



SACHSMAN SYMPOSIUM ON THE 19th Century Press

33rd Annual Conference

Hosted by the Society of
Nineteenth Century Historians
and Augusta University

November 13-15, 2025

Augusta University-Summerville Campus
2500 Walton Way
Jaguar Student Activities Center

Dicken-Garcia Lecturer: Dr. Angela Zombek, University of North Carolina Wilmington
Friday, Nov. 14, 12:30 p.m., JSAC Ballroom and on Zoom

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025: Williams Ballroom, Jaguar Student Activities Center (1st Floor)

3:30-3:45 p.m. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Crompton Burton, Society of Nineteenth Century Historians, 33rd Annual Symposium Director

David Bulla, Professor and Chair, Department of Communication, Augusta University

Maggy Tomova, Provost, Augusta University

3:45-4:30 p.m. Engaging New Audiences in the 19th Century Press, the Civil War, and Reconstruction

Moderator: Katrina Quinn, Slippery Rock University

"New Perspectives in Georgia's Historic Newspapers," Donnie Summerlin, University of Georgia Libraries

"Podcasting the Early Illinois Freedom Movement," Graham Peck, University of Illinois Springfield

"Digital Reconstruction," Elena De Marco, Reconstruction Era National Historical Park

4:45-5:45 p.m. Journalism's Portrayal of Conflict and Identity

Moderator: Simon Vodrey, Carleton University, Canada

"Flying Horses and Flying Stones: The Philadelphia Race Riots in the Rise of the Abolitionist Movement," Chris Credden, West Chester University (Undergraduate Scholar)

"From 'Ain't I a Woman?' to AERA (1851-1869): Sojourner Truth and Her Intersectional Role in the Eyes of Journalism during the American Civil War," Greg Pagano, West Chester University (Undergraduate Scholar)

"No Honor Among Thieves: The Press and Wild West Outlaw – or was it Hero? – Marion Hedgepeth," Julie Hedgepeth Williams, Samford University

6-6:45 p.m. 19th Century Visual Media

"A Passing Moment and True: The Presidential Photographs of Mathew Brady, 1825-1901," Thomas Terry, Utah State University

"Too Horrible for Decent Recital: The Ordeal of Corporal Calvin Bates in Prison and the Press," Crompton Burton, University of Maine

7 p.m. Dinner Break & Networking: Augusta, Georgia

Friday, Nov. 14, 2025: Williams Ballroom, Jaguar Student Activities Center (1st Floor)

8-9 a.m. Society of Nineteenth Century Historians Annual Meeting

9:15-10:15 a.m. PANEL: The Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson, a National Historic Landmark

Moderator: Lee Ann Caldwell, Augusta University, Volunteer Director of the Center for the Study of Georgia History

Erick D. Montgomery, Executive Director, Historic Augusta, Inc.

Debra Reddin van Tuyl, Augusta University

10:30-11:30 a.m. Editorial Power and Social Change

Moderator: Paulette Kilmer, University of Toledo

"Setting a Dangerous Precedent: Press Coverage of the Sarah Roberts Case and Its Impact on Segregation in the United States," James Scythes, West Chester University

"St. Patrick's Day Toasts and the Building of an Irish American Community," Mary Cronin, New Mexico State University, and Debra Reddin van Tuyl, Augusta University

"Inglorious Resistance: The Opposition Press's Exploitation of 'Sitting Editors' in Imperial Germany," Petra McGillen, Dartmouth College

