

**DR. THOMAS N. BAKER**  
**DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR STUDENT RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY**  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT POTSDAM**  
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EDUCATION

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University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC  
History, Ph.D., 1995; M.A., 1988

Trinity College, Hartford, CT  
History, B.A. 1985

- *Phi Beta Kappa*

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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Director, Office for Student Research and Creativity, SUNY Potsdam, 2019-present  
Interim Director, Office for Student Research and Creativity, SUNY Potsdam, 2018-2019  
Chair, History Dept., SUNY Potsdam, 2013-2018  
Director, Honors Program, SUNY Potsdam, 2011-2018  
Associate Professor, History Dept., SUNY Potsdam, 2007-Present  
Assistant Professor, History Dept., SUNY Potsdam, 2002-2007  
Visiting Assistant Professor, History Dept., Centre College, 1998-2002  
Instructor, History & American Studies Depts., University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill), 1991-1998  
Visiting Lecturer, History Dept., North Carolina State University, Fall 1997  
Visiting Assistant Professor, History Dept., Elon College, 1995-1996

COURSES TAUGHT

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US to 1877 (HIST 201 & HIST 201H)	History of American Popular Music (HIST 395)
US since 1877 (HIST 202)	Race and American Film History (HIST 421)
US History and Geography (HIST 121)	American Victorian Culture (HIST 459)
Fighting Words: History and Story (HIST 302)	History Seminar (HIST 480)
Civil War America (HIST 372)	Readings in American History (HIST 540)
History of New York State (HIST 379)	Honors Colloquium (INTD 150)
Black Diaspora, 1500 to Present (HIST 330)	Honors Research Colloquium (INTD 450)

PUBLICATIONS

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“John Wood Weighs In: Making Sense of the Burr Conspiracy in the *Western World*.” *Ohio Valley History* 14 (Winter 2015): 3-22.

“‘An Attack Well Directed’: Aaron Burr Intrigues for the Presidency.” *Journal of the Early American Republic* 31 (Winter 2011): 553-98 (Winner of the 2011 Ralph D. Gray Article Prize from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic).

“A Slave’ Writes Thomas Jefferson.” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3<sup>rd</sup> series, 68 (January 2011): 127-154.

“Speculations on the Genealogy of Deism in New York, 1700-1850.” *New York History* 89 (Winter 2008): 43-54.

“Filial Piety, Infidel Yale, and Memory Making in Lyman Beecher’s *Autobiography*.” *The New England Quarterly* 80 (March 2007): 134-39.

“National History in the Age of Michelet, Macaulay, and Bancroft,” in Lloyd Kramer and Sarah Maza, eds., *The Blackwell Companion to Western Historical Thought*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2002.

*Sentiment and Celebrity: Nathaniel Parker Willis and the Trials of Literary Fame*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

“Congregational Orthodoxy and Literary Gentility in the 1820s: The Case of Nathaniel Parker Willis.” *Retrospection: The New England Graduate Review in American History and American Studies* 4 (Fall 1991): 73-81.

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#### PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

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*American Illuminati: Deism and Politics in the Early Republic*. Book manuscript in process.  
A study of the political and cultural activities of deists in and around Newburgh, NY, between 1790-1815.

*Taking Liberties: Anglo-American Adventurism in the Age of Jefferson*. Book manuscript in progress.  
A study of the tangled interactions of three adventurers—Aaron Burr, Francisco Miranda, and Charles Williamson—and their circles in the Age of Thomas Jefferson.

Various articles upon topics drawn from the book-length studies listed above.

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#### DIGITAL HISTORY PROJECTS

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*Akwesasne Transcription Project*. A digital transcription project focused on the St. Regis Indian Agent’s Letter Books, ca. 1890-1910, conducted with SUNY Potsdam undergraduate researchers. Ongoing since fall 2020.

*A North Country Courtship*. A digital transcription project focused on the correspondence of Arvilla Lucelia Mills of Rensselaer Falls, New York, 1869-1871. With Tabitha Brown, SUNY Potsdam ‘20. Ongoing since spring 2020.

*John Raymond’s Civil War*. A digital transcription project focused on the correspondence of John Raymond of Potsdam, New York, 1861-1865 (<https://raymondcivilwarletters.wordpress.com/>). With Zacharey Blackmer, SUNY Potsdam ‘19, and Emma Woolley, SUNY Potsdam ‘20. Fall 2018-Spring 2019.

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#### BOOK REVIEWS AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

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Michael J. Drexler and Ed White, *The Traumatic Colonel: The Founding Fathers, Slavery, and the Phantasmatic Aaron Burr*, in *The Journal of Southern History* 79 (November 2015): 951-52.

Lucia Stanton, “*Those Who Labor for My Happiness*”: *Slavery at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello*, in *William and Mary Quarterly* 69 (October 2012): 858-60.

