

ROBERT E. MAY

Professor Emeritus of History, Purdue University

B.A. Union College, Schenectady, N.Y. 1965; M.A., University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1966

Ph.D. University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1969

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PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

(with Jill P. May), *Spearheading Environmental Change: The Legacy of Indiana Congressman Floyd J. Fithian*
Purdue University Press, 2022

Yuletide in Dixie: Slavery, Christmas, and Southern Memory (University of Virginia Press, 2019). Paper edition: University of Virginia Press, 2020

Slavery, Race, and Conquest in the Tropics: Lincoln, Douglas, and the Future of Latin America
(Cambridge University Press, 2013). Finalist for the 2014 Gilder-Lehrman Lincoln Book Prize

(with Jill P. May), *Howard Pyle: Imagining an American School of Art* (University of Illinois Press, 2011)

Manifest Destiny's Underworld: Filibustering in Antebellum America (University of North Carolina Press, 2002; paper ed., University of North Carolina Press, 2004). Translated into Spanish as *El Bajo Mundo Del Destino Manifiesto: Invasiones filibusteras antes de la Guerra de Secesión d los Estados Unidos, 1861-1865* (Alajuela, Costa Rica: Museo Historico Cultural Juan Santamaría, 2011)

(editor) *The Union, the Confederacy, and the Atlantic Rim* (Purdue University Press, 1995; 2nd ed. [paper] with a revised and expanded introduction: University Press of Florida, 2013)

John A. Quitman: Old South Crusader (LSU Press, 1985; LSU Press paper ed. 1989)

The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861 (LSU Press, 1973; paper ed. with a new afterword, University of Georgia Press, 1989; 2nd paper ed. with new preface: University Press of Florida, 2002). Chapter 5 republished in Spanish as "William Walker Y Los Estados Del Sur," in *Revista de la Academia de Geografía e Historia de Nicaragua* LV (Mar. 2003): 115-42

BOOK CHAPTERS:

"The United States as Rogue State: Gunboat Persuasion, Citizen Marauders, and the Limits of Antebellum American Imperialism," in *America, War and Power: Defining the State, 1775-2005*, ed. Lawrence Sondhaus and A. James Fuller (London and New York: Routledge Press, 2007), 28-63

"Manifest Destiny's Filibusters," in *Manifest Destiny and Empire: American Antebellum Expansionism*, ed. Sam W. Haynes and Christopher Morris (College Station, Tex.: Texas A&M University Press, 1997), 146-79

"The Slave Power Conspiracy Revisited: United States Presidents and Filibustering, 1848-1861," in David W. Blight and Brooks D. Simpson, eds., *Union & Emancipation: Essays on Politics and Race in the Civil War Era* (Kent: Kent State University Press, 1997), 7-28

"James Buchanan, the Neutrality Laws, and American Invasions of Nicaragua," in Michael Birkner, ed., *James Buchanan and the Political Crisis of the 1850s* (Selinsgrove: Susquehanna University Press, 1996), 123-145

"Plenipotentiary in Petticoats: Jane M. Cazneau and American Foreign Policy in the Mid-Nineteenth Century," in Edward P. Crapol, ed., *Women and American Foreign Policy: Lobbyists, Critics, and Insiders* (Westport, Conn., 1987), 20-43

ed. [with David M. Pletcher, Gene M. Brack, and Thomas Schoonover]: "United States and Mexico, 1821-1861," in *Guide to American Foreign Relations Since 1700*, ed. Richard D. Burns (Santa Barbara, 1983), 237-261

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES:

