

Curriculum Vitae

John Lauritz Larson

Department of History
Purdue University
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Professor of History, Emeritus

2022

Academic Record

Brown University
Brown University
Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Ph.D. 1981
A.M. 1976
B.A. 1972

Academic Appointments

Professor of History, Purdue University 2001-2022
Coeditor, *Journal of the Early Republic* July 1994-2004
Assistant and Associate Professor, Purdue University 1983-2001
Lecturer in History, Earlham College 1979-83
Director of Research, Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement, Noblesville, Indiana, 1979-83

Publications

Books:

Laid Waste: The Culture of Exploitation in Early America. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020.
The Market Revolution in America: Liberty, Ambition, and the Eclipse of the Common Good. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
Internal Improvement: National Public Works and the Promise of Popular Government in the Early United States. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001.
Bonds of Enterprise: John Murray Forbes and Western Development in America's Railway Age, 1813-1898. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1984;
-2nd ed. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2001.

Book Chapters:

"The Feedback Loop: Sharing the Process of Telling Stories," in *The Future of History*, ed. Conrad Edick Wright and Katheryn P. Viens. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 2017.
"The Market Revolution in the North," in *Blackwell's Companion to the American Civil War*, ed. Lacy K. Ford, Jr. Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing, 2005.
"Congress, Internal Improvement, and the Problem of Governance, 1789-1862," in *American Congress: A Reader's Guide*, ed. Julian Zelizer, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004.
"Pigs in Space, or What Shapes America's Regional Cultures?," in *The American Midwest: Essays on Regional History*, ed. Andrew R. L. Cayton and Susan E. Gray. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001.
"Striving After Wind: Changing Sources of Hoosier Prosperity," in *The State of Indiana History*, ed. Robert M. Taylor, Jr. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 2001

- “Wisdom Enough to Improve Them: Government, Liberty, and Inland Waterways in the Rising American Empire,” in *Launching the Extended Republic*, ed. Ronald Hoffman and Peter J. Albert. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia for the U. S. Capitol Historical Society, 1996.
- “Iowa’s Struggle for State Railroad Control,” in *Iowa History Reader*, ed. Marvin Bergman. Ames: Iowa State University Press/State Historical Society of Iowa, 1996.
- “Jefferson’s Union and the Problem of Internal Improvements,” in *Jeffersonian Legacies*, ed. Peter S. Onuf. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1993.
- “Liberty By Design: Freedom, Planning, and John Quincy Adams’s ‘American System,’” in *The State and Economic Knowledge: Reflections on the American and British Experience*, ed. Barry E. Supple and Mary O. Furner. Cambridge, Mass.: Cambridge University Press, for the Woodrow Wilson Center, 1990.

Articles:

- “Off to the Wilderness? What’s In Your Pack?” *Routledge Handbook of American Material Culture Studies* (forthcoming).
- “The Genie and the Troll: Capitalism in the Early American Republic,” *Journal of the Early Republic*, 44 (Winter 2022): 589-622.
- “Why is the Sky Falling?” *Journal of the Early Republic* 40 (Winter 2020): 735-39.
- “On Cat’s Paws: Teaching the Emergence of Capitalism in American History,” *The Panorama* (February 2017). <http://thepanorama.shear.org/2017/02/01/on-cats-paws-teaching-the-emergence-of-capitalism-in-american-history/>
- “An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 35:1 (Spring 2015): 1-23.
- “Speaking of Truth in the Postmodern Era,” *Agora* (Spring 2007): 11-16.
- “The Market Revolution in Early America: An Introduction,” *OAH Magazine of History* 19 (May 2005): 4-7.
- “Teaching the West in the Early American Republic: Old Chestnuts and the Fruits of New Research,” *OAH Magazine of History* 14 (Winter 2000): 17-20.
- “East Against West: The Fight over Internal Improvements,” *Tar Heel Junior Historian* 36 (Fall 1996): 5-9.
- “Ruins and Old Routes: Tracking the Remains of Indiana’s 1836 Internal Improvement Program.” *Traces*, 2 (Spring 1990): 37-47.
- “To Try to Make a State of It: The Mammoth Internal Improvements Bill in Indiana,” *Indiana Academy of Social Sciences Proceedings*, 3rd ser., 22 (October 1987): 77-84.
- “A Bridge, a Dam, a River: Liberty and Innovation in the Early Republic.” *Journal of the Early Republic* 7 (Winter 1987): 351-75.
- “‘Bind the Republic Together’: The National Union and the Struggle for a System of Internal Improvements.” *Journal of American History* 74 (September 1987): 363-87. (With David G. Vanderstel) “Agent of Empire: William Conner on the Indiana Frontier.” *Indiana Magazine of History*, 80 (December 1984): 301-328.