Charles L. Ponce de Leon, *Self-Exposure: Human-Interest Journalism and the Emergence of Celebrity in America, 1890-1940*, in *American Periodicals* (forthcoming).

Leonard Warren, *Maclure of New Harmony: Scientist, Progressive Educator, and Radical Philanthropist*, in *Ohio Valley History* 9 (Winter 2009): 89-91.

Sara S. Gronin, *Everyday Nature: Knowledge of the Natural World in Colonial New York*, in *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 105 (Autumn 2007): 695-97.

Andrew C. Reiser, *The Chautauqua Moment: Protestants, Progressives, and the Culture of Modern Liberalism*, in *New York History* 85 (Fall 2004): 407-08.

Reeve Huston, *Land and Freedom: Rural Society, Popular Protest, and Party Politics in Antebellum New York*, H-SHEAR, H-Net Reviews, July 2002.

Entries on "George Lunt" and "Robert Shelton Mackenzie" in *American National Biography*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Michael Newbury, *Figuring Authorship in Antebellum America*, H-SHEAR, H-NET Reviews, June 1998.

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#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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"Documentary Editing as Pedagogy: Civil War Letters from the Sewell Raymond Collection, Potsdam Town Museum." Paper delivered (with Zacharey Blackmer and Emma Woolley) at Researching New York Conference 2018, Albany, New York, November 2018.

"Constitutional Debates." Commentator, panel at Researching New York Conference 2016, Albany, New York, November 2016.

"John Wood Weighs In: Making Sense of the Burr Conspiracy in the *Western World*." Paper delivered at the Filson Institute Public Conference: "Secessions: From the American Revolution to Civil War," Louisville, KY, October 2010.

"Responding to Celebrity in Nineteenth-Century America." Commentator, panel at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, Philadelphia, PA, October 2007.

"Religion in the Shadow of Enlightenment: Varieties of Deism in the Early American Republic." Commentator for panel at the annual meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Philadelphia, PA, July 2005.

"Speculations on the Genealogy of Deism in New York, 1700-1850." Paper delivered at the annual meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Providence, RI, July 2004.

"Trouble at West Point: The Stormy Tenure of George Baron, Teacher of Mathematics." Invited talk given at the Bicentennial Celebration of the *Mathematical Correspondent*, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA, April 2004.

"Speculations on the Genealogy of Deism in New York, 1700-1850." Paper delivered at the annual meeting of the Researching New York Conference, Albany, NY, November 2003.

"Trouble at West Point: The Stormy Tenure of George Baron, Teacher of Mathematics." Paper delivered at the annual meeting of the Researching New York Conference, Albany, NY, November 2002.

"Private Lives and Public Characters: N. P. Willis and the Threshold of Celebrity." Paper delivered at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, Pittsburgh, PA, November 1995.

“What to do with Pierre? Using *Northern Exposure* in the Introductory History Course.” Paper delivered at the Third Annual Wisconsin Conference on Teaching History, Waukesha, WI, April 1995.

“‘Kitchen Testimony’: Servants, Character, and Credibility in the Forrest Case, 1851-1852.” Paper delivered at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, Boston, MA, November 1993.

“Fourier in the Parlor: The Case of Catherine Forrest.” Paper delivered at the annual meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Chapel Hill, NC, July 1993.

“Congregational Orthodoxy and Literary Gentility in the 1820s: The Case of Nathaniel Parker Willis.” Paper delivered at the annual meeting of the Graduate Student American Studies Association, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, October 1991.

## HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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Larry J. Hackman Research Residency Program Recipient, for “Follow the Money: Finances in the Circle of Aaron Burr,” 2018

Individual Development Grant, SUNY Potsdam UUP, 2016 & 2006

Phi Kappa Phi, March 2105

President’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, SUNY Potsdam, May 2013

2011 Ralph D. Gray Article Prize from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, July 2012

Fellow, Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies, December 2008

Student History Association History Teaching Award, Fall 2006

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Director, Office for Student Research and Creativity (includes Honors Program), 2019-present

Interim Director, Office for Student Research and Creativity (includes Honors Program), 2018-2019

NEH Summer Seminar, SUNY Potsdam, Participant, 2015 & 2004

History Department, SUNY Potsdam, Chair, 2013-2018

State University of New York (SUNY) Press, Editorial Board Member, 2012-2016

Honors Program, SUNY Potsdam, Director, 2011-2018

Research and Creative Endeavors Committee, SUNY Potsdam, Chair, 2007-08

NEH Summer Seminar: “Roots”— The African Background of American Culture Through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, Participant, 2001

Taft Educational Center, Watertown, CT, Instructor: Workshop on “Popular Music and American Culture” for secondary school teachers, 1997 & 1999

Summer Seminar in the History of the Book in American Culture, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA, Participant, 1997 & 1998