

America's Long Nineteenth Century

Ideas, Transitions, and People

April 3, 2025 | 9 AM - 4:30 PM

9:00 AM – 9:20 AM: Welcome and Introduction

Location: McKee Library, Classroom 3117

Lisa Clark Diller (Southern Adventist University)

9:20 AM – 10:45 AM: American Christians in the Long Nineteenth Century

Chair: Bob Barnett (Lee University)

Brian Strayer (Andrews University, emeritus): Joseph Waggoner's [Un]fortunate Fall
Mark Joslin (University of Tennessee, Knoxville): Immigration and the Institutional Church Movement in New York City, 1870-1913

Ashlee Chism (General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research): What's the Gilded Age to Adventist History?

John Coats (Lee University): Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth: The Origins of the Church of God Bible Training School

10:45 AM: Morning Break

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM: The Legacy of Ben McArthur and the Future of the Humanities

Chair: Michael Campbell (Archives, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists)

Alex Bryan (President Walla Walla University)

Charles Scriven (President Emeritus, Kettering College)

Jim Londis (President Emeritus, Atlantic Union College)

David Smith (President Emeritus Southern Adventist University)

Gordon Bietz (President Emeritus, Southern Adventist University)

12:15 PM: Lunch

Location: Center for the Study of Nineteenth Century America

A vegetarian buffet lunch featuring vegan options will be available at the Center for the Study of Nineteenth Century America. We invite you to enjoy your lunch in room 3117.

12:45 PM – 1:15 PM: Lunch Discussion - Archives and Hard Histories

Deyse Bravo Rivera (McKee Library)

Phillip Warfield (Howard University)

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1:15 PM - 2:45 PM: The South's 19th Century

Chair: Ed Lowe (Retired US Military)

Roraig Finney (University of Tennessee, Knoxville): Slavery, Immigration, Democracy, and the State in the Antebellum and Confederate South

Ted Theus (Theus Law): Seven Brothers in Gray: The plight of the Civil War infantryman as told through the lives of the 7 Theus Brothers

Mark Johnson (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga): Bacon-Fed Bodies: Race and Diet in the Nineteenth Century South

2:45 PM: Afternoon Break

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM: The Nineteenth Century in Wider Context

Chair: Jay Green (Covenant College)

Jason Ward (Lee University): Postmodernity before Postmodernity: Fracturing Truth in the Struggle for Mexican Independence, 1808-1814

Emily McArthur (Southern Adventist University): Dickens and American Railroads

Richard Moody (Summit Medical Group): Friendships Across the Divide: Two Physicians in Revolutionary Charleston

Mills McArthur (Southern Adventist University): Fragmented Microregions: Beyond the Mediterranean

4:30 PM: Concluding Remarks

Lisa Clark Diller (Southern Adventist University)

7:00 PM: 2025 Benjamin McArthur Lecture

Location: Lynn Wood Hall Auditorium

Speaker: Catherine Brekus, PhD

What role did Christianity play in the American Revolution? In this lecture, Brekus will explore the religious ideas that fueled the revolt against Great Britain and the rise of the new United States. Brekus is Charles Warren Professor of the History of Religion in America and Chair of the Committee on the Study of Religion at Harvard University.