

Ashley Towle  
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## **Employment and Education**

### Professional Appointment

Director, Women and Gender Studies Program, University of Southern Maine, Spring 2024-Present

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Southern Maine, Fall 2022-Present

Lecturer, Department of History, University of Southern Maine, Fall 2018- Spring 2022

Instructor, Department of History and Political Science and Honors Program, University of Southern Maine, Fall 2015-Spring 2018

### Education

Ph.D., History, University of Maryland, 2017

Dissertation: "Dying Free: African Americans, Death, and the New Birth of Freedom, 1863-1877"

M.A., History, University of Maryland, 2015

B.A., History, Gettysburg College, *summa cum laude*, 2009

## **Research and Scholarly Activities**

### Peer-Reviewed Books

*African Americans, Death, and the New Birth of Freedom: Dying Free during the Civil War and Reconstruction*. Lexington Books, 2023.

*Grave History: Death, Race & Gender in Southern Cemeteries*. Edited volume with Kami Fletcher. The University of Georgia Press. 2023.

### Chapters in Edited Volumes

“‘Worthy of Vindication:’ Freedwomen’s Claims to Child Support from their Former Enslavers in *The Cambridge History of Black Women in the United States*, edited by Crystal Feimster and Hilary Green. Cambridge University Press, 2025. (In progress)

Co-authored with Adam J. Schmitt, “Representations of Reconstruction: Social Transformations and Textbook Portrayals of the Past” In *Teaching Emancipation and Reconstruction, 1861-1876*, edited by Matthew Campbell. New York: Peter Lang Publishers. Forthcoming.

“Randolph Cemetery and the Politics of Death in the Post-Civil War South.” In *Cultures of Memory in the Nineteenth Century: Consuming Commemoration*, edited by Katherine Haldane Grenier and Amanda R. Mushal. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.

### Popular Publications

“Thomas O’Dea’s Panorama of the Horrors of Andersonville,” *Osher Map Library* (blog), 2022, <https://oshermaps.org/blog/thomas-odeas-panorama-of-the-horrors-of-andersonville/>

“‘Do not scorn what is brought in love’: The Complicated Relationship of Joshua and Fanny.” Appendix in *Passing Through the Fire: Joshua Chamberlain in the Civil War*, by Brian Swartz, El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie, 2021.

“A Tale of Two Cemeteries: African American Memorial Efforts at Arlington and Chalmette,” *Emerging Civil War*, April 2019, <https://emergingcivilwar.com/2019/04/20/emerging-scholar-ashley-towle/>

### Reviews

Review of Shannon C. Eaves, *Sexual Violence and American Slavery: The Making of Rape Culture in the Antebellum South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2024), in *Journal of the Civil War Era*, forthcoming (submitted Summer 2024).

Review of Caroline E. Janney, Peter S. Carmichael, Aaron Sheehan-Dean, eds., *The War That Made America: Essays Inspired by the Scholarship of Gary W. Gallagher* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2024), in *Civil War Monitor*, forthcoming (submitted Spring 2024).

Review of Isaac Shearn and Elgin Klugh, eds., *A Place for Memory: Baltimore’s Historic Laurel Cemetery* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2023), in *Maryland Historical Magazine*, forthcoming (submitted Summer 2023).

Review of Jonathan W. White and Lydia J. Davis, eds., *My Work Among the Freedmen: The Civil War and Reconstruction letters of Harriet M. Buss* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2021), in *H-War Reviews*, forthcoming (submitted January 2024).

Review of John Cimprich, *Navigating Liberty: Black Refugees and Antislavery Reformers in the Civil War South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2022), in *Journal of Southern History*, February 2024.

Review of J. Brent Morris, *Dismal Freedom: A History of the Maroons of the Great Dismal Swamp* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2022), in *Civil War Book Review*, December 2022.

<https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/cwbr/vol24/iss4/14/>

Review of Karen Stokes, ed., *Incidents in the Life of Cecilia Lawton: A Memoir of Plantation Life, War, and Reconstruction in Georgia and South Carolina* (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2021), in *Civil War Monitor*, April 7, 2021.

<https://www.civilwarmonitor.com/stokes-ed-incidents-in-the-life-of-cecilia-lawton-2021/>

Review of Stanley Harrold, *American Abolitionism: Its Direct Political Impact from Colonial Times into Reconstruction* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 2019), in *Civil War Monitor*, October 9, 2019 <https://www.civilwarmonitor.com/book-shelf/harrold-american-abolitionism-2019>.