Editions:

- Whither the Early Republic: A Forum on the Field*, ed. John Lauritz Larson and Michael A. Morrison (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005).
- “The Market Revolution,” guest editor for volume 19:3 of *OAH Magazine of History* (May 2005).
- Francis Trollope, *Domestic Manners of the Americans*, edited and with an introduction by John Lauritz Larson. St. James, NY: Brandywine Press, 1993.

“A Centennial Symposium on the Significance of Frederick Jackson Turner,” ed. and with an Afterward by John Lauritz Larson. *Journal of the Early Republic* 13 (Summer 1993): 133-249.

Encyclopedia/Dictionary Entries:

- Encyclopedia of Revolutionary America*, ed. Paul A. Gilje. New York: Facts on File, 2010.
-“Environment”
- Encyclopedia of Railroads of North America*, ed. George Smerk *et al.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007.
-“Internal Improvement”
- American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia*, ed. Richard Sisson, Christian Zacher, Andrew Cayton. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2006.
-“Roads, Routes, and Trails,” 1386-1388
- American National Biographical Encyclopedia*, ed John A. Garaty, *et al.* Oxford: University Press, 1999.
-“John Murray Forbes”
- Encyclopedia of the United States Congress*, ed. Donald C. Bacon, Roger H. Davidson, Morton Keller. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995.
- “Internal Improvements”
- The James Madison Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert A. Rutland, *et.al.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994.
- “Bonus Bill,” 44-45.
- Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, ed. David J. Bodenhamer. Indianapolis: Polis, 1994.
- “Public Transportation,” 1147-49
- “Central Canal,” 395-96
- “Streets, paving methods,” 1302-03
- Encyclopedia of American Social History*, ed. Mary Kupiec Cayton, Elliot J. Gorn, and Peter W. Williams. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1992.
- “Transportation and Mobility,” 2337-2348.
- “Business Culture in the United States,” 1495-1516.
- Encyclopedia of American Business History and Biography, Vol. II: Nineteenth Century Railroads*, ed. Robert L. Frey. New York: Bruccoli Clark Layman/Facts on File, 1988:
- “John W. Brooks,” 33-35;
- “John Murray Forbes,” 128-32;
- “James F. Joy,” 208-12;
- “Charles E. Perkins,” 316-21;
- “Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad,” 47-48;
- “Michigan Central Railroad,” 254-55.

Review Essays:

- “Elegant Systems, Inelegant Institutions: Building, Designing, Pursuing Perfection in the Age of Revolution,” review essay on Tamara Plakins Thornton, *Nathaniel Bowditch*, and Edward Gray, *Thomas Paine’s Iron Bridge*, for *Reviews in American History* (forthcoming).
- “What Are We Doing Wrong?,” review essay on Peter Bernstein, *Wedding of the Waters*, in *Technology and Culture* 47:4 (2006): 803-07.
- “The Unmaking of an American Working Class,” review essay on Stephen P. Rice, *Minding the Machine: Languages of Class in Early Industrial America*, in *Reviews in American History*, 33 (Spring 2005): 177-83.
- “Demythologizing Innovation,” review essay on Steven Usselman, *Regulating Railroad Innovation in Technology and Culture*, 45:1 (2004): 159-61.

- “The Art of Compromise and the Right of Self-Creation,” review essay on Peter B. Knupfer, *The Union As It Is*, in *Reviews in American History*, 21 (1993): 45-50.
- “Spinning Yarns in Early New England,” review essay on Barbara Tucker, *Samuel Slater and the Origins of the American Textile Industry*, in *Reviews in American History*, 13 (September 1985): 353-58.

