
Angela Esco Elder

PhD

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Converse College
Carmichael Hall
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EMPLOYMENT

Converse College, Spartanburg, South Carolina August 2017 - present
Assistant Professor — Department of History & Politics

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia 2016 – 2017
Postdoctoral Fellow — Department of History & Virginia Center for Civil War Studies

University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 2009 - 2016
Instructor of Record, Teaching Assistant — Department of History

EDUCATION

University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia May 2016
Ph.D. in History

Interdisciplinary Certificate in University Teaching

Dissertation: “Married to the Confederacy: The Emotional Politics of Confederate Widowhood”

Committee: Stephen Berry (Chair), Kathleen Clark, Lorri Glover, John Inscoe

**dissertation won of the 2017 C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize, Southern Historical Association and 2017 Melvin E. Bradford Dissertation prize, St. George Tucker Society*

University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia May 2011
M.A. in History

Thesis: “Grieving for a Nation: From Wife to Widow in the Confederate South”

University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia May 2009
B.A. in History

B.S. in Social Studies Education

Magna Cum Laude

PUBLICATIONS

Books, Articles, and Book Chapters

“Dead Husband, Dead Son: Widows, Mothers-in-Law, and Mourning in the Post-War Confederacy,” in *From Home Front to Battlefield: The Civil War as a Household War*, ed. Lisa Tendrich Frank and LeeAnn Whites, (forthcoming).

Practical Strangers: The Courtship Correspondence of Nathaniel Dawson and Elodie Todd, Sister of Mary Todd Lincoln, eds. Stephen Berry and Angela Esco Elder, (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2017).

Practical Strangers: The Civil War Letters of Elodie Breck Todd and Nathaniel Henry Rhodes Dawson, a digital project, 2017. <http://altchive.org/private-voices/todd-dawson-correspondence>

“‘To Dance and Flirt and Be Admired’: Deviant Widows in the Civil War South,” in *Between Memory and Mythology: The Construction of Memory of Modern Wars*, ed. Natalia Starostina, (Cambridge Scholars Publishing Press, 2015).

“‘We Weep Over our Dead Together’: Emilie Todd Helm and Confederate Widowhood,” in *Kentucky Women: Their Lives and Times*, eds. Tom Appleton and Melissa McEuen, (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2015).

Additional Publications

“To Have and to Hold...or Not: Weddings, Independence, and the Civil War,” on *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, Muster Blog, 2019.

<https://www.journalofthecivilwarera.org/2019/10/to-have-and-to-hold-or-not-weddings-independence-and-the-civil-war/>

“Don’t Forget your Soldier Lovers!’ A Story of Civil War Valentines,” on *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, Muster Blog, 2019.

<https://www.journalofthecivilwarera.org/2019/02/dont-forget-your-soldier-lovers-a-story-of-civil-war-valentines/>

“1818-2018, The Mary Lincoln Bicentennial: Sisterhood and the Civil War,” on *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, Muster Blog, 2018.

<https://www.journalofthecivilwarera.org/2018/12/1818-2018-the-mary-lincoln-bicentennial-sisterhood-and-the-civil-war/>

“The Story Continues: Women and the American Civil War,” on *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, Muster Blog, 2018.

<https://www.journalofthecivilwarera.org/2018/07/the-story-continues-women-and-the-american-civil-war/>

“Christmas Mourning, Confederate Widows, and the Aftermath of the Civil War,” on *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, Muster Blog, 2016.

<https://journalofthecivilwarera.org/2016/12/christmas-mourning-confederate-widows-aftermath-civil-war/>

“Widowhood and the Civil War,” in *The American Yawp*, ed. Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, (americanyawp.com, 2014).

“Confederate Widows,” in *The World of the Civil War: A Daily Life Encyclopedia*, ed. Lisa Tendrich Frank (ABC-Clio, 2014).

“Mary Ann Cole, War of 1812,” in *An Encyclopedia of Women at War: From the Home Front to the Battlefields*, ed. Lisa Tendrich Frank (ABC-Clio, 2013).

“Civil War Widows,” *Essential Civil War Curriculum*, ed. J.L.D. Woodruff, (August 2012).

Text in *The Civil War: A Visual History* (London: Dorling Kindersley Publishing, 2011).