"National Museum of African American History and Culture." *American Journalism*, 34, no.1 (2017): 119–120.

### Presentations and Conference Papers

“Justice for Myself and Children’: Forging Legacies of Independence through Child Support Cases and Property Disputes between Freedwomen and Former Enslavers,” Society of Civil War Historians, June 2024

“Worthy of Vindication:’ Freedwomen’s Demands for Child Support and Justice from their Former Enslavers,” Organization of American Historians, April 2024

“Justice for Myself and Children:” Navigating Child Support Cases between Freedwomen and Former Enslavers in the Post-Emancipation South, Conference for the Civil War, University of Mississippi, October 2023

“The Invisible Army:’ African-American Religious Life and Death,” New England Historical Association, October 2020

“In the Cold Valley and Shadow of the South Land,” Emerging Scholars and Professionals Program, American Civil War Museum, Richmond, Virginia, May 2019

Chair, Freedom Through Death: Analyzing the Legacy of the Civil War and Jim Crow in Southern Cemeteries, Organization of American Historians, April 2019

“To Repose with Their Comrades:” African Americans, National Cemeteries, and the Post-Civil War South,” New England Historical Association, April 2019

“Randolph Cemetery and the Politics of Death in the Post-Civil War South,” Nineteenth Century Studies Association, February 2017

“‘We Are Killed All the Day Long’: The African-American Press, Death, and the Legacy of the Civil War,” Symposium on the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, November 2016

“‘In the Cold Valley and Shadow of the South Land’: African Americans and the Creation of National Cemeteries,” Southern Historical Association, November 2016

“‘Our Mournful Wails Over the Bodies of Our Murdered Dead’: Testifying and Writing About Racial Violence in the Reconstruction South,” Emerging Scholars Workshop, Pennsylvania State University, April 2016

“‘We are Killed All the Day Long’: African Americans’ Reactions to Violence in the Gulf South,” Gulf South History and Humanities Conference, October 2015

“‘In the Cold Valley and Shadow of the South Land’: African Americans and the Creation of National Cemeteries,” Brooks Dissertation Forum, St. George Tucker Society, July 2015

“Death Rights: Depictions of African-American Dead in the Reconstruction South and the Struggle for Suffrage and Equal Rights,” Southern American Studies Association, February 2015

Respondent to “Thomas Jefferson: Antislavery Lawyer(?)” Early American Seminar Series, University of Maryland, March 2014

“Barbecues and Bloodshed: Reconstruction and the Struggle for Political Power in St. Landry Parish,” University of Maryland History Graduate Student Association Conference, February 2014

“‘If I Had My Justice’: Freedwomen, Former Masters, and Bastardy in the Postbellum South,” University of Alabama History Graduate Conference on Power and Struggle, March 2012

“‘If I Had My Justice’: Child Support Cases between Freedwomen and Former Masters in the Postbellum South,” University of Maryland History Graduate Student Association Conference, February 2012

“‘Damned Black Alligator’: Culture, Race, and Violence in Reconstructing Red River Parish,” Civil War Institute, Gettysburg College, July 2009

### Invited Talks

“Etched in Stone: The Gorham Civil War Monument,” The Originals, May 2024

“Women as Agents of Change: Researching and Teaching Women’s History during Women’s History Month and Beyond,” DiMatteo Lecture, Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education, March 2024

“Confederate Monuments and the Memory of the Civil War,” Noble High School, Maine Humanities Council, March 2024

“The Case for Incorporating Women’s History Beyond Women’s History Month,” Maine Council for the Social Studies, March 2023

“African-American Politics and White Violence in the Era of Reconstruction,” Midcoast Senior College, November 2020

“‘A Most Extraordinary Noise’: New Orleans and the Birth of Jazz,” Portland Ovations, February 2020

“Careers in History,” Gorham High School, December 2019

“Precious and Adored,” a book talk with Tilly Laskey, Portland Public Library, June 2019

“In Pursuit of ‘Absolute Justice’: Oliver Otis Howard, the Freedmen’s Bureau, and the Era of Reconstruction,” Midcoast Senior College, April 2019

“Maine during the Civil War,” Scarborough Historical Society, February 2019

“Freedom and Emancipation in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*,” Westbrook High School, December 2018

### Research Grants and Awards

Trustee Professorship, University of Southern Maine, 2024-2025 (\$12,500)

Faculty Senate Research Grant, University of Southern Maine, 2023

Center for Collaboration and Development Gap Funding Mini-Grant, University of Southern Maine, 2021

