Spring 1999: Teaching Assistant, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Fall 1997-Spring 1998: Graduate Assistant, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Conference Participation

Member of the Local Arrangements Committee for the Annual Meeting of the Southern Historical Association, Little Rock, Arkansas, November 12-15, 2015.

Untitled session chaired at the Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers, Little Rock, Arkansas, October 1, 2015.

Commentator for a session titled "Soldiers and Battlefields of the Civil War," Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, Montgomery, Alabama, April 11, 2015.

Commentator for a session titled "Crisis Leadership: US Military Officers and Decision Makers in the Mid-19th Century," Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, Kansas City, Missouri, April 6, 2014.

"Missionary Zeal in Three Countries," session chaired at the Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers, Hot Springs, Arkansas, October 5, 2012.

"Military History: Rhyming Not Repeating," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, Arlington, Virginia, May 12, 2012.

"The Politics of Celebration," paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Arkansas Historical Association, Fayetteville, Arkansas, April 14, 2012.

"The Determination of the Individual," session chaired at the Annual Conference of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers, Little Rock, Arkansas, October 7, 2011.

Commentator for a session titled "War by Other Means: Violent Resistance in the Occupied South During Reconstruction," Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, Chicago, Illinois, June 10, 2011.

"Lew 'Ben-Hur' Wallace and His Desire to be a Professional General," paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers, Little Rock, Arkansas, September 30, 2010.

Panelist for a roundtable discussion titled "From Bering Ice to Condi Rice: Teaching American History in One Semester," Annual Conference of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers, Hot Springs, Arkansas, October 2, 2009.

- “Building Sites of Memory: Constructing Remembrance and Meaning of the American Civil War,” session chaired at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, April 3, 2009.
- “Lew Wallace and the Civil War: Politics, Character, and Generalship,” paper presented at the Ohio Valley History Conference, Clarksville, Tennessee, October 31, 2008.
- “Indiana’s Political General: Lew Wallace and the Lincoln Administration’s Policies in Maryland, 1864,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Indiana Association of Historians, Hanover, Indiana, February 18, 2006.
- “Ethnic Texans in the Civil War: A Study of Union and Confederate Recruitment,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, Corpus Christi, Texas, March 8, 2002.
- “‘We Cannot Count Upon the Navy’: George Brinton McClellan and the Decision to Siege Yorktown,” paper presented at the Missouri Graduate Conference on History, Columbia, Missouri, March 18, 2000.
- “McClellan, Johnston, and the Peninsular Campaign of 1862,” paper presented at the Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, Nebraska, March 11, 1999.
- “A Butcher in the Wilderness: Ulysses S. Grant and the Virginia Campaign of 1864,” paper presented at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, Hastings, Nebraska, April 18, 1998.

Publications in Progress

Continuing revisions on a book manuscript, not yet formally submitted, and tentatively titled *Lew “Ben-Hur” Wallace and the Civil War*.

Continuing work on articles concerning aspects of Lew Wallace’s career as a politically appointed officer during the Civil War. One article is currently under review with *Timeline*, a journal of the Ohio Historical Society.

Book Reviews

Enduring Legacy: Rhetoric and Ritual of the Lost Cause, by W. Stuart Towns, for *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, 73:2 (Summer 2014), 221-22.

A Dangerous Stir: Fear, Paranoia, and the Making of Reconstruction, by Mark Wahlgren Summers, for *Northwest Ohio History*, 78:2 (2011), 157-58.

Andersonvilles of the North: The Myths and Realities of Northern Treatment of Civil War Confederate Prisoners, by James M. Gillispie, for *The Historian*, 73:1 (2011).

Baring the Iron Hand: Discipline in the Union Army, by Steven Ramold, for the *Michigan Historical Review*, 36:2 (2010), 178-79.

Fire in the Cane Field: The Federal Invasion of Louisiana and Texas, January 1861-January 1863, by Donald Frazier, for *Military History of the West*, 40 (2010), 115-16.

Mutiny at Fort Jackson: The Untold Story of the Fall of New Orleans, by Michael D. Pierson, for *Military History of the West*, 39 (2009), 101-02.

Grants, Awards, and Honors

Ouachita Baptist University, Academic Affairs, one or two Faculty Travel Grants for participation in scholarly conferences during each of my academic years at OBU.

Ouachita Baptist University, a Library Grant for the purchase of *Ford's Christian Repository, 1852-1905*. Margaret Reed was the primary author of the grant proposal.

Ouachita Baptist University, two \$1,200 Henry Academic Enrichment Grants to offer programs for students in a Military History course and a New South course, both programs scheduled for the 2012-2013 school year.