Book Reviews:

- Alex Krieger, *City on a Hill: Urban Idealism in America from the Puritans to the Present* for *Western Historical Quarterly* 51 (Winter 2020) 477-78.
- Harry Watson, *Building the American Republic*, vol. 1, for *Journal of the Early Republic* 39 (Winter 2019): 745-47.
- Sven Beckert and Christine Desan, eds., *American Capitalism: New Histories*, for *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History*, 16:3 (2019), 108-11.
- Mike O’Connor, *A Commercial Republic: America’s Enduring Debate over Democratic Capitalism*, for *The Historian*, (2016)
- Christopher Michael Curtis, *Jefferson’s Freeholders and the Politics of Ownership in the Old Dominion*, for *Agricultural History*, (2014).
- William Kerrigan, *Johnny Appleseed and the American Orchard: A Cultural History*, for *Journal of the Early Republic*, (2013).
- David F. Ericson, *Slavery in the American Republic: Developing the Federal Government, 1791-1861*, for *Journal of Southern History*, 79:2 (May 2013): .
- Gerard Koepfel, *Bond of Union: Building the Erie Canal and the American Empire*, for *Journal of the Early Republic* 32:3 (Fall 2012): 536-38.
- Craig Miner, *A Most Magnificent Machine: America Adopts the Railroad, 1825-1862*, for *Pacific Historical Review* 81:2 (May 2012): 307-08.
- John Brooke, *Columbia Rising: Civil Life on the Upper Hudson from the Revolution to the Age of Jackson*, for *American Historical Review* 117:1 (Feb 2012): 196-97.
- Alan Houston, *Benjamin Franklin & the Politics of Improvement*, for *Journal of Southern History* 77:2 (May 2011): 411-12.
- Annette Gordon-Reed, *The Hemingses of Monticello*, for *Journal of the Early Republic* 29:4 (Winter 2009): 730-32.
- Robert J. Kapsch, *The Potomac Canal: George Washington and the Waterway West*, for *Journal of Southern History*, 75:2 (May 2009): 427-27.
- Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought*, for *Journal of American History*, 95:4 (2009): 1125-26.
- Grand Excursions on the Upper Mississippi River*, ed. Curtis C. Roseman and Elizabeth M. Roseman, and *Grand Excursion: Antebellum America Discovers the Upper Mississippi*, by Stephen Keillor, for *Annals of Iowa*, 64:3 (2005): 273-74.
- Diane Shaw, *City Building on the Eastern Frontier*, for *American Historical Review*, 111:3 (June 2006): 842-43.
- Andrea Sutcliff, *Steam: The Untold Story of America’s First Great Invention*, for *Journal of the Early Republic*, 25:2 (Summer 2005): 292-94.
- Martin J. Herschock, *The Paradox of Progress*, for *Journal of the Early Republic*, 25:1 (Spring 2005): 148-50.
- Peter J. Kastor, *The Nation’s Crucible*, for *Western Historical Quarterly* (Autumn 2005): 371.
- C. Edward Skeen, *1816: America Rising*, for *Indiana Magazine of History*, 101:2 (2005): 186-188
- Iowa Railroads: The Essays of Frank P. Donovan, Jr.*, ed. and with an introduction by H. Roger Grant, for *Annals of Iowa*, 60:4 (Fall 2001): 338-39.