- "The Irony of Confederate Diplomacy: Visions of Empire, the Monroe Doctrine, and the Quest for Nationhood," *Journal of Southern History* 83 (February 2017): 69-106
- "Culture Wars: The U.S. Art Lobby and Congressional Tariff Legislation during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era," *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 9 (January 2010): 37-91
- "A Different Destiny: Abraham Lincoln and the Principles of U.S. Foreign Relations," *Lincoln Lore* (Fall 2007): 10-17
- "'Christmas Gift,' Empty Chairs, and Confederate Defeat," *North&South*, 8 (January 2006): 54-60
- "The Domestic Consequences of American Imperialism: Filibustering and Howard Pyle's Pirates," *American Studies*, 46 (Summer 2005): 37-61
- Reconsidering Antebellum U.S. Women's History: Gender, Filibustering, and America's Quest for Empire," *American Quarterly*, 57 December 2005): 1155-88
- [with Shauna Bigham], "The Time O' All Times? Masters, Slaves, and Christmas in the Old South," *Journal of the Early Republic*, 18 (Summer 1998): 263-88
- "In Search of Old Chapultepec--Tracing the History of Mississippi's John A. Quitman," *Journal of Mississippi History*, 58 (Summer 1996): 163-176
- "Young American Males and Filibustering in the Age of Manifest Destiny: The United States Army as a Cultural Mirror," *Journal of American History*, 78 (December 1991): 857-886.
- Reprinted, abridged, as "An Officer Corps Responds to Opportunities for Expansion with Images of Heroic Expeditions," in John Whiteclay Chambers II and G. Kurt Piehler, eds., *Major Problems in American Military History* (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999), 142-150
 - Reprinted in *Warfare in the USA, 1784-1861*, ed. Samuel Watson (Ashgate Publishing, 2005), 539—568
 - Reprinted, abridged, in James Sabathne and Jason Stacy, eds., *Past Forward: Articles from The Journal of American History* (Oxford University Press, 2016), 263-279
- "Southern Elite Women, Sectional Extremism and the Male Political Sphere: The Case of John A. Quitman's Wife and Female Descendants, 1847-1931," *Journal of Mississippi History* 50 (November 1988): 251-285
- "Psychobiography and Secession: The Southern Radical as Maladjusted 'Outsider'," *Civil War History* 34 (March 1988): 46-69
- "Invisible Men: Blacks in the U.S. Army During the Mexican War," *The Historian*, 49 (1987): 463-477. Reprinted in Darlene Clark Hine and Ernestine Jenkins, eds., *A Question of Manhood: A Reader In U.S. Black Men's History and Masculinity. Vol. I: "Manhood Rights": The Construction of Black Male History, 1750-1870* (Bloomington, 1999), 473-485
- "Squatter Sovereignty as the Freeport Doctrine: A Note on the Territorial Controversy in the U.S. House of Representatives in the Winter of 1855-1856," *Journal of Southern History*, 53 (May 1987): 304-306
- "John A. Quitman and His Slaves: Reconciling Slave Resistance with the Proslavery Defense," *Journal of Southern History*, 46 (November 1980): 551-570
- "Lobbyists for Commercial Empire: Jane Cazneau, William Cazneau, and U.S. Caribbean Policy, 1846-1878," *Pacific Historical Review*, 48 (August 1979): 383-412
- "Epilogue to the Missouri Compromise: The South, the Balance of Power, and the Tropics in the 1850s," *Plantation Society in the Americas*, 1 (June 1979): 201-225
- "John A. Quitman and the Southern Martial Spirit," *Journal of Mississippi History*: 41 (May 1979): 155-181
- "Gone With the Wind as Southern History: A Reappraisal," *The Southern Quarterly*: 17 (Fall 1978): 51-64
- "Dixie's Martial Image: A Continuing Historiographical Enigma," *The Historian*, 40 (February 1978): 213-234
- "A Southern Strategy for the 1850s: Northern Democrats, The Tropics, and the Expansion of the National Domain," *Louisiana Studies*, 14 (Winter 1975): 333-359

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES:

- "Filibuster," in *America in the World, 1776 to the Present: A Supplement to the Dictionary of American History*, ed. Edward J. Blum, vol. 1 (Farmington Hills, MI: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2016)
- "Filibustering," in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World*, ed. Peter N. Stearns, vol. 3 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), 306-308
- "Crittenden Compromise," "Missouri Compromise," "Contraband, Slaves As," *Dictionary of American History*, (3rd ed.; New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2003), vol. 2: 465; vol. 5: 422-25, vol. 7: 395-96
- "Mexican War," in *The Oxford Companion to United States History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 497-98
- "Gwin, William McKendree," and Quitman, John Anthony," in *American National Biography*, ed. John A. Garraty and Mark C. Carnes (1999), vol. 9: 755-57, vol. 18: 48-49
- "African Americans," "Manifest Destiny," "Quitman, John A.," and "Young America Movement," in *The United States and Mexico at War: Nineteenth-Century Expansionism and Conflict*, ed. Donald S. Frazier (1998), 3-4, 234-235, 345-346, 487

