

John R. Legg
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George Mason University

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Education

Ph.D. in American History **2020 – Present** **George Mason University**

Advisor: C. Joseph Genetin-Pilawa
Major field: American History (18th, 19th, 20th Century)
Minor fields: Indigenous History and Digital/Public History

MA in History **2018 – 2020** **Virginia Tech**

Thesis: “[Unforgetting the Dakota 38](#): Settler Colonialism, Indigenous Resurgence, and the Competing Narratives of the U.S.-Dakota War, 1862-2012.”

Advisor: Paul Quigley
Committee: Edward Polanco and Sam Cook

Winner of the 2021 William Preston Award for Outstanding MA Thesis

Certificate in Public History **2018 – 2020** **Virginia Tech**

BA in History **2013-2017** **Middle Georgia State University**

Publications

Journal Articles, Book Chapters, and Encyclopedia Entries

- 2021 “Searching for Indigeneity in the *Oregon Trail*,” in *Playing at War: Identity and Memory in American Civil War Video Games*, edited by Patrick A. Lewis and James “Trae” Welborn III (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State Univeristy Press), in preparation.
- 2021 Violence and Indigenous Resistance: Microsyllabus,” the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, forthcoming Fall 2021 (digital print here: <https://bit.ly/2ZLTW3o>).
- 2021 “The Sioux Wars (1853-1890),” in *Political Violence in America: Historical Flashpoints and Modern-Day Trends*, edited by Lori Cox Han and Tomislav Han, ABC-CLIO, manuscript submitted to press.

- 2019 “White Lies, Native Revisions: The Legacy of Violence in the American West,” *Great Plains Quarterly*, Vol. 39, No. 2 (Fall, 2019): 331-340.
- 2017 “Through Pain and Sacrifice: Public Memory and Commemoration in the Minnesota River Valley 155 years after the Dakota War,” *Knighted: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Undergraduate Research*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (2017): 93-108.

Publications / Digital and Online

- 2021 “Towards A More Perfect Union: Rethinking Terminology in Civil War History (Re: Army Univ. Press Announcement),” *H-CivWar*, April 28, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3vpD8wY>.
- 2020 “Mankato’s Hanging Monument Excluded Indigenous Perspectives when it was Erected and when it was Removed,” *History News Network*, July 26, 2020, <https://bit.ly/2X3x8Ls>.
- 2019 “Colter Wall,” in “Best of 2019,” *Tropics of Meta*, December 31, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2SH8rDn>.
- 2019 “The U.S.-Dakota War,” Educational Resource Material, *The American Civil War Museum*, July 15, 2019, <https://acwm.org/education/resource/us-dakota-war>.
- 2019 “The American Civil War Museum at Historic Tredegar,” *Mainly Museums*, July 6, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2NC5RxC>.
- 2019 “Dakota Uprooted: Capitalism, Resilience, and the U.S.-Dakota War,” *The Activist History Review*, June 10, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2XiaMIs>.
- 2019 “Something Old, Something Barrowed, Something White: Antique Malls as Centers of White Nostalgia and Racism,” *Tropics of Meta*, February 3, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2HX08Q8>.
- 2019 “Indigenous People are not going anywhere,” *The Roanoke Times* (Roanoke, VA), January 30, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2RKI5gK>.
- 2018 “Counterpoint: Remember the trauma of the Dakota in recalling the 1862 war,” *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, MN), December 5, 2018, <http://strib.mn/2Gf3yft>.
- 2018 “Report on Slavery’s Science in an Emancipated World: The Influence of Racial Medicine in the Postbellum South,” 2018 Southern Historical Association Meeting, *H-CivWar*, <https://bit.ly/2HVmrFV>.

2018 “Bringing Peace after Destruction: Civil War Era Monuments and the Memory of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862,” *The Journal of the Civil War Era’s* Muster Blog, September 4, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2TAEHWz>.

2018 “History of the Sixteenth Michigan,” *All Michigan Civil War*, February 4, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2HVmUrF>.

Book Reviews

2021/22 Review of *Proud Raven, Panting Wolf: Carving Alaska’s New Deal Totem Parks* by Emily L. Moore. In *Native American Indigenous Studies*. (forthcoming)

2021 Review of *The Last Sovereigns: Sitting Bull and the Resistance of the Free Lakota* by Robert M. Utley. In *Ethnohistory*, forthcoming.

2021 Review of *Through a Native Lens: American Indian Photography* by Nicole Dawn Strathman. In *The Journal of Arizona History*, Spring 2021.

2021 Review of *The Dakota Sioux Experience at Flandreau and Pipestone Indian Schools* by Cynthia Leanne Landrum. In *Middle West Review*, forthcoming.

