

Robert Olwell

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Academic Positions:

From September 1999 - Associate Professor of History, University of Texas at Austin.

September 1993 to September 1999 - Assistant Professor of History, University of Texas at Austin.

June 1990 to September 1993 - Assistant Professor of History, Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Spring Semester 1990, Adjunct Lecturer in History, Loyola College of Maryland, Baltimore.

Education / Degrees:

1985 - 1991 - M.A., Ph. D., (History), The Johns Hopkins University.

1979 - 1985, B.A., M.A., (History), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Fellowships and Awards:

Internal Research Fellow, Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 2008-2009.

Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Grant (with Carolyn Eastman), [to develop a digital archive for use in the early American Survey course], University of Texas at Austin, 2006-2007.

RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service, University of Texas at Austin, Academic Innovation Award, 2005-2006.

Short-term Research Fellowship, Huntington Library, San Marino, California, Summer 2005.

American Council for Learned Societies Research Fellowship, 2003-2004.

Faculty Research Assignment, University of Texas at Austin, 2003-2004.

Runner-Up Award for Masters, Slaves, and Subjects: The Culture of Power in the South Carolina Low Country, 1740-1790, from the Frederick Douglass Book Prize Committee, the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University, 1999.

Andrew W. Mellon Post-doctoral Research Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Spring 1999.

University Research Institute Special Research Grant, Dean of Graduate Studies, University of Texas at Austin, Summer 1996.

President's Pride Summer Research Grants, Mount Saint Mary's College, 1991 and 1992.

Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminars for College Teachers: "Slavery and the Atlantic Plantation Complex, 1450-1890," Directed by Philip D. Curtin, The Johns Hopkins University, 1991.

Research Fellow, Institute for Southern Studies, University of South Carolina, 1987-1988.

Albert J. Beveridge Research Grant, the American Historical Association, 1987.

Graduate Fellowship, Department of History, The Johns Hopkins University, 1985-1990.

Theodore A. Brown Award, Best Master's Thesis in History, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1985.

Summer Research Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1984.

Teaching Assistantship, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1983-1985.

RTE Corporation College Scholarship, 1979-1983.

Publications:

Authored Book:

Masters, Slaves, and Subjects: The Culture of Power in the South Carolina Low Country, 1740-1790, (cloth and paper; Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998).

Edited Book:

Cultures and Identities in Colonial British America, edited, with Alan Tully, (cloth; Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006).

Articles & Chapters:

"Seeds of Empire: Florida, Kew, and the British Imperial Meridian in the 1760s," Elizabeth Mancke and Carole Shammas, eds., The Creation of the British Atlantic World, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), 263-82.

"The Long History of a Low Place: Slavery and Freedom on the South Carolina Coast, 1670-1870," in Winthrop Jordan and Kevin McCarthy, eds., Slavery and the American South, (Oxford: University of Mississippi Press, 2003), 117-39.

"`Practical Justice': The Justice of the Peace, the Slave Court, and the Creation of Authority in mid 18th-Century South Carolina," in Rosemary Brana-Shute, Jack P. Greene, and Randy Sparks, eds., Money, Trade, and Power: New Directions in the Study of the South Carolina Lowcountry, (Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2001), 256-77.

"Becoming Free: Manumission and the Genesis of a Free Black Community in South Carolina, 1740-1790," in Slavery & Abolition, XVII, (April 1996), 1-19; This issue of S&A was also published as a book, edited by Jane G. Landers: Against the Odds: Free Blacks in the Slave Societies of the Americas, (London: Frank Cass & Co. Ltd., 1996).

"`Loose, Idle and Disorderly': Slave Women in the Eighteenth-Century Charleston Marketplace," in David Barry Gaspar and Darlene Clark Hine, eds., More Than Chattel: Black Women and Slavery in the Americas, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996), 97-110.

"`A Reckoning of Accounts': Patriarchy, Market Relations and Control on Henry Laurens's Lowcountry Plantations, 1762-1785," in Larry E. Hudson, Jr., ed., Working Toward Freedom: Slave Society and Domestic Economy in the American South, (Rochester: University of Rochester Press, 1994), 33-52.

"Slavery and the American Revolution," in Richard L. Blanco, ed., The American Revolution, 1775-1783: An Encyclopedia, (2 vols.; New York: Garland Publishing, 1993), II, 1527-38.

"`Domestick Enemies': Slavery and Political Independence in South Carolina, May 1775 - March 1776," Journal of Southern History, LV, (February 1989), 21-48.

Book Reviews:

Death or Liberty: African Americans and Revolutionary America, Douglas Egerton, (Oxford, 2009), Journal of Southern History, (forthcoming).