- "Filibustering Expeditions," in John Mack Faragher, *The American Heritage Encyclopedia of American History* (1998), 306
- "Buchanan, James" and "Pierce, Franklin," in *Encyclopedia of U.S. Foreign Relations* (1997), vol. 1: 187-188, vol. 3: 396-397
- "Filibustering," "Kinney, Henry L.," "López, Narciso," and "Walker, William," in *Encyclopedia of Latin American History* (1996), vol. 2: 570-571, vol. 3: 455, 5: 436-437
- "Cazneau, Jane Maria Eliza McManus," *The New Handbook of Texas* (1996), vol. 1: 1052-53
- "Imperialism" in Richard N. Current, ed., *Encyclopedia of the Confederacy* (1993), vol. 2: 808-809
- "Fighting South" and "Filibusters" in *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* (1989), 1107, 1504
- "Slave Violence," *Dictionary of Afro-American Slavery* (1988), 776-779
- "William Walker" and "Pierre Soulé," *Encyclopedia of Southern History*, ed. David C. Roller and Robert W. Twyman (1979), 1124-1125, 1303

TEACHING TOOLS, BLOG & OTHER PUBLICATIONS, MEDIA SPOTS/INTERVIEW

- Contributing author (with Jill P. May), *Pirate Tales* (Taschen Books, 2024)
- "The Myth of America's Westward Expansion," *The American Historian* Number 32 (Summer 2022)
- "Lincoln Visits Lafayette, and the Town's Young Men Want to 'See the Elephant' and 'Filibuster Marsh Taylor of Lafayette and the Coming of the Civil War,'" in Nancy Niblack Baxter, ed., *A Cabinet of Curiosities from the Civil War in Indiana: Important, Moving, and Sometimes Odd Stories of the Human Side of the War* (Carmel, IN: Hawthorne Publishing, 2017), 1-4
- "Lincoln's World and Gettysburg," in Carla Knorowski, ed., *Gettysburg Replies: The World Responds to Abraham Lincoln* (Springfield, IL: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, 2015), 117
- El Frente Doméstico de los Filibusteros: Política Oficial en Washington, Opinión Pública en los Estados Unidos, y Agresiones de William Walter a Centro América* ["The Filibuster Home Front: Public Policy in Washington, U.S. Popular Opinion, and William Walker's Aggressions in Central America]. (Alajuela, Costa Rica: Museo Historico Cultural Juan Santamaría, 2006) [60-page pamphlet including appendix]
- [with Michael A. Morrison], "The Limitations of Classroom Media: Ken Burns' Civil War Series as a Test Case," *Journal of American Culture* 19 (Fall 1996), 39-49
- [with Randy Roberts], *Learning to Think Critically: Film, Myth, and American History* (1993). Pamphlet published by HarperCollins
- "Marse Henry and His Lady Insu" Srrecto: A Case of Fictional Reminiscences for the High School History Classroom, *International Journal of Social Education* 6 (1991-92), 41-67

Book reviews for many scholarly journals, including the *American Historical Review*, *Reviews in American History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Civil War History*, *Journal of the Civil War Era*, *Pacific Historical Review*, and the *Journal of American History*

- Op-eds**, including: "The Bizarre Back Story of the Filibuster," *The Hill* (Feb. 27, 2021) <https://thehill.com/opinion/white-house/540825-the-bizarre-back-story-of-the-filibuster>
- "The harsh realities of slavery never took a holiday," *Dallas Morning News* (Jan. 26, 2019) <https://www.pressreader.com/usa/the-dallas-morning-news/20191226/281694026690723>

Newspaper and Magazine Interviews: *Time Magazine* (<https://time.com/6126789/christmas-slavery-lost-cause-confederacy/>) ; *Washington Post* (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2021/12/26/jonkonnu-christmas-enslaved/>) (Dec. 26, 2021)

Radio interviews including *Connections with Evan Dawson* (WXXI, Rochester, NY): Nov. 12, 2019 <https://www.wxnews.org/connections/2019-11-12/connections-scholar-robert-may-on-his-book-yuletide-in-dixie>

Podcast Interviews including: with Gerry Prokopowicz, *Civil War Talk Radio* <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/1710-robert-e-may-yuletide-in-dixie-slavery-christmas/id443517292?i=1000498383892> (Nov. 11, 2020); with Bob Cudmore, "The Historians" [https://bobcudmore.com/thehistorians/tracks/RobertMay\(29\)\(mp3\).mp3](https://bobcudmore.com/thehistorians/tracks/RobertMay(29)(mp3).mp3) (Dec. 4, 2020); with Rob Mellon, "History Ago Go" (Dec. 1, 2021); with Greg Rasheed, "Root and Roots Show," (https://www.ivoox.com/yuletide-in-dixie-slavery-christmas-and-southern-memory-audios-mp3_rf_62719675_1.html) (Dec. 21, 2021)