“The United Daughters of the Confederacy” in *The Civil War in Georgia: A New Georgia Encyclopedia Companion*, ed. John Inscoe (Athens: University of Georgia, 2011), 201-4.

“The War Begins: A Photo Essay,” for *The Civil War Monitor Online*, 2011.

<http://civilwarmonitor.com/photo-essays/album?albumid=1002>

“Once Upon a Time: The History of Lee County,” a 25 article series in *The Lee County Ledger*, Leesburg, GA, 2008.

Book Reviews

Book Reviews published in *Bowtied and Fried* (2), *Civil War Book Review* (1), *Georgia Historical Quarterly* (1), *Journal of the Civil War Era* (1), *Journal of Southern History* (1), *The Civil War Monitor* (1), *The Historian* (1), *Western Historical Quarterly* (1)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- “House of Mourning: Clothing, Grief, and Widowhood in the Confederacy,” British Association for American Studies, Liverpool, England, April 2020.
- “Gender, Behavior, and Family in Mid-19th Century America,” chair/comment, South Carolina Historical Association Annual Conference, Columbia, SC, March 2018.
- “Married to the Confederacy: The Emotional Politics of Confederate Widowhood,” St. George Tucker Society Annual Meeting, Jackson, MS, July 2017.
- “Bitter Lamentations: From Wife to Widow in the Siege of Petersburg,” Virginia Tech Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, Civil War Weekend Conference, Blacksburg, VA, March 2017.
- “‘Like a Flower Broken in the Stalk’: Becoming a Widow of the Confederacy,” Society of Civil War Historians Conference, “Wrecked, Wounded, Widowed: Trauma in the American Civil War,” Baltimore, MD, June 2014. [Panel Organizer]
- “Dead Husband, Dead Son: Widows, Mothers-in-Law, and Mourning in the Confederacy,” Organization of American Historians Conference, “Strange Battles: Unforeseen Conflict in the American Civil War and Reconstruction,” Atlanta, GA, April 2014.
- “Grieving for a Nation: The Emotional Politics of Confederate Widowhood,” American Historical Association Conference, “Mixed Feelings: The Politics of Emotions, Race, and Gender in Civil War-Era America,” Washington, D.C., January 2014.
- “Behind the Black: Confederate Widowhood,” University of Mississippi Center for Civil War Research Conference, “The War at Home: Civilian Life during the American Civil War,” Oxford, MS, October 2012.
- “To Cry Happily Forever: Emilie Todd Helm and Confederate Widowhood,” Southern Association for Women Historians, “Women at the Borders of Southern History,” Fort Worth, TX, June 2012. [Panel Organizer]
- “‘To Dance and Flirt and Be Admired’: Deviant Widows in the Civil War South,” Remembrances: Constructing Narratives of Wars of the 19th and 20th Centuries, Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA, March 2011.
- “A Community of Condolences: The Civil War Experience of Rosa Delony,” Second Annual UnCivil Wars Conference, Aftermath: Conflict & Consequences, Athens, GA, Oct. 2010.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

- “Widowed: From Wife to Widow in the American Civil War,” The Foothills Civil War Roundtable, hosted by USC Upstate, October 2019.
- “‘Tell me that you love me’: The Sisterhood of Mary Todd Lincoln,” Mary Todd Lincoln Bicentennial Symposium hosted by the Mary Todd Lincoln House and the University of Kentucky, November 2018.

- "Death, Mourning, and Civil War Widows," Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands, NC, June 2018.
- "Eastern Tennessee State University: *Practical Strangers*," and "Widowed: From Wife to Widow in the American Civil War." Dr. Steve Nash, Eastern Tennessee State University, TN, April 2018.
- "Why Women's History," Women's History Month Panel, USC Upstate, March 2018
- "Appalachian State University: *Practical Strangers*," Dr. Judkin Browning, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, March 2018.
- "Emrys Reading Room: *Practical Strangers*," Emrys Foundation, Greenville, SC, January 2018.
- "Filson Historical Society: *Practical Strangers*," Filson Historical Society, Louisville, KY, August 2017.
- "Episode 2: *Practical Strangers*," Podcast Interview with Annotations, from UGA Press, Athens, GA, April 2017. <https://ugapress.wordpress.com/podcast/>
- "Christmas Mourning: Love, Loss, and Widowhood in the Civil War South," Shepherdstown Civil War Christmas, Shepherdstown, WV, December 2016.
- "Widowed: Emotional Politics and the Widows of the Confederacy," Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, Virginia Tech, September 2016.
- "Reacting to Widowhood," *The Civil War Monitor* Interview, September 2015.
- "The Politics of Confederate Widows," C-SPAN Interview, American History TV, January 2014. <http://www.c-span.org/video/?316845-2/angela-elder-confederate-widows>
- "Living on the Edge: Death, Confederate Widowhood, and the 2nd Virginia Infantry," George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV, July 2011.
- Guest Host on Eastern Panhandle Talk with Rob Mario on TalkRadio WRNR AM 740, Martinsburg, WV, July 5, 2011.