2021 Review of *Standing with Standing Rock: Voices from the #NoDAPL Movement* by Nick Estes and Jaskiran Dhillon. In the *Journal of American Ethnic History*, forthcoming.

2020 Review of *Dakota in Exile: The Untold Stories of Captives in the Aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota War* by Linda M. Clemmons. In the *Great Plains Quarterly*, Summer 2020.

2019 Review of *A Place to Call Home: Immigrant Exclusion and Urban Belonging in New York, Paris, and Barcelona* by Ernesto Castañeda. In *The New Americanist: A Journal of the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw, Poland*.

2018 Review of *An Aide to Custer: The Civil War Letters of Lt. Edward G. Granger*. In the *Great Plains Quarterly*, Summer 2019.

2018 Review of *Man-Hunters of the Old West, Volume 2* by Robert K. DeArment. In the *Journal of Arizona History*, Summer 2018.

Awards and Honors

National

- 2021 Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois, Visiting Scholar.
2019 Western History Association, Graduate Student Prize, Las Vegas, 2019.
2019 The American Society for Ethnohistory Travel Award, Penn State, 2019.
2019 American Civil War Museum “Emerging Scholar” Designation, May 2019.
2018 Northern Great Plains History Association, William E. Lass Award for Best Paper in Minnesota History, Mankato, Minnesota, 2018.

Institutional

- 2021 Virginia Tech, William Preston Society, Outstanding Master’s Thesis Award
2020 Virginia Tech, Department of History, Award for Excellence in Public History Practice.
2020 Virginia Tech, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Most Outstanding MA Student.
2019 Virginia Tech, Department of History, Graduate Student Digital History Award.
2018-20 Virginia Center for Civil War Studies Scholarship, Virginia Tech, \$5,000.
2016 Middle Georgia State University, Office of Experiential Learning Travel Award, \$400.

Grants and Fellowship

- 2019 Virginia Tech, Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention Grant.
2019 Virginia Tech, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, Internship Grant.

Presentations

Invited Talks

- 2021 “Unforgetting the Dakota 38” for Dr. Lori Lahlum’s Minnesota 1862 graduate seminar, Minnesota State University, Mankato, March 30, 2021.
2021 “The U.S.-Dakota War and Historical Memory,” in Dr. Niels Eichhorn’s U.S. Survey course, Minnesota State University, Mankato, March 10, 2021.
2021 “Studying the U.S.-Dakota War with Ethnohistory,” Kansas State University, Graduate Student Organization, March 5, 2021.
2021 “The Dakota War in your town,” for Dr. Niels Eichhorn’s U.S. Survey, Minnesota State University, Mankato, February 12, 2021.
2019 “The Contested Memory of the U.S.-Dakota War,” for Dr. Erica Johnson Edwards’s Native American Honors Course, Francis Marion College, Florence, South Carolina, November, 2019.

- 2019 “The Dakota War: A Reconsideration of the Civil War West,” The American Civil War Museum’s Emerging Scholars program, Richmond, Virginia, May 2019.

Public Lectures, Workshops, Digital Events, and Talks

- 2019 “Decolonizing Columbus Day,” Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly and, later, implemented to the Indigenous Peoples’ Day Resolution, official Virginia Tech document.
- 2018 “Episode #25: Commemorating the Dakota War with John Legg,” Podcase with M. Keith Harris on *The Rogue Historian*, <https://theroguehistorian.com/blog/2018/2/24/episode-25-commemorating-the-dakota-war-with-john-legg>.
- 2017 “Veterans Day at Coleman Hill—November 10, 2017: Mr. John Legg, President of MGA’s History Student Organization, Reading from excerpt of May 1919 editorial in *The Macon Daily Telegraph*, Armistice Day Celebration, Macon, GA.

Conference Activity

Papers presented

- 2021 “*Playing at War: The American West and Civil War Era Video Games*,” Roundtable with Dr. James “Trae” Welborn III, Dr. Katherine Brackett Fialka, Dr. Kathleen Logothetis Thompson, Dr. Jonathan Jones, and Aaron Phillips, Western History Association, Portland, OR, October 2021.
- 2021 “The Dakota Nation Confronts American Colonialism: A Roundtable on Dakota Resistance and Perseverance in the Early American Republic,” Roundtable with Dr. Gwen Westerman, Dr. Linda M. Clemmons, and Dr. Jameson Sweet, Society of Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), July 16, 2021. Virtual.
- 2020 “Here Were Hung 38 Freedom Fighters,” Western History Association, New Mexico, 2020. Virtual.
- 2019 “Another Trail of Tears: A New Refugedom, Dakota Diaspora, and the Aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862,” Western History Association, Las Vegas, 2019.
- 2019 The Memory of the Dakota War in Mankato, Lightning Round Session, Western History Association, Las Vegas, 2019.
- 2019 “Minnesota Space, Dakota Homeland: Decolonization and the Memory of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862,” Ethnohistory, Penn State, 2019.
- 2019 “Contested Memories and the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862,” Virginia Social Science Association, Farmville, VA, 2019.
- 2019 “Changing Perspectives; The Contested Memories of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862,” Virginia Tech, Brian Bertoti History Conference, 2019.
- 2019 “White Lies, Native Revisions: Public Memory and the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862,” ASPECT (the Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, Cultural Thought) Graduate Conference, Virginia Tech, March 2019.