Electronic Publications: "Slave Life's Harsh Realities are Erased in Christmas Tours of Southern Plantations," *The Conversation* (Dec. 12, 2019); "Slavery and Your Upcoming Christmas Tour," *History News Network (HNN)*, <https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/173547> (Nov. 10, 2019)

GRANTS, AWARDS, HONORS:

Listed in (Marquis) *Who's Who in America* (2010-2014)
 Fletcher Jones Foundation Fellow, Huntington Library, San Marino, California (2004)
Manifest Destiny's Underworld recognized as a "Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2003"
 Frederick W. Beinecke Fellowship in Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library,
 Yale University (1997-98)
 Willie D. Halsell Prize, Mississippi Historical Society (1989)
 McLemore Prize, Mississippi Historical Society (1986)
 Grant-in-Aid, American Council of Learned Societies (1980)

MISCELLANEOUS:

Lecture Smithsonian Associates, Dec. 6, 2022
 Lecture Seward House Museum, Auburn, NY, Sept. 22, 2022
 Lecture, Levi and Catharine Coffin State Historic Site and Indiana State Museum, Dec. 1, 2021
<https://www.indianamuseum.org/programs/christmas-and-slavery-how-americas-enslaved-viewed-the-holiday/>
 Panelist, "Contested Spaces, Contested Stories: Museums as Sites of Dialogue and Discomfort," Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums
 Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, October 19, 2018
 Lecture "Hoorah: Music of the Civil War," to accompany Centralia College Choir concert, Centralia College, Centralia Washington (Mar.
 15, 2017)
 Member (temporary), Graduate Faculty, University of Alabama, 2016-2019
 Chair, McLemore (Book) Prize Committee, Mississippi Historical Society, 2010-2011
 Inaugural Lecture for 2006, University of Costa Rica, San José, March 14, 2006
 Invited Presenter, Museo Histórico Cultural, Juan Santamaría, Alajuela, Costa Rica, March 2006
 Invited Presenter, EAGLE Lecture Series, Fort Worth [U. S. Department of Education "Teaching American History"
 Grant], Texas Independent School District, January 27, 2006
 Invited Presentations at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum, Crawfordsville, IN (June 26, 2014); James Buchanan
 Bicentennial Conference, Franklin and Marshall College, September 21, 1991; First, Second and Sixth Biennial Historic
 Natchez Conferences (January 20, 1994; February 1, 1996; February 13, 2004), Natchez, Mississippi; Walter Prescott Webb
 Memorial Lectures (Keynote Speaker), University of Texas at Arlington (March 14, 1996); 15th Annual Natchez Literary and
 Cinema Celebration, Natchez, Mississippi (Feb. 26, 2004)
 Program Committee, Organization of American Historians, 2004-2005
 Consultant/"talking head" for several historical films and television specials, 2004, 2008-2010, 2014 (Most recently, *Stephen A.
 Douglas & the Fate of American Democracy* (Graham Peck, writer, producer, and director). WTTW, Chicago, Feb. 14,
 2016
 Member, US History Item Review Team, Core 40 US History Assessment, Indiana Department of Education,
 2003-2004
 Member, English 12 End-of-Course Assessments Team, Indiana Department of Education, 2003
 Member of external review committee evaluating the Texas A&M graduate program in history (2003)
 Merle Curti Award in Intellectual History Committee, Organization of American Historians, 2001-2003
 Papers at National Meetings such as the Southern Historical Association and the Pacific Coast Branch of the American
 Historical Association
 Session Commentator and Chair at meetings of the Organization of American Historians, Southern Historical
 Association, and other professional organizations
 Francis B. Simkins Award Committee, Southern Historical Association, 1996-1997
 Membership Committee, Southern Historical Association, 1981, 1990, 1997-98
 Member, Board of Governors, Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Lafayette, Indiana, 1995-2002
 Historian-in-Residence, Monmouth Plantation, Natchez, Mississippi, June 25, 1988-July 26, 1988
 Executive Committee and Co-chair Program Committee, Indiana Association of Historians, 1989-1990
 External referee in promotion cases at various universities
 Referee concerning manuscripts for many presses and scholarly journals
 Consultant, historical labels project, Prophetstown State Park, Battle Ground, Indiana