TEACHING CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND GUEST LECTURES

- Created "Celebrating Courage, Charting the Future: Commemorating 50 Years of Black Women at Converse," a student exhibit including over 35 oral history interviews with black alumnae, thousands of yearbook images spanning over 120 years of Converse's history, newspaper records, material culture, and more (all interviews/documents/photographs gathered by me/students and then donated to archives), February 2019.
- "Behind the Scenes: Building an Exhibit and Processing the Tough Stuff," Converse College, February 2019.
- Workshop with Shawn Ryan, co-creator and executive producer of NBC's *Timeless*, Converse College, January 2019.
- "Democratizing the American History Textbook: Mass Collaboration and the American Yawp," Organization of American Historians Conference, Sacramento, CA, April 2018.

Organized the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies' "Death and the American Civil War weekend." Friday, April 28, 2017: "Buried in Blacksburg" Exhibit Reception (research by my HST 2984: Duels, Disease, and Disaster: Death in 19th Century America class). Saturday, April 29: Civil War Cemetery Tour. Saturday, April 29: "Death and Dying in the American Civil War: How accurate is Mercy Street's Depiction?" with Dr. Shauna Devine.

University guest lectures in various courses, topics include: "Death and Mourning in Civil War America," "The Civil War on the Ground," "The Early Republic," "The British Empire in America," "Womanhood in the 1920s," etc., 2012-present.

"Lincoln's Family: An UnCivil War," 5th grade workshop for The Museum School, Atlanta, GA, October 2015.

"The American YAWP," invited speaker at the Affordable Learning Georgia Symposium on the Future of the Textbook, Athens, Georgia, December 2014.

Invited Preceptor, Reacting to the Past Conference 2012, "Patriots, Loyalists, and Revolution in New York City, 1775-76," Georgia College, Milledgeville, GA, March 2012.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Summer Research Grant, Converse College, 2019

Guion Griffis Johnson Visiting Scholar Grant, UNC Chapel Hill, 2017-2018

Mary Lily Research Grant, Duke University, 2017-2018

Faculty Development Travel Grant, Converse College, 2017-2018

Travel Grant, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, Virginia Tech, 2016-2017

C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize, Southern Historical Association "given to recognize the best dissertation in Southern history defended in the previous calendar year," 2017.

Melvin E. Bradford Dissertation prize, St. George Tucker Society, "an annual competition that recognizes the best dissertation written on any aspect of the American South," 2017.

Paul N. Howard III Dissertation Writing Award, University of Georgia, 2015

Gregory Presentation Travel Award, University of Georgia, 2012, 2014

Graduate School Student Travel Funding, University of Georgia, 2012, 2014

Gregory Graduate Research Award, University of Georgia, 2010, 2013

John S. McIlhenny Library Research Fellowship, Louisiana State University, 2012

William Jennings Bryan Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, University of Georgia, 2012

George M. Nethken Memorial Fellowship, 9 weeks, George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, 2011

Filson Historical Society Thesis Fellowship, Louisville, Kentucky, 2011

Travel Grant; Best Conference Paper Award, 2nd Prize, Young Harris College, Georgia, 2011

TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- Joe Ann Lever Award of Excellence, Converse College, 2019
- Faculty Involvement and Collaboration Award, Converse College, 2018
- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, University of Georgia, 2014
- Carl Vipperman Teaching Assistantship Award, University of Georgia, 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE*Converse College*