The People and Their Peace: Legal Culture and the Transformation of Inequality in the Post-Revolutionary South, Laura Edwards, (University of North Carolina Press, 2009), Slavery & Abolition, (forthcoming).

The Reaper's Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery, Vincent Brown, (Harvard University Press, 2008), William and Mary Quarterly, (Fall 2009), 1004-07.

Review Essay: "Atlantic Histories" [The Atlantic World and Virginia, 1550-1624, Peter C. Mancall, ed.], Reviews in American History, (March 2009), 6-12.

Joining Places: Slave Neighborhoods in the Old South, Anthony E. Kaye, (University of North Carolina Press, 2007), Journal of American History, (December 2008), 849.

To Make this Land Our Own: Community, Identity, and Cultural Adaptation in Purrysburg Township, South Carolina, 1732-1865, Arlin C. Migliazzo, American Historical Review, (December 2008), 1536-1537.

Plantation Enterprise in Colonial South Carolina, S. Max Edelson, (Harvard University Press, 2006), Journal of Interdisciplinary History, Vol.38, No. 3, (Winter 2007), 466-67.

Hurricanes and Society in the British Greater Caribbean, 1624-1783, Matthew Mulcahy, (Johns Hopkins, 2005), William and Mary Quarterly, (July 2006), 619.

Landon Carter's Uneasy Kingdom: Revolution and Rebellion on a Virginia Plantation, Rhys Isaac, (Oxford, 2004), American Historical Review, (June 2006), 830.

Review Essay: "The Creeks in the American Southeast," [The Invention of the Creek Nation, 1670-1763, Steven C. Hahn, (Nebraska, 2004); Okfuskee: A Creek Indian Town in Colonial America, Joshua Piker, (Harvard, 2004); Negotiating for Georgia: British-Creek Relations in the Trustee Era, 1733-1752, Julie Anne Sweet, (Georgia, 2005); Creeks and Southerners: Biculturalism on the Early American Frontier, Andrew Frank, (Nebraska, 2005)], Itinerario, (Fall/winter 2005), 118-22.

Tyranny, Mastery, and Desire: Thomas Thistlewood and His Slaves in the Anglo-Jamaican World, Trevor Burnard, (North Carolina, 2004), American Historical Review, (June 2005), 832.

That Punished Self: Surviving Slavery in the Colonial South, Alex Bontemps, (Cornell, 2001), Journal of Southern History, (February 2003), 143-44

The Early Modern Atlantic Economy, John J. McCusker and Kenneth Morgan, eds., (Cambridge, 2000), Itinerario, (Fall/Winter 2002).

William Henry Drayton: South Carolina Revolutionary Patriot, Keith Krawczynski, (Louisiana, 2001), Journal of American History, (December 2002), 1027.

A Concise History of East and West Florida, Bernard Romans, Kathryn E. Holland Braund, ed., (Alabama, 1999), H-net reviews, (August 2002).

Lines in the Sand: Race and Class in Lowcountry Georgia, 1750-1860, Timothy James Lockley, (Georgia, 2001), William and Mary Quarterly, (January 2002), 302-04.

Domesticating Slavery: The Master Class in Georgia and South Carolina, 1670-1837, Jeffrey Robert Young, (North Carolina, 1999), Georgia Historical Quarterly, (Fall 2001).

John Laurens and the American Revolution, Gregory D. Massey, (South Carolina, 2000), Florida Historical Quarterly, (Summer 2001), 101-03.

Designs Against Charleston: The Trial Record of the Denmark Vesey Slave Conspiracy of 1822, Edward Pearson, ed., (North Carolina, 1999), Florida Historical Quarterly, (Winter 2000), 479-81.

A School for Politics: Commercial Lobbying and Political Culture in Early South Carolina, Rebecca Starr, (Johns Hopkins, 1998), Journal of American History, (Fall 2000), 1015.

Slaves in the Family, Edward Ball, (New York, 1998), South Carolina Historical Magazine, (Fall 1999), 276-78.

Exchanging Our Country Marks: The Transformation of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South, Michael A. Gomez, (North Carolina, 1998), Georgia Historical Quarterly, (Spring 1999).

Questioning Slavery, James Walvin, (London, 1996), Slavery & Abolition, (April 1998).

The Origins of American Slavery: Freedom and Bondage in the English Colonies, Betty Wood, (New York, 1997), Georgia Historical Quarterly, (Spring 1998).

Them Dark Days: Slavery in the American Rice Swamps, William Dusingberre, (Oxford, 1996), Slavery & Abolition, (August 1997).