- Elizabeth A. Perkins, *Border Life: Experience and Memory in the Revolutionary Ohio Valley*, for *Canadian Journal of History* (April 2000).
- Harlow Sheidley, *Sectional nationalism: Massachusetts Conservative Leaders and the Transformation of America*, for *Journal of American History* 87:2 (Sept. 2000).
- Lawrence Malone, *Opening the West: Federal Internal Improvements before 1860*, for *Annals of Iowa*, 59:1 (Winter 2000): 70-71.
- James P. Ronda, ed., *Thomas Jefferson and the Changing West*, for *Great Plains Quarterly*, 19:4 (Fall 1999): 300.
- Von Gerstner, Franz, Anton Ritter. *Early American Railroads*, ed. Frederick C. Gamst, trans. David J. Diephouse and John C. Decker. For *Business History Review* (Spring 1998): 150-152.
- Raitz, Karl, ed. *The National Road and A Guide to the National Road*, for *Technology and Culture*, 39 (April 1998): 307-09.
- Klein, Maury. *Unfinished Business: The Railroad in American Life*, for *Journal of Economic History*, 54 (December 1994): 947-48.
- Perry, Lewis. *Boats Against the Current: American Culture Between Revolution and Modernity*, for *History: Reviews of New Books*, 23 (Fall 1994): 15.
- Dykstra, Robert. *Bright Radical Star: Black Freedom and White Supremacy on the Hawkeye Frontier*, for *Indiana Magazine of History*, 90 (March 1994): 184-85.
- Summers, Mark W. *The Era of Good Stealings*, for *The Historian*, 59 (1994): 572-73.
- Jones, Howard. *Union in Peril: The Crisis over British Intervention in the Civil War*, for *Civil War History*, 39 (1993): 346-47.
- Seeyle, John. *Beautiful Machine: Rivers and the Republican Plan, 1755-1825*, for *Indiana Magazine of History*, 89 (March 1993): 67-68.
- Kulikoff, Alan. *The Agrarian Origins of American Capitalism*, for *History: Reviews of New Books*, 22 (1992): 16.
- Shaw, Ronald E. *Canals for a Nation: The Canal Era in the United States, 1790-1860*, for *Indiana Magazine of History* 88 (March 1992): 71-72.
- Martin, Albro. *Railroads Triumphant*, for *American Historical Review*, (Dec. 1992): 1604.
- Harry P. Owens. *Steamboats and the Cotton Economy: River Trade in the Yazoo-Mississippi River Delta* for *Choice* (June 1991): 509.
- Stephen E. Siry, *DeWitt Clinton and the American Political Economy*, for *Journal of the Early Republic*, 11 (Spring 1991): 114-15.
- Railroads in the Age of Regulation, 1900-1980*, ed. Keith L. Bryant, for *Business History Review*, 63 (Autumn 1989): 677.
- Forrest McDonald and Ellen Shapiro McDonald. *Requiem: Variations on Eighteenth-Century Themes*, for *North Carolina Historical Review*, 67 (January 1990): 114-15.
- John Ensor Harr and Peter J. Johnson. *The Rockefeller Century*, for *The Historian* (January 1990): 670-71.
- The Constitution and the States: The Role of the Original Thirteen in the Framing and Adoption of the Federal Constitution*, ed. Patrick T. Conley and John P. Kaminski, for *North Carolina Historical Review* 66 (April 1989): 264-65.
- John R. Nelson. *Liberty and Property: Political Economy and Policymaking in the New Nation, 1789-1812*, for *Business History Review*, 62 (Summer 1988): 321.
- Judith A. McGaw. *Most Wonderful Machine: Mechanization and Social Change in Berkshire Paper Making, 1801-1885*, for *Journal of the Early Republic*, 7 (Winter, 1987): 417-18.
- James A. Ward. *Railroads and the Character of America, 1820-1887*, for *Journal of the Early Republic*, 7 (Spring, 1987): 102.
- D. W. Meinig. *The Shaping of America, Vol. I: Atlantic America, 1492-1800* for *History, Reviews of New Books*, 15 (November-December, 1986): 36.
- Maury Klein. *Jay Gould*, for *Railroad History*, 155 (Autumn 1986): 121-23.
- Lloyd J. Mercer. *E. H. Harriman: Master Railroad Builder*, for *Business History Review*, 60 (Winter, 1986): 660-61.

- Wayne Austerman. *Sharps Rifles and Spanish Mules*, for *American Historical Review*, 60 (April, 1986): 471-72.
- Mark W. Summers. *Railroads and the Gospel of Prosperity*, for *Business History Review*, 60 (Spring, 1986): 142-43.
- H. Roger Grant. *The Corn-Belt Route*, for *Indiana Magazine of History*, 81 (September 1985): 296-97.
- Annette Kolodny. *The Land Before Her: Fantasy and Experience of the American Frontiers*, for *Indiana Magazine of History*, 80 (December 1984): 387-88.
- Willene Hendrick and George Hendrick. *On the Illinois Frontier: Dr. Hiram Rutherford, 1840-1848*, for *Journal of the Early Republic*, 2 (Winter 1982): 455-56.

Papers and Lectures (selected):

