

ROBERT BONNER

HISTORIAN OF 19TH CENTURY NORTH AMERICA

RECENT AND UPCOMING APPOINTMENTS; AWARDED DEGREES

Dartmouth College, Professor of History and Vernon Professor in Biography (*latter since 2016*).

University College, London, Visiting Professor of History, Fall, 2026 and Fall 2011.

Huntington Library, Rogers Distinguished Fellowship in 19th Century American History, 2020-21.

Ph.D., Yale University, Department of History, 1998.

A.B., Princeton University, Department of History, 1989; magna cum laude.

SCHOLARLY RESEARCH

Completed Books

The First Pariah State: How the Proslavery Confederacy Menaced the World (Princeton University Press, 2026).

A People's Contest: (People, Places, Politics: History in a Box). Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History, December, 2010.

Mastering America: Southern Slaveholders and the Crisis of American Nationhood. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009. Simultaneous appearance in cloth and paperback.

The Soldier's Pen: Firsthand Impressions of the Civil War. New York: Hill and Wang, Fall, 2006 (paperback edition in October, 2007).

Colors and Blood: Flag Passions of the Confederate South. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002 (paperback edition in 2004).

Digital /Public History Projects & Platforms (launched in tandem, June, 2023).

"Taliaferro Black Lives" <https://fromthepage.com/abs-taliaferro/taliaferro-black-lives>.

Crowd-sourced transcription platform. As of August, 2025, the site has 38 collaborators who have produced 1815 pages (51,104 lines, tagged with 815 subject links). Dartmouth students are now proceeding with metadata biographies of 171 identified Black Georgians until the expiration of grant support in June, 2026.

"Life Stories of Black Georgians" <https://sites.dartmouth.edu/abstephens/>.

Companion site for "Taliaferro Black Lives"; content to be the basis for public-facing history project (platform TBD) potential partners include: A.H. Stephens State Park, Crawfordville, Georgia; Georgia Historical Society; Emory University Libraries.

In-Progress Book Projects

Alexander Hamilton Stephens: Master of Lost Causes.

Biographical project drafted; delivery (trade press still TBD) slated for 2027.

A Fifty-Month Rebellion: A New Narrative History of the Confederate States of America.

An archive-based narrative account of the upstart Confederate government, from its late winter, 1861 launching to the U.S. capture / imprisonment of its civilian leadership in spring, 1865. Will be primary research focus post-2027, anticipated trade-press contract to be developed in sync with biography).

Selection of Other Peer-Reviewed Scholarship Since 2015

“Secessionists Go to Sea: The Common Confederate Sailor at the Outset of Civil War,” co-authored with J. Coleman for *The Common Sailor in the Long 19th Century* (Liverpool, 2026).

“Slavery and Statecraft” in *The Cambridge History of America and the World: Volume 2, 1812-1900* Kristen Hoganson and Jay Sexton, eds., (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2021).

“1860s Capitalscapes, Governing Interiors, and the Illustration of North American Sovereignty,” in *Remaking North American Sovereignty: State Transformation in the 1860s* Jewel L. Spangler and Frank Towers, eds., (Fordham University Press, 2020). 90-106.

“What is History?” in *What Are the Liberal Arts?: A Guide for the Curious* (Hanover: University Press of New England, 2017) 192-203.

“The Salt-Water Civil War: Thalassological Approaches, Ocean-Centered Agendas,” in *The Journal of the Civil War Era* 6 (June 2016) 243-67.

“Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Seas? Civil War Statecraft and the Liberal Quest for Oceanic Order,” in *The Transnational Significance of the American Civil War: A Global History*, (Palgrave, 2016).

“Teaching the Civil War Era in Global Context: A Discussion,” *The Journal of the Civil War Era* 5 (March, 2015) 97-125.

Most Significant Grants, Service Commitments, Honors

Three Dartmouth College Based Funding Streams for “Black Georgian Lives at Liberty Hall,” (totaling \$67,500 between 2023-26).

Elected Member, Committee Advisory to the Dartmouth College President, 2023-2026.

Chair, Dartmouth History Department 2014-2020.

Board of Editors, *Journal of American History*, 2016-20.

Winner, 2006 John B. Hubbell Prize (for best article in *Civil War History*).

NEH Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, 2006-2007.

2003 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title (for *Colors and Blood*).