SACHSMAN SYMPOSIUM ON THE 19th Century Press

34th Annual Conference

Hosted by the Society of Nineteenth Century Historians and Augusta University

November 12-14, 2026

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

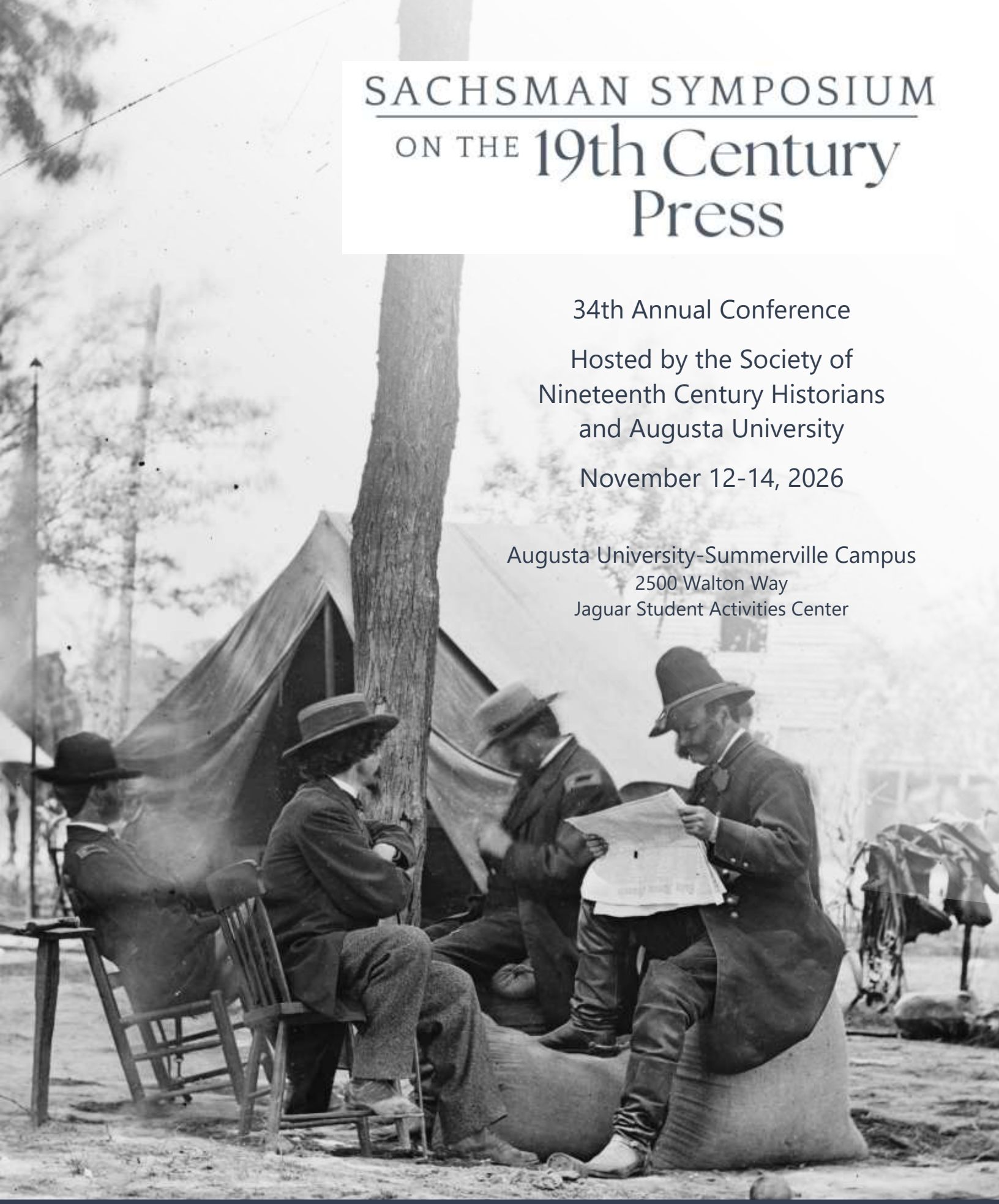

Image: Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside with Mathew B. Brady at Army of the Potomac headquarters. Library of Congress Item LC-B8171-2433.