- 2018 “From Mankato to New Ulm: The Issues of Public Memory and the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862,” Northern Great Plains History Conference, Mankato, Minnesota, 2018.
- 2018 “Duty Well Done: Collective Memory and Commemoration of the 151st Machine Gun Battalion, Macon, Georgia, 1919-1930,” Georgia Association of Historians, Macon, GA, 2018.
- 2017 “Through Pain and Sacrifice: Public Memory and Commemoration 155 years after the Dakota War of 1862,” National Council of Undergraduate Research, Memphis, TN, 2017.
- 2017 “Through Pain and Sacrifice: The Emotional Outcry of the Citizens of New Ulm,” Middle Georgia State University History Conference, 2016.
- 2016 “Disease, Brutality, Death, and Hardship: The Narrative Faced by the Dakota People that Were Held at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and Beyond, August-December 1862,” Middle Georgia State University Undergraduate Showcase.

Panels Organized

- 2020 Organizer, “The Memory of Native Americans and Settler Violence in the American West,” Western History Association, 2020.
- 2019 Organizer, “Indigenous Peoples during the Civil War Era,” Ethnohistory, 2019.

Campus or Departmental Talks

- 2020 “Native Americans during the Civil War,” Dr. Paul Quigley’s American Civil War Course.
- 2019 “The Civil War and Native Americans,” Dr. Paul Quigley’s American Civil War Course.

Teaching Experience

George Mason University

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- 2021 History 125, Intro to World History, Dr. Zanya Bizri, Summer.
- 2021 History 100, Western Civilization, Dr. Kevin Matthews, Spring.
- 2020 History 100, Western Civilization, Dr. Vadim Staklo, Fall.

Virginia Tech

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- 2020 The American Civil War, Dr. Paul Quigley, Spring. Self-Taught Recitations, two sections.

- 2019 Historical Methods, Dr. Glenn Bugh, Fall.
- 2019 History of Virginia Tech, Dr. Peter Wallenstein, Fall.
- 2019 History of Virginia, Dr. Peter Wallenstein, Fall.
- 2019 Introduction to Public History, Dr. Jessica Taylor, Spring.
- 2018 History of Technology, Dr. Richard Hirsh, Fall.
- 2018 The American Civil War, Dr. Paul Quigley, Fall.

Graduate Assistantship Duties

- 2018-20 Virginia Center for Civil War Studies Assistant

Public History and Exhibitions

- 2019 Intern, American Civil War Museum, Richmond, VA, 2019.
- 2019 “Gerrymandering,” Virginia Tech Library Exhibit.
- 2019 “Defining Freedom: African Americans in the Age of Emancipation,” American Civil War Museum – Appomattox, <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2019/04/clahs-jump-cwexhibit.html>.
- 2018 “Mapping Displacement: Dakota Exiles in the Aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota War,” <https://bit.ly/2WMSLxZ>.
- 2017 Intern, Hay House, Macon, Georgia.

Service to the Historical Profession

Conference Organization

- 2019 Graduate Assistant to the Program Committee for the Biennial International Conference of the Alcohol and Drug History Society, Shanghai, June 12-15, 2019.
- 2019 Graduate Assistant to the Program Committee and Chair for the Narrative and Nostalgia: The Crusades and American Civil War Conference, Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke Virginia, March 29-30, 2019.
- 2018-20 Planning Committee for the Virginia Tech History Conference.

Academic Positions

- 2020-22 Affiliate Editor, National Council on Public History’s *History@Work*.
- 2020-22 Member, Digital Media Group, National Council on Public History.
- 2019-21 Social Media Coordinator and Editor, H-CivWar.
- 2018-20 Graduate Student Assembly Delegate, Virginia Tech.

Professional Memberships

Society of Civil War Historians, Save Historic Antietam Foundation, Ocmulgee National Monument Association, Southern Historical Association, Western History Association, American Historical Association.

