
Angela Esco Elder

PhD

angela.elder@converse.edu

864-596-9103

Converse University
Carmichael Hall
580 East Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302

EMPLOYMENT

Converse University, Spartanburg, South Carolina August 2017 - present
Associate Professor — Department of History & Politics, 2022 - present
Assistant Professor — Department of History & Politics, 2017-2021

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

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Love and Duty: Confederate Widows and the Emotional Politics of Loss, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2022).

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).

Articles and Book Chapters

"Lincoln's Little Sister," essay for *Lincoln Lore*, forthcoming.

"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, (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2020).

Practical Strangers: The Civil War Letters of Elodie Breck Todd and Nathaniel Henry Rhodes Dawson, a digital project, 2017. <https://altchive.org/node/12269>

“‘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

Articles on *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, Muster Blog, include:

“To Have and to Hold...or Not: Weddings, Independence, and the Civil War” (2019)

“‘Don’t Forget your Soldier Lovers!’ A Story of Civil War Valentines” (2019)

“1818-2018, The Mary Lincoln Bicentennial: Sisterhood and the Civil War” (2018)

“The Story Continues: Women and the American Civil War” (2018)

“Christmas Mourning, Confederate Widows, and the Aftermath of the Civil War” (2016)

“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 *American Historical Review* (1), *Bowtied and Fried* (2), *Civil War Book Review* (1), *Georgia Historical Quarterly* (1), *Journal of the Civil War Era* (2), *Journal of Southern History* (1), *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (1), *The Civil War Monitor* (1), *The Historian* (1), *Western Historical Quarterly* (1)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

“Almost Alone: Women and the Civil War at the Dry Tortugas, Florida,” Society for the History of Women in the Americas, Oxford, UK, July 2024.

“‘Sea in all Directions’: The Dry Tortugas and Civil War America,” Southern Humanities Conference, Savannah, GA, February 2024.

- "Communities at War: Medicine, Race, Gender, and the Environment," Society of Military History Conference, in San Diego, California, March 2023.
- "'Looked Like Ghosts': Emily Holder's Civil War at the Dry Tortugas," Society of Civil War Historians Conference, "See No Evil, Hear No Evil, Feel no Evil: Women, Senses, and Emotion in the Civil War Era," Philadelphia, PA, June 2022.
- "Remember the Women," chair/comment, South Carolina Historical Association Annual Conference, virtual, March 2022.
- "House of Mourning: Clothing, Grief, and Widowhood in the Confederacy," 42nd Annual 19th Century Studies Association Conference, virtual, March 2021.
- "House of Mourning: Clothing, Grief, and Widowhood in the Confederacy," British Association for American Studies, Liverpool, England, April 2020. *Accepted, but cancelled due to COVID-19.*
- "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

“Paradise or Hell: Key West, the Dry Tortugas, and the American Civil War,” Spartanburg County Public Library, July 2023.

Book Talks for *Love and Duty* include: The American Civil War Museum, Anderson University, Appalachian State University, The National Museum of Civil War Medicine, The Civil War Doc, Civil War Talk Radio, Civil War Round Table Congress, Gettysburg College Civil War Institute Summer Conference, Spartanburg County Public Library, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech, Western North Carolina Civil War Roundtable, Zebulon B. Vance Birthplace, 2022-2024.

“Love is a Battlefield: Love as a Resource for War,” Virginia Tech Civil War Weekend [virtual, also recorded for C-SPAN], March 2021.

“Within the Household: How Civil War Impacted Marriage and Mourning,” George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War [virtual], June 2020.

“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, 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, EXHIBITS, AND GUEST LECTURES

Created an expanded and permanent installation of the “Celebrating Courage,” exhibit (described below), with additional research and alumni reception, November 2023.

Created “Healing and Hope: Oral Histories of WWII and Holocaust Survivors in South Carolina,” a student exhibit including over 20 oral history interviews of survivors with ties to South Carolina, through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This exhibit was in partnership with the Violins of Hope project and the Music Department, May 2022.