- HST 201: American History to 1877 (two sections every Fall, since 2017)
- HST 202: American History from 1877 (two sections every Spring, since 2018)
- HST 291/491/591: *Timeless*: Hollywood, Time Travel, and American History (Jan 2019)
- HST 306/506: African American History (Fall 2018)
- HST 345/545: Women in American History (Spring 2019)
- HST 408/508: The Colonial and Revolutionary Era* (Spring 2018/2020)
- *included Reacting to the Past pedagogy*
- HST 421/521: The Era of the Civil War, 1840-1876 (Spring 2020)
- HST 430/530: The South Since 1877 (Fall 2017)
- HST 491/591: Duels, Disease, and Disaster: Death in 19th Century America (Jan 2018/2020)
- HST 491/591: Public History (Fall 2019)
- HST 491: Public History Internship (supervised five interns between 2018-2020)

Prior to Converse

- HIST 2984: Duels, Disease, and Disaster: Death in 19th Century America, Virginia Tech, 2017
- GRSC 7770: Graduate Seminar: Teaching History, University of Georgia, 2015
- HIST 2111: "We the People": American History to 1877, University of Georgia, 2015

Teaching Assistant/Discussion leader, 2009-2015:

- HIST 2111: American History to 1877 (4 semesters)
- HIST 2112: American History since 1877 (4 semesters)
- Franklin College Interdisciplinary 2000: Transnational Europe (1 semester)
- HIST 4000: Making Sense of Southern History and Culture with Dr. Jim Cobb (1 semester),
- HIST 4115: Greenwich Village, 1913: Reacting to the Past (1 semester)

Writing Intensive Program Assistant

- History 3371: Tudor-Stuart England, with Dr. Benjamin Ehlers, 2014
- History 4710: History of the Atlantic World, with Dr. Dan Rood, 2014

Student Teaching

- American Government, Jefferson High School, GA: Spring 2009
- World History, Clark Middle School, GA: Fall 2008
- World History, Jackson County Comprehensive High School, GA: Spring 2008

EDITORIAL POSITIONS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Gender History Correspondent, Society of Civil War Historians Muster Blog, 2018-present
- Membership Committee, Southern Historical Association, 2017-2018
- Graduate Studies Committee, Southern Association for Women Historians, 2015-2016
- Senior Editor, Chapter 14: The Civil War, *The American Yawp*, 2014

Graduate Student Connection Committee, Society of Civil War Historians, 2012-2014

Contributing Editor, *The Civil War Monitor*, 2011-2014

Assistant Conference Coordinator: Third Annual UnCivil Wars Conference, "The Blue, The Gray, and the Green: Toward an Environmental History of the Civil War," Athens, GA, October 2011.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Converse College

Appeals Board, 2018-present

Faculty Development Committee, 2018-present

Faculty Recruitment Liaison, 2018-present

Undergraduate Research Committee, 2018-present

Unity in Diversity Committee, 2017-present

History advisor, 2018-present

(advised 19 students fall 2019)

Faculty Mentor, 2019-2020

Opening Speaker, Spring Fling Accepted Students Day, March 2018

Judge, Southeast Model Arab League, March 2018

Invite/Coordinate Fulbright Scholar Dr. Patrick Doyle lecture, March 2018

Opening Speaker, International Student Association screening of *Marshall*, February 2018

Consultant, "Women in the South Panel at the Converse Opera Theatre," January 2018

University of Georgia

History Graduate Student Association, Workshop Coordinator, 2013-2014

The Southern Roundtable, Workshop Editor, 2011-2016

The History and Gender Workshop, Workshop Editor, 2014-2016

Transnational European Studies Minor, Research Assistant and Program Coordinator, 2013

War and Society Workshop, Founding Member, 2010-2016

The First Year at UGA: History Graduate Mentoring Program, Mentor, Co-chair, 2010-2014

History Department Writers' Bloc, Founding Member, 2010-2015

SCHOLARLY AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association

Society of Civil War Historians

Southern Association for Women Historians

Southern Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Dirty Talk: Candid Thoughts, Threats, Profanity, and the Power of Language in the American Civil War

Lucky Hats and Magic Charms: A History of Superstition in the Civil War Era

RESEARCH INTERESTS

19th Century America, Gender, War and Society, Trauma/Death, Families, Civil War