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2026: JSAC Ballroom (1st Floor)

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

Greg Borchard, President, Society of Nineteenth Century Historians

David Bulla, Professor and Chair, Department of Communication & Integrated Studies, Augusta University

3:45-4:30 p.m. **SESSION: Celebrating Independence Day in the 19th-Century Press**

Moderator: Greg Borchard, University of Nevada Las Vegas

"'The Fourth of July is Ours': The Transformation of Independence Day in the Civil War South," Carrington OBrion, University of Virginia

"Seeking a 'Genuine Good Old Fashioned' Holiday: The Press Reports Independence Day 1865," Katrina Quinn, Slippery Rock University

"Normal Mayhem: Boys and Fireworks in the Nineteenth Century," Paulette Kilmer, University of Toledo

4:45-5:45 p.m. **SESSION: Voices, Conflicts, and Cultures in the Antebellum Press**

Moderator: Simon Vodrey, Carleton University

"'The Times are Big with Momentous Matter': Irish American Newspapers, Nation Building, and Coverage of National Grievances Prior to the War of 1812," Mary Lamonica, New Mexico State University, and Debra Reddin van Tuyll, Augusta University

"Treaties, Treachery, and a Brand-New Town: Macon, Georgia's First Newspaper and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, 1823-1827," Anthony Montalto, University of Florida

"The Puzzle Becomes the Story: Edgar Allan Poe, the Nineteenth-Century Press, and the Birth of Detective Fiction," Pat McNeely, University of South Carolina

"'It Must Spring Up Amongst Us': Secession and Civil War, 1820-61," Thomas Terry, Utah State University

6-6:45 p.m. **SESSION: Personalities and Power in the 19th-Century Press**

Moderator: Katrina Quinn, Slippery Rock University

"'The Promise of Brilliant Attainments': Maine's Moses Owen, Civil War Publisher and Poet," Crompton Burton, Independent Scholar

"A Klansman from Apprentice to Editor: One Extended Family's Experience of Terrorist Participation," Michael Fitzgerald, Independent Scholar

"Surging Forward: Thomas Edison as a Marketing Tool in the Fort Myers Press, 1885-1899," Willie R. Tubbs, University of West Florida

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

Friday, Nov. 13, 2026: JSAC Ballroom (1st Floor)

8:15-8:45 a.m. **Society of Nineteenth Century Historians Annual Meeting**

9-10 a.m. **PANEL: 19th-Century Media Law and Ethics**

Chair: Jack Breslin, Iona University

"Separating the Personal and Public Sphere: 19th Century Press Coverage of the Right to Privacy," Dianne Bragg, University of Alabama

"The Alabama Claims Question: Coverage of Maritime Consequential Damages in the Post-Civil War Press," Crompton Burton, Independent Scholar

"Copyright, Free Speech, and the Rhetoric of Originalism," Jason Lee Guthrie, Clayton State University

10:15-11:15 a.m. **SESSION: Shaping Discourses in the Civil War Press and Beyond**

Moderator: Dianne Bragg, University of Alabama

"Simultaneity without Unity: Telegraphic News Regimes in the Civil War–Era Tennessee Press, 1860–1867," Zef Segal, College of Management Academic Studies, Israel, and Menahem Blondheim, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

"The Oregon Encyclopedia and Important Civil War Men of Oregon," Andy Haugen, Valley Catholic High School, Beaverton, Oregon

"Reporting on Revivals: How Local Revivals, the Industrial Press, and Clerical Editors Shaped the Bible Belt in the Civil War Era," Scott Stephan, Ball State University

"A Centennial Broadside: The First Hebrew Poem on the Meaning of America and its Translation, July 4th, 1876," Menahem Blondheim, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

11:30-12:15 p.m. **PANEL: Prisons, Prisoners, Overpopulations, and the Press**

Chair: David Bulla, Augusta University

"Andersonville's Context—The Establishment, Operation of, and Prisoner Life within the Prison," Angela Zombek, University of North Carolina Wilmington

"Information Wanted: The Search for Missing POWs in the Post-Civil War Press," Crompton Burton, Independent Scholar

"Camp Lawton, Andersonville's Spillover Facility—Interpreting it through the Years," Ted Paden, Magnolia Springs State Park

12:15-1 p.m. **Lunch (All Invited): Welcome and Announcements**

Dustin Avent-Holt, Associate Dean for Research, Pamplin College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Augusta University

---

1:15 p.m. Hazel Dicken-Garcia Distinguished Lecture

Hon. Erica L. Woodford, Esq., Bibb County Superior Court Clerk, presents:

"There Is Life in these Pages: The Enslaved People Project of Bibb County, Georgia"

2:15-3 p.m. **PANEL: The "Counter-Spirit of '76" and the Nineteenth-Century Press**

Chair: Matthew Arendt, Tarleton State University

"'Spirit of '76, where hast thou fled?': Republican Liberty during the Free Expression Crisis," Matthew Arendt, Tarleton State University

"Assessing the Prospect of Annexing Canada in the Nineteenth-Century American Press," Simon Vodrey, Carleton University