Wilderness at Dawn: The Settling of the North American Continent, Ted Morgan, (New York, 1993), Pennsylvania History, (Spring 1994).

Strangers Within the Realm: Cultural Margins of the First British Empire, Bernard Bailyn and Philip D. Morgan, eds., (North Carolina, 1991); International History Review, (February 1992).

The American Revolution and the Politics of Liberty, Robert H. Webking, (Louisiana, 1989), North Carolina Historical Review, (October, 1989).

The Economy of Early America, the Revolutionary Period, 1763-1790, Ronald Hoffman, et. al., eds., (Virginia, 1988); Maryland Historian, (Fall 1988).

Conference Papers, Invited Lectures and Comments:

"Factual Fictions: Poetic License and the Historic Record in Barry Unsworth's Sacred Hunger, paper (co-written with Peter Dorsey) to be presented at the Annual Meeting of Society of Early Americanists, St. Augustine, Florida, May 2010.

“New Bermuda in East Florida: Population, Migration, and Colonization in the British-Atlantic, 1764-1766,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Early Americanists, Hamilton, Bermuda, March 2009.

“Playing Chess at Monticello: Reasoning with Thomas Jefferson in the 21st Century,” Invited Lecture presented to the University of Texas at Austin, Odyssey lecture Series, November 2008.

“Casualty of War: Florida in the ‘Press-War’ of 1762,” paper presented at the Southern Conference for British Studies, New Orleans, La., October 2008.

“Britain’s New Indian Subjects (both East and West) in the 1760s” paper presented at the North American Conference for British Studies, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 2008.

“Tea Leaves: The Oriental Origins of the American Revolution,” invited Lecture presented at Mount Saint Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Md., September 2008.

“First Impressions: Perceiving Florida in British Print Culture, November 1762 – November 1763,” paper presented to the Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas at Austin, September 2008.

“The Imperial Quadrille: Defining and Performing British and Seminole Identities in Florida, 1764-1768,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Ethnohistory, Williamsburg, Virginia, November 2006.

“Imagined Community or Company Town: The History of the ‘Village of Rolle’ in British East Florida, 1765-1784,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society, Palm Beach, May 2005.

“Divine Right Ideology in the Reigns of George III and George W.,” a comment on the paper “Divine Right Reborn,” by Brendan McConville, presented at a conference in honor of Jack P. Greene, held at Brown University, April 2005.

“‘A Swamp of an Investment’: Eighteenth-Century (Mis)Information Technology and the Failure of British Florida,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society, Melbourne, April 2004.

“Fantasyland: British Dreams and Schemes for Building a New (Old) World in Florida, 1763-1775,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association, Baltimore, November 2002.

“Back to the Big House,” comment on the panel “The Social World of Colonial Elites,” presented at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture’s annual conference held at the University of Maryland at College Park, June 2002.

“‘Spectre of Albion!’: The Life of Banastre Tarleton and the Strange Career of British Slavery, 1754-1833” paper presented at the Tarleton Symposium, Camden, South Carolina, April 2002.

"Beware of Scots bearing Greeks: The Rise and Fall of the New Smyrna Colony in British East-Florida, 1763-1777," paper presented at the Allen Morris Conference on the History of Florida and the Atlantic World, Florida State University, Tallahassee, February 2002.

"A Portrait of the Slave Master as Revolutionary: White Liberty, Black Slavery, and the American Revolution in South Carolina, 1775-1783," invited paper presented at the conference: **"The Arming of Slaves,"** sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University, November 2000.

"The Long History of a Low Place: Slavery and Freedom on the South Carolina Coast, 1670-1870," invited paper presented at the 25th annual Porter L. Fortune Jr., History Symposium at the University of Mississippi, October 2000.

"King George's Sandbox: Playing at Politics Science and Empire in the Royal Gardens at Kew, 1759-1768," paper presented at the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture's annual conference, held at the University of Toronto, June 2000.

"Magical Kingdom: Setting the History of the 'lost' British Colony of East Florida into an Atlantic Context," invited paper presented to the Early American History Seminar at Northwestern University, April 2000.

"The View from Oyster Point: 18th-century South Carolina's Place in the Atlantic Economy," comment on the panel **"The Lowcountry,"** presented at a conference on the Early Modern Atlantic Economy, held at the College of Charleston, October 1999.

"Going to School at 'Muskettow University' and 'Grant College': Learning Plantation Agriculture in British East Florida, 1764-1771," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society, Daytona Beach, April 1999.

"Slavery and Power in Colonial South Carolina," Invited lecture presented at Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, March 1999.