- Invited interview for special issue of the *French Journal of American Studies*, "The United States A Nation Under Construction: Historiographical Perspectives and Transnational Comparisons," forthcoming in 2024.
- "Laid Waste: The Culture of Exploitation in Early America," Massachusetts Historical Society Seminar, June 5, 2020, (remote).
- "Unmasking Progress: Beyond the Culture of Exploitation," Philadelphia Athenaeum, September 24, 2020 (remote).
- "Transportation & Communication in the Early American Republic," teacher workshops for Texas Humanities, January 30-31, 2019.
- "Laid Waste: Freedom, Progress, and the Culture of Exploitation in Early American History," Central European University, Budapest, March 29, 2017.
- "Commercialism and Frontier: The Fugitive and the Impresario," Frontier Culture Museum, Staunton, Va., March 22, 2016.
- "Creating the State of Indiana," *Indiana Association of Historians*, Bloomington, IN, February 16, 2016.
- "American Revelation: Liberty, Freedom, and Capitalism in the Revolutionary Generation," Charles Warren Center Seminar, October 26, 2015.
- "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations," SHEAR Presidential Address, Philadelphia, July 19, 2014.
- "From Wilderness Environments to Well-Ordered Plantations: the Gifts of God Perfected by Industry," Boston Area Environmental History Seminar, MHS, October 8, 2013.
- "On a Bender with Uncle Sam," Massachusetts Historical Society Wednesday Brown Bag Seminars, November 19, 2013.
- "Over the River and Through the Woods: Frontier Economy, Transportation, and the Prospects of Madison, Indiana," Teach for American Workshop, Indiana University, Bloomington, April 13, 2012.
- "From Stewardship to Exploitation: Learning to Take Nature for Granted," CLA Green Week Lectures, Purdue, September 28, 2011.
- "Understanding the Hoosier Civil War Home Front," Flora Public Library, August 25, 2011
- "The Populist Temper in Early America: Is It Real or Is It Memorex?" Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Plenary Session, Philadelphia, July 14, 2011.
- "Enlightenment Moves: Sinners in the Hands of a Receding God," American Society for Environmental History, March 11, 2010.
- "Speaking of Truth in a Post Modern Era," Phi Beta Kappa Lecture, Luther College, April 1, 2007.
- "Without Fear or Sorrow: The Early American Assault on Nature," Organization of American Historians Annual Conference, Washington, DC, April 2006.
- "Commodifying Nature, Naturalizing Greed: An Environmental Look at the Rise of Capitalism in North America," McNeil Center Seminar, May 19, 2005.

- “Profligate Mother,” The Zuckerman Salon, Philadelphia, December 2004.
- “Race and Republicanism: A Comment,” Health and Medicine in the Era of Lewis and Clark, Philadelphia, November 2004.
- “On Cat’s Paws: The Stealth Advance of the Capitalist System in Post-revolutionary America,” Social Science History Association, Chicago, November 2004.
- “Nature for Sale: While Supplies Last,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Providence, July 22, 2004.
- “Generous Forests: The Culture of Exploitation in Antebellum America,” American Society for Environmental History, Victoria, BC, March 2004.
- Roundtable discussion: “Great Books: *Internal Improvement*, by John Lauritz Larson,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Columbus, Ohio, July 2003.
- “Liberty or Policy: The Governors’ Dilemma,” The Social Impact of Policy History Conference, Bowling Green State University, November 9, 2001
- “Striving After Wind: Changing Sources of Hoosier Prosperity,” Indiana Historical Society, July 2, 1999.
- Woodrow Wilson Center Roundtable, “The State and Society in Tocqueville’s America,” 1995, 1996, 1998.
- “Pigs in Space: Is It Place, Heredity, or History that Constitutes Regional Culture?” 1998-99 McClellan Symposium “Writing Regionally: Historians Talk About the American Middle West,” Miami University, Oxford, OH, October 2-3, 1998.
- “A Good Idea at the Time: Indiana’s mammoth Internal Improvement Bill of 1836,” Indiana Statehood Anniversary Lecture, Indianapolis, December 11, 1997.
- “A Second Critical Period, or Attack of the Killer Virginians,” Southern Historical Association Annual meeting, Atlanta, November 1997.
- “Betting on the Future: Railroads or Canals in the Early 1830s,” Midwest Outdoor Museums Coordinating Committee Conference, Indianapolis, November 15, 1997
- “Attacking Internal Improvements: Consolidation and Confederation in the “Era of Good Feelings,”” working paper for “The State and the Early Republic,” a study seminar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, December 6, 1996.
- Jefferson Seminar, Thomas Jefferson International Center for Scholars, Monticello. October 3-4, 1996.
- “A State of Perpetual Improvement: Visions of the American Republic as an Engine of Perpetual Reform,” *The American Reform Tradition: A Conference in Honor of John L. Thomas*, Brown University, October 21, 1995.
- “Liberals, Nationalists, and Republicans: The Perils of Historical Taxonomy,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Boston, Massachusetts, July 15, 1994
- “Roundtable: Frederick Jackson Turner and the Early Republic,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Chapel Hill, NC. July 23, 1993
- “Jefferson and the American Democratic Tradition,” invited panelist, Thomas Jefferson Symposium, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, October 1992
- “The Politics of Systems and the Plight of Henry Clay,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Madison, Wisconsin, July 1991
- ““Wisdom Enough to Improve Them’: Navigation Projects and the Rising American Empire,” U.S. Capitol Historical Society Symposium, *Launching the Extended Republic*, Washington, D.C., March 1990
- “Spoiling Internal Improvements: Pork Barrel Politics from Madison to Jackson,” Organization of American Historians, St. Louis, April 1989
- “Liberty, Design, and American Domestic Policy: Bicentennial Reflections,” Hudson Institute, Indianapolis, October 1988
- “Liberty By Design: John Quincy Adams’s Vision of an American System,” Woodrow Wilson International Center Conference on “The State and the Growth of Economic Knowledge,” Washington, D.C., September 1988.