"'What is to be our destiny?' Dreams and Nightmares of a Northwest Confederacy," Jonathan Steplyk, The University of Texas at Arlington

3:15-3:45 p.m. **SESSION: The Press Reports Conflict and Identity**

Moderator: James M. Scythes, West Chester University

"Honor and Outrage: The Sumner-Brooks Affair," Margaret Gowin, West Chester University

"'Lady Macbeth': Mary Surratt, the Press, and Civil War Era Femininity," Sheridan Wells, Colorado State University

4-4:45 p.m. **SESSION: The Antebellum Press as a Witness to Slavery**

Moderator: Greg Borchard, University of Nevada Las Vegas

"'Excavating Chattanooga's Buried History of Enslavement in Antebellum Newspapers," Michael D. Thompson, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

"'Hounds of Blood': Advertising 'Negro Dogs' in Antebellum Southern Newspapers," Timothy R. Talbott, Independent Scholar

"Were Slaves Allowed to Read the Bible?: Miracles, Brawls, and Rose-Colored Glasses in the 19th Century Press," Julie Hedgepeth Williams, Samford University

5-5:45 p.m. **PANEL: The Press and the Irish American Community**

Chair: Debra Reddin van Tuyll, Augusta University

"The Irish American Press and the Reinvention of American Civic Memory, 1876–1900," Meaghan Dwyer-Ryan, Georgia Southern University

"Responding to Nativists: Irish American Editors as Protectors of the Irish Immigrant," Mary M. Cronin, New Mexico State University, and Debra Reddin van Tuyll, Augusta University

"Reporting on the Fourth of July: Celebrating Freedom and Demonstrating Citizenship," Mary M. Cronin, New Mexico State University, and Debra Reddin van Tuyll, Augusta University

6:15 p.m. **Sachsman Symposium Dinner: Partridge Inn, 2110 Walton Way, Augusta, Georgia**

Join us for conversation and camaraderie at the Partridge Inn. Advance registration encouraged. Sponsored by the Society of Nineteenth Century Historians.

Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026: JSAC Ballroom (1st Floor)

9-9:45 a.m. **PANEL: Engaging New Audiences in the 19th-Century Press, the Civil War, and Print Culture**

Chair: Katrina Quinn, Slippery Rock University

"Increasing Online Access to Georgia's Historical Newspapers," Donnie Summerlin, Digital Projects Archivist, University of Georgia Libraries

"Civil War Camp Newspapers of Western Virginia**,"** Rigby Philips, Rare Book & Print Collections Archivist, West Virginia & Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries

"Connecting Classroom, Community, and Collections: Engaging New Audiences in 19th-Century History," Ani Simmons, Director of Audience Engagement, South Carolina State Museum

10-10:30 a.m. **SESSION: Reporting War and the Military**

Moderator: Paulette Kilmer, University of Toledo

"'We Wait with Anxious Expectation': Irish American Press Reportage of the War of 1812," Debra Reddin van Tuyll, Augusta University, and Mary Cronin, New Mexico State University

"Coverage of the Royal Navy's West Africa Squadron and the U.S. Navy's Africa Squadron," David Bulla, Augusta University

10:45-11:45 a.m. **PANEL: The Black Press at 200**

Chair: Amber Roessner, University of Tennessee Knoxville

"'No Agency So Potent': Ida B. Wells-Barnett's Transnational Model for Social Justice," Amber Roessner, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

"The 19th Century Black Press and Early Black History," Robert Greene II, Claflin University

"The Power of Black Women's Voices: How the Woman's Era and The Aframerican Woman's Journal Amplified Change," Robin Sundaramoorthy, Lehigh University

"Organizing Alabama's 19th Century Black Press: The Launch of the Afro-American Press Association," George L. Daniels, University of Alabama

11:50-12 p.m. **34th Annual Symposium Honors & Recognition**

Simon Vodrey, Carleton University, 2026 Symposium Director

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

1:45 p.m. **Depart for Historical Tour: Camp Lawton (at Magnolia Springs State Park, near Millen, Georgia)**

Join us for a guided tour of a Confederate POW camp. Departing Augusta by 1:45 p.m.; tour starts at 3 p.m.

6 p.m. **Dinner Break & Networking upon return to Augusta: Bradley's BBQ, 1209 Broad Street, Augusta, Georgia**

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

Judy Sachsman and the Dr. David Sachsman Family
Pamplin College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Augusta University
Department of Communication & Integrated Studies and Office of Information Technology, Augusta University
Walter and Leona Schmitt Family Foundation Research Fund and the Hazel Dicken-Garcia Fund for the Symposium at the UC Foundation at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga