

Kevin M. Levin

Boston, MA

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Education

University of Richmond, *Richmond, VA*, MA, History

University of Maryland at College Park, *College Park, MD*, MA, Philosophy

William Paterson College of New Jersey, *Wayne, NJ*, BA, Philosophy and History

Teaching

Scholar-in-Residence, Ford's Theatre, Washington, DC, 2017-present

Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College (faculty for summer institute), 2012-19, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025, 2027

Instructor of History, Gann Academy, *Waltham, MA*, 2013-2020

Visiting Instructor of American Studies, American Antiquarian Society, *Worcester, MA*, 2015

Instructor of History, St. Anne's—Belfield School, *Charlottesville, VA*, 2000-2011

Instructor of Philosophy, Alabama School of Mathematics & Science, *Mobile, AL*, 1998-2000

Areas of Research and Teaching

American Civil War, Civil War Memory, Reconstruction, American slavery, Nineteenth-century United States, Public History

Research

Books

A Glorious Fate: The Life and Legacy of Col. Robert Gould Shaw. (The University of North Carolina Press, 2026).

Searching For Black Confederates: The Civil War's Most Persistent Myth, (The University of North Carolina Press, 2019).

Interpreting the Civil War at Museums and Historic Sites (Rowman and Littlefield Press [Interpreting History Series], 2017).

Remembering the Battle of the Crater: War as Murder, (University Press of Kentucky, 2012).

Journal Articles

Co-authored with Beth Parnicza and Emmanuel Dabney, "Interpreting Race, Slavery, and United States Colored Troops at Civil War Battlefields," *Civil War History* (June 2016): 131-48.

"Teaching Civil War History: From the Classroom to the Battlefield," *Civil War History*, (March 2016): 76-79.

"Black Confederates Out of the Attic and Into the Mainstream," *Journal of the Civil War Era*, (December 2014): 627-35.

Lincoln Movie Roundtable Discussion, *Civil War History* (September 2013): 358-75.

"Using Ken Burns's *The Civil War* in the Classroom," *The History Teacher*, (November 2010): 9-19.

"The Battle of the Crater, National Reunion, and the Creation of the Petersburg National Military Park, 1864-1937," in *Virginia Social Science Journal* 41 (2006): 13-34.

"William Mahone, the Lost Cause, and Civil War History," in *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 113 (2005): 379-412. Winner of the M. E. Rachal Prize for best overall article in 2005.

"'On That Day You Consummated the Full Measure of Your Fame': Confederates Remember the Battle of the Crater, 1864-1903," in *Southern Historian* 25 (2004): 18-39.

"'Our Little Boy Colonel': An Account of the Life of John Bowie Magruder," in *Magazine of Albemarle County History* 60 (2002): 1-46. Winner of the Mary N. Rawlings Prize for best article in 2002.

Book Chapters

"The Black Confederate Myth and Civil War Memory in the Trump Era," in Jennifer Murray and John Kinder, eds., *They Are Dead And Yet They Live: Civil War Memories in a Polarized America* (University of Nebraska Press, 2026): 217-32.

"Violence and Forgetting in the Crater," in Jon Tracey and Chris Mackowski eds, *The Civil War and Pop Culture* (Savas Beatie, 2023): 108-14.

"'They Met Their Fate Without a Sigh': An Analysis of Confederate Military Executions," in Andrew F. Lang and Andrew Bledsoe, eds., *Upon the Fields of Battle: Essays on the Military History of America's Civil War* (Louisiana State University Press, 2018): 205-26.

“The Devil Himself Could Not Have Checked Them’: Fighting with Black Soldiers at the Crater,” in Gary W. Gallagher and Caroline Janney eds., *Cold Harbor to the Crater: The End of the Overland Campaign* (University of North Carolina Press, 2015): 264-82.

“The Best Servant By Far,” in Ted Widmer ed., *Disunion: Modern Scholars and Historians Revisit and Reconsider the Civil War from