University of Maryland College of Arts and Humanities Graduate Student Travel Award, 2016

Lewis P. Jones Research Fellowship in South Carolina History, University of South Carolina, 2015

Mellon Research Fellowship, Virginia Historical Society, 2015

University of Maryland College of Arts and Humanities Graduate Student Travel Award, 2014

University of Maryland History Department Dissertation Prospectus Development Award, 2013

### Graduate Research Experience

Graduate Assistant, Freedmen and Southern Society Project, University of Maryland, 2010-11, Spring 2012, Spring 2013-Spring 2014

Graduate Assistant, “O Say Can You See”: Early Washington, D.C. Law and Family Project, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities at University of Maryland, Spring 2014

## **3. Teaching**

### Undergraduate Courses Taught

Entry Year Experience 199: The History of Sexuality  
 History 121: United States History to 1800  
 History 122: United States History 1800-1900  
 History 123: United States History 1900-Present  
 History 131: United States History to 1877  
 History 142: African American History 1865-Present  
 History 200: Reference, Research, and Report Writing  
 History 300: History Internship  
 History 356: Civil War and Reconstruction  
 History 364/WGS 355: History of Women in the United States  
 History 394: The History of Death and Dying in the United States  
 History 394/WGS 380: The Politics of Difference  
 History 400: Senior Capstone, Riots, Rebellions, and Revolutions in the United States  
 Honors 115: Power, Pleasure, and Private Matters: Sexuality in United States History  
 Honors 215: Thinking in Honors  
 Honors 415: Honors Capstone

### Teaching Grants

Relationship-Rich and Active Teaching Project, University of Southern Maine, 2024-2025

Innovative Teaching Grant, Center for Collaboration and Development, University of Southern Maine, 2023

Summer Flexible Course Design Working Group, Center for Technology Enhanced Learning, University of Southern Maine, 2020

Mini-Grant, Center for Technology Enhanced Learning, University of Southern Maine, 2020

Open Educational Resources Textbook Development Grant, Center for Technology Enhanced Learning, University of Southern Maine, 2020

Osher Map Library Teaching with Maps Fellowship, Osher Map Library, University of Southern Maine, 2019

Title III Mini-Grant, University of Southern Maine, 2019

#### **4. Service**

##### **University Service**

University of Southern Maine African American Collection Advisory Committee, 2024-present

Faculty Senate, University of Southern Maine, Fall 2022-Spring 2024

- Library and Media Committee, 2024-present
- Honors Faculty Senate Committee, Spring 2024

Women and Gender Studies Council, University of Southern Maine, 2019-present

- Director, Spring 2024-present
- Curriculum Committee, 2019-2020
- Social Justice Minor Committee, 2021
- Personnel Committee, 2023-present
- Chair, Programming Committee, 2020-Spring 2024

Honors Faculty Council, University of Southern Maine, 2016-present

- Curriculum Committee, 2018-Present
- Promotion and Tenure Review committee member for:
  - Assunta Kent
  - Patricia Hager

Chair, Hiring Committee, Part-Time Faculty in Native American History, University of Southern Maine, Summer 2022

Hiring Committee, Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of US History, University of Southern Maine, Fall 2018

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Application Evaluator, Summer 2022-Present

Admissions Liaison for the History Department, Spring 2023

##### **Professional Service**

Professional Development Committee, Southern Historical Association, 2024-present

- Writing Group Subcommittee

Graduate Student Paper Committee, Society of Civil War Historians Conference, June 2024

Southern Association for Women Historians, Graduate Student Representative, 2014-2016

Respondent, Graduate Student Publishing Feedback Workshop, Texas A&M University, April 2024

#### Manuscript Reviews

Article Manuscript Reviewer, *Maine History Journal*, 2022

Article Manuscript Reviewer, *Meridians*, 2021, 2022

Article Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 2018

#### Thesis and Dissertation Committees

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member, Rachel Church, University of Maine, 2024

Masters' Thesis Committee Member, Roberta Ransely, University of Maine, 2023

Committee Member, Gavin Gilder, History PhD Comprehensive Exams, University of Maine, 2020

#### **Community Service**

Judge, Maine National History Day, 2024

Victoria Mansion, Portland Maine

- Education Committee, Spring 2024-present
- Historical Consultant for Victoria Mansion's Unwilling Architects Initiative, 2023-present

Historical Consultant for Women's Suffrage Mural in Lewiston, ME, Maine Arts Commission, 2021

#### Professional Memberships

American Historical Association

New England Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

Society of Civil War Historians

Southern Historical Association