- 11:45 p.m. Lunch (All Invited)**
Welcome and Announcements
 Kim Davies, Dean, Pamplin College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Augusta University
 Gregory Borchard, President, Society of Nineteenth Century Historians
- 12:30 p.m. Hazel Dicken-Garcia Distinguished Lecture**
 Dr. Angela Zombek, University of North Carolina Wilmington, presents: "Defining Disloyalty & Exposing Anguish: Newspaper Coverage of Washington, D.C.'s Old Capitol Prison"
- 1:40-2 p.m. Editorial Power and Social Change, Revisited**
 "Uniformity, Diversity, and Memetics: Editorial Adaptation in the Mid-19th Century US Press," Zef Segal, College of Management Academic Studies, Israel, and Menahem Blondheim, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- 2-2:45 p.m. PANEL: The American Civil War in the International Press**
Moderator: Gregory Borchard, University of Nevada Las Vegas
 "British Coverage of the Re-Election of Abraham Lincoln," David Bulla, Augusta University
 "Newspaper Perspectives on Secession, Unification, and the Fragility of the Nation-State from Peru, Argentina, and the United States," Niels Eichhorn, Stiftung Louisenlund, Güby, Germany
 "George 'Lightning' Ellsworth: Canadian Confederate Telegraphic Disinformation Pioneer," Simon Vodrey, Carleton University, Canada
- 3-3:45 p.m. PANEL: 19th Century Media Law and Ethics**
Moderator: Jack Breslin, Iona University
 "The Battle of Truth Versus Technology in the Nineteenth Century: Editors Fight for Responsible Journalism," Stephen Banning, Bradley University
 "The Market for 'Truth': What 19th-Century Newspapers Wrote about Free Speech Ideology and the 'Marketplace of Ideas,'" Dianne Bragg, University of Alabama
 "Retract, Expand: Libel Law, the Professionalization of Journalism, and the Limits of Press Freedom at the Turn of the Twentieth Century," Patrick File, University of Nevada, Reno
- 3:45-4:15 p.m. Coffee Break**

Re-Convening in the Hardy Room, Jaguar Student Activities Center (2nd Floor)

- 4:15-5:35 p.m. The 19th Century Press and Public Memory**
Moderator: Dianne Bragg, University of Alabama
 "Morris Birkbeck and the Making of an Antislavery Freedom," Graham Peck, University of Illinois Springfield
 "Edgar Allan Poe in South Carolina: Ancestry and Literary Legacy," Pat McNeely, University of South Carolina
 "The Massachusetts Press During the Secession Crisis," Miles Klotz, University of Massachusetts Boston
 "'Nobler, Braver Never Lived': The Death and Memory of Charles Didier Dreux," Andy Haugen, Valley Catholic High School, Beaverton, Oregon
- 5:35 p.m. Dinner Break & Networking: Augusta, Georgia**

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025: Williams Ballroom, Jaguar Student Activities Center (1st Floor)

- 9-10 a.m. Topics in the 19th Century African American Press**
Chairs: Valerie Kasper, St. Leo University, and Katrina Quinn, Slippery Rock University
 "Character as Argument: Community and the Colonization Debate in Freedom's Journal," Valerie Kasper, St. Leo University

"'Righteousness Exalteth a Nation': Freedom's Journal and the Rhetorical War Against Slavery as Commerce," Maeve Kiley, St. Leo University

"After the War, Before the Muckrakers: Reconstruction, Black Journalists, and the Rise of the National Black Press," Robert D. Bland, University of Tennessee Knoxville

"The African American Press as an Agent of Consumer Culture," Ronny Regev, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

10:15-11:40 a.m. The Press in a Changing America

Moderator: Jack Breslin, Iona University

"'Old Rough and Ready' Goes to Battle Against the Compromise," Cole Roycroft, West Chester University (Undergraduate Scholar)

"A Hero in a Time of Need: Black Press Coverage of Marshall 'Major' Taylor, the World's Fastest Bicycle Racer, 1896-1909," Mary Cronin, New Mexico State University

"Covering a Decade of Death: Turn-of-the-Century Reporting on Pennsylvania's Coal Mining Industry," Katrina Jesick Quinn, Slippery Rock University

"'The Spellbinder on Wheels'—Horseless Carriage Newspaper Narratives," Paulette D. Kilmer, University of Toledo

11:50-12 p.m. 33rd Annual Symposium Awards & Recognition

Crompton Burton, 33rd Symposium Director, and Simon Vodrey, Symposium Co-Director

12-1 p.m. Lunch (All Invited)

2 p.m. Historical Tour: Wilson House Museum

Join us for a guided tour of the Boyhood Home of Woodrow Wilson, a National Historic Landmark in historic downtown Augusta. Address: 419 7th Street, Augusta, GA 30901

5 p.m. Dinner Break & Networking: Augusta, Georgia

Please join us for conversations and collaborations.

Many Thanks to All Who Made This Year's Symposium Possible:

Pamplin College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Augusta University
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Cover Image: Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside (reading newspaper) with Mathew B. Brady (nearest tree) at Army of the Potomac headquarters. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Item LC-B8171-2433.

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