Ouachita Baptist University, two \$1,200 Henry Academic Enrichment Grants to offer programs for students in a Military History course and a New South course, both programs scheduled for the 2010-2011 school year.

Ouachita Baptist University, inherited a \$900 Henry Academic Enrichment Grant to offer a Military Technology Program for students in a Military History course, November 15, 2008.

United States Military Academy, Department of History, Fellowship to attend the West Point Summer Seminar in Military History, 2008.

Texas A&M University, Department of History, \$500 Research Travel Grant, 2005.

Texas A&M University, Department of History, \$1,000 Research Fellowship, 2004.

Texas A&M University, \$6,000 Regents' Graduate Fellowship, 2000.

University of Nebraska at Kearney, Department of History Travel Grant and Graduate College Research Services Grant, "McClellan, Johnston, and the Peninsular Campaign of 1862," presented to the Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, Nebraska, March 11, 1999.

University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$750 Graduate College Research Services Grant, "The Siege of Yorktown, April 5 to May 5 of 1862," at the Library of Congress, January, 1999.

University of Nebraska at Kearney, \$750 Reichenbach Scholarship, 1997.

Cornell College, \$5,000 Distinguished Honors Scholarship, 1993-96.

Service for Ouachita Baptist University and Community

Chair of OBU's Department of History, July 2014 to present.

Member of a School of Social Sciences committee, which convened to create a Social Justice program at Ouachita Baptist University, 2015-16.

Facilitator of the Gutenberg Conspiracy, a gathering of people interested in reading books and discussing them with others, 2011 to present.

Faculty sponsor for the women's social group, Chi Delta, 2011 to present.

Co-supervisor and currently supervisor of the History Department's six work-study students, 2010 to present.

Course coordinator for the CORE course, American Civilization, 2011 to 2015.

Member of a History Department job search committee, 2013-2014.

Co-adviser to the History Department's Phi Alpha Theta (honors society) chapter, 2010 to 2014.

Social Sciences' representative to the University Nominating Committee, both in 2012 and 2013.

"How Lew Wallace almost lost Arkansas for the Union (or, Lew Wallace at the Battle of Shiloh)," presentation to the Clark County Historical Association, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, August 6, 2013.

"Lew 'Ben-Hur' Wallace, a Reluctant Political General," presentation as part of the "American Civil War Lecture Series" at Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 27, 2012.

Served on the "Subcommittee dealing with History/Civic Engagement/World Cultures & Global Awareness" as part of the University's process for revising the CORE curriculum, Fall 2012.

Served on a "curricular design team" as part of the University's process for revising the CORE curriculum, Spring 2012.

Member of a Sociology job search committee, 2011-2012.

Member of the University Centers Committee, OBU, 2009-2010 (absorbed by the Student Life Committee in 2010). Member of the Student Life Committee, OBU, 2010-2012.

"Lew Wallace and Civil War Generalship," presentation to the Woman's Library Association, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, November 17, 2011.

"The Camden Expedition and the Civil War in Clark County," presentation to a tour group, on behalf of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, October 15, 2011.

An informal presentation for a session titled "Making It Through the First Semester," part of OBU's New Faculty Orientation, September 14, 2009.

"Lew Wallace and Civil War Generalship, or How I Regularly Irritate the Chinchilla," research presented at an OBU Faculty Colloquium, March 4, 2009.

Volunteered to join a group, led by Jacynnda Ammons, for OBU's Tiger Serve Day. Participants met in order to help clean the grounds and building of the Clark County Museum, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, September 27, 2008.

Attendance at numerous University colloquiums, Faculty Forum meetings, college departmental meetings and gatherings, as well as a few chapel services.

Ruling Elder (2010-12 and 2016-18) of First Presbyterian Church of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, serving on the Christian Education Committee and occasionally teaching Sunday School lessons.

Teaching Fields

American Military History.
Civil War and Reconstruction.
Nineteenth Century U.S.
U.S. South.
U.S. Early National Period.
Colonial America.
Twentieth Century U.S.
History of Slavery.
History of Sports.

Professional Memberships

Society for Military History.
Southern Historical Association.
Indiana Historical Society.
Arkansas Historical Association.
Arkansas Association of College History Teachers, VP in 2010-12, President in 2012-14, Executive Board in 2015-16.
Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, co-sponsor for OBU chapter, 2010-Present.
Texas A&M University, History Graduate Student Organization, President, 2006-07.

References

Professor Randall D. Wight
Dean of the Sutton School of Social Sciences
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Professor Joseph G. Dawson, III
Department of History
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-4236
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