“Teaching in the Post-Millennial/Gen Z Era: New and Innovative Approaches,” American Historical Association Conference, 2021. *Accepted, but cancelled due to COVID-19.*

Created “Celebrating Courage, Charting the Future: Commemorating 50 Years of Black Women at Converse,” a student exhibit including over 35 original 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.

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.

“Democratizing the American History Textbook: Mass Collaboration and the American Yawp,” Organization of American Historians Conference, Sacramento, CA, April 2018.

University guest lectures in various courses, topics include: “Death and Mourning in Civil War America,” “The Civil War on the Ground,” “The Early Republic,” “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

Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society, 2024

The Council of Independent Colleges and Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History,
Seminar “The American Civil War: Origins and Consequences,” *postponed due to COVID-19*

Summer Research Grant, Converse University, 2019, 2021, 2023

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

Mary Lily Research Grant, Duke University, 2017-2018

Creativity, Community, and Cultural Enrichment Grant, Converse College, 2017

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

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

HIP (High Impact Practices in Teaching) Award Fellow, Converse University, 2023

Kathryne Amelia Brown Award, Converse University, 2022

**a high honor that includes giving the keynote address at Opening Convocation*

SCICU Teaching Excellence Award, 2021

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 University*

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 259/359/559: *Timeless*: Hollywood, Time Travel, and American History (Jan 19/21/23)
 HST 303T: Disney's America (Jan 2022, 2025 – study away travel course)
 HST 306/506: African American History (Fall 2018/2020/2023)
 HST 307/507: Duels, Disease, and Disaster: Death in 19th Century America (Jan 2018/2020)
 HST 345/545: Women in American History (Spring 2019/2021/Fall 2022)
 HST 408/508: The Colonial and Revolutionary Era* (Spring 2018/2020/2023)
 **included Reacting to the Past pedagogy*
 HST 421/521: The Era of the Civil War, 1840-1876 (Spring 2020/2023)
 HST 430/530: The South Since 1877 (Fall 2017)
 HST 480: Senior Seminar (Fall 2021, 2024)
 HST 450/560: Public History (Fall 2019/Spring 2022)
 HST 496: Public History Internship (supervised nine interns between 2018-2024)

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

Manuscript Reviews completed for: University of Georgia Press, Bedford/St. Martin's
 Graduate Studies Committee, Southern Association for Women Historians, 2020-2023
 Gender History Correspondent, Society of Civil War Historians Muster Blog, 2018-2021
 Membership Committee, Southern Historical Association, 2017-2018
 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 University

Current (selected)

- CAAPI (Asian Student Group) Faculty Advisor, 2023-present
- Tenure and Promotion Committee (elected), weekly fall meetings, 2022-present
- History major/minor advisor, 2018-present (*average 25 students a semester*)
- Scholars Day Interviews, 2017-present

Previous (selected)

- Faculty Senate (elected), weekly meetings, 2020, 2022-2024
- Men’s Soccer Team Faculty Mentor, 2021-2023
- Honor Board, 2021-2022
- Search Committee, Political Science, 2021-22
- Undergraduate Research Committee, 2018-2022
- Search Committee, English Department, 2020-21
- Classroom Experience Committee, 2020-21
- Model Change Committee, 2020-21
- Faculty Development Committee, 2018-21
- Diversity Advisory Committee, 2017-21
- Speaker, Juneteenth Celebration and Discussion, Summer 2020
- Faculty Mentor, 2019-2020
- Friendship Family, Chinese Student Program, 2019-2020
- Recruitment Liaison, History and Politics Department, 2018-2020
- Judge, Southeast Model Arab League, March 2018, 2022, 2023

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

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

A History of Resilience: The Dry Tortugas, Florida

RESEARCH INTERESTS

19th Century America, Emotion, Gender, Civil War