- “The State as Servant, the State as Thief: Improving North Carolina in the Jefferson-Jackson Era,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Worcester, Massachusetts, July 1988
- “To Try to Make a State of It: The Mammoth Internal Improvements Bill in Indiana,” Indiana Academy of Social Sciences, Indianapolis, October 1987
- “Liberty and Innovation: The Constitutional Problem of Internal Improvements,” Purdue-Calumet Annual Conference on History and Political Science, Hammond, Indiana, November 1986
- “A Bridge, a Dam, a River: Innovation and the Constitution in the Early Republic,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Knoxville, Tennessee, July 1986
- “A Bridge, a Dam, and a Constitution: Innovation and Liberty in the Early American Republic.” Phi Alpha Theta Lecture, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, April 1986
- “Republicanism, Federal Power, and Internal Improvements: An Old Story in a New Light,” Organization of American Historians, Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 1985
- “Are the Regions Really Real?,” Association for Living History Farms and Agricultural Museums, Madison, June 1983
- “Peopling a Wilderness: The Hamilton County Population in 1840,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Memphis, July 1982
- “Inventing Technological Systems: A Railway Example,” Society for the History of Technology, Toronto, October 1980.

Museum Programs/Research Reports

- “Problems with Christmas, 1836,” a study of what did and did not happen for Christmas in pioneer Indiana, 1979.
- “Prairie Town, Indiana 18936” a book-length fictional history for interpreters at Conner Prairie including family backgrounds for a medical doctor, storekeeper, carpenter, blacksmith, potter, weaver, innkeeper, widow, and school master. 1980-81.
- “Peopling a Wilderness: Demographic study of Pioneer Central Indiana,” 1982

Research Grants and Awards Received

- Distinguished Service Award, Society for Historians of the Early American Republic 2017.
- Charles Warren Center for American History Fellowship, Harvard University, 2015-16
- Elected President of Society for Historians of the Early American Republic 2013-14
- Elected Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 2013
- College of Liberal Arts Departmental Teaching Award, Purdue University, 2013
- John Teaford Award for Teaching, Department of History, Purdue University, 2012
- NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers (with Mike Morrison), \$116,000 program, for June-July 2011
- NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers (with Mike Morrison), \$95,000 program, for June 2005.
- McNeil Center for Early American Studies Barra Fellowship, 2004-2005
- Center for Undergraduate Instructional Excellence, Purdue University, 1995
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowship, awarded March 1992
- Purdue Faculty Incentive Grant, 1992
- Center for Humanistic Studies, Purdue University, awarded May 1989 for spring term 1990
- American Association for State and Local History Grant-in-Aid, awarded August 1988
- Indiana Committee for the Humanities Summer Fellowship, awarded March 1988
- American Bar Foundation Legal History Grant, awarded April 1986
- National Endowment for Humanities Constitutional Summer Grant, awarded March 1986
- Purdue XL Grant, awarded February 1986 (declined)

Purdue XL Grant, awarded February 1985
John E. Rovensky Fellowship, 1978-79
Newberry Library Fellowship, 1978

Courses Taught at Purdue

History 151, United States to 1877
History 152, United States from 1877
History 302, Great Depression to the Great Recession
History 302, Hamilton: History, Artistry, and Impact (joint with Theater 399)
History 358, American Business History
History 376, History of Indiana
History 385, American Political History
History 394, American Environmental History
History 395, Financial Panics in America
History 395, Roots of the Climate Crisis
History 450, In the English Landscape (study abroad with Hort and LA)
History 463, Origins of American Legal Culture
History 492, Imagining America from Jefferson to Turner
History 598, Historiography
History 610, Theory and Methods for Graduate Students
History 611, Research Practicum for Graduate Students
History 650. Teaching the History Survey
Honors 399, Nature of Nature in History