"Black Voices - White Stories: Reading the Record of a Slave Conspiracy Investigation in Mid-18th-Century South Carolina," invited paper presented at the conference **"Slavery in Early South Carolina,"** held at the University of South Carolina, February 1999.

"Magic Kingdoms: Imagination, Speculation, and Empire in British East Florida, 1763-1775," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association, Birmingham, Alabama, November 1998.

"The Influence of Black Majority on American History, and Vice-Versa," invited paper presented as part of a forum on the 25th-anniversary of the publication of Peter Wood's Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 to the Stono Rebellion, held at the College of Charleston, October 1998.

"`Family Values' in Early South Carolina and Barbados," comment on the panel: "The Other, Earlier South: Women and Family in Eighteenth-Century South Carolina and the West Indies," at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association, Little Rock, Arkansas, October 1996.

"`The King's People Are Coming!': Lowcountry Slaves' War for Independence, 1778-1782," paper presented at the conference, "From Revolution to Revolution: the South Carolina Lowcountry, 1775-1860," held at the College of Charleston, May 1996

"The Culture of Power in a Colonial Slave Society," invited paper presented to the Departments of History and Afro-American Studies, Harvard University, February 1996.

"The Political Economy of Colonial Lowcountry Plantations," paper presented at the conference, the South Carolina Lowcountry in the Colonial Period, held at the College of Charleston, May 1995.

"Black Acts: The Slave Code of Colonial South Carolina and 18th-century Anglo-American Jurisprudence," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, held at the University of California at Irvine, February 1995.

"Communion and Community: Slavery and the Established Church in Colonial South Carolina," invited paper presented at the conference, New Approaches to Slavery in North America: A Workshop, held at the Johns Hopkins University, October 1993.

"`A Reckoning of Accounts': Patriarchy, Market Relations, and Control on Henry Laurens's Low Country Plantations, 1762-1785," invited paper presented at the conference, Work and Culture: Early African-American Life and Labor, held at the University of Rochester, April 1993.

"`To Speak the Real Truth': Slaves, Masters, and the Creation of the Documentary Record in the Cooper River Conspiracy of 1749," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Chicago, April 1992.

"The World Turned Upside Down: Slave Women in the Charleston Marketplace," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Louisville, April 1991.

"Slavery and Wage Labor in Colonial South Carolina," paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, New York, December 1990.

Scholarly Work in Progress:

A monograph on the history of British East Florida, 1763-1783 entitled: Imaginary Empire: British Adventures and Speculations in Florida on the Eve of the American Revolution (projected completion summer 2010).

An annotated transcript of a slave conspiracy investigation held in Charleston, South Carolina in January 1749, accompanied by an introductory analytical essay. The book is tentatively entitled: `To Speak the Real Truth': Investigating a Slave Conspiracy in Mid-18th-Century South Carolina.

Academic and Professional Service

Co-organizer (with James Vaughn) of a scholarly conference: "1763 and all that: Temptations of Empire in the British World in the Decade after the Seven Years' War," sponsored by the Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas at Austin, February 2010.

Historical Consultant and Advisor for three volumes of the National Geographic Society's: "Voices from Colonial America," a series of texts aimed at Middle school students: the volume on Georgia (2005), Florida (2006), and South Carolina (2007).

Co-organizer (with Alison Games) of a scholarly conference: "Lost Colonies: Failed European Colonial Enterprises, 1450-1850," sponsored by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, March 2004.

Member of the program committee for the Southern Historical Association's Annual Conference, held in New Orleans in November 2001.

Resident Scholar for the three week Charleston portion of a six-week National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for Secondary School Teachers Institute on the subject of Early Slave Cultures, Summer 2000.

Member of the program committee for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture's annual Conference held at the University of Texas in June 1999.

Organizer of a scholarly symposium (with funding from the College of Charleston and the South Carolina Humanities Council) on the subject of a 1749 slave conspiracy, held in Charleston in February 1999. Participants included Winthrop Jordan, Peter Wood, Charles Joyner, Daniel Littlefield, Jack P. Greene, Larry Hudson, James Sidbury and Jennifer Morgan.

Consultant and Advisor for the WGBH/PBS series: "Africans in America;" March 1993; (the series was ultimately broadcast on PBS in 1998).

I have reviewed book length manuscripts for the editors of the Oxford University, Yale University, University of Pennsylvania, University of South Carolina, University of Virginia, University of Kentucky, and University of Tennessee presses, and have reviewed numerous article length essays for the Journal of American History, Journal of Southern History, William and Mary Quarterly, and Slavery and Abolition.

I have served as an outside reviewer for promotion cases for History departments at Tulane University, Rutgers University, and the State University of New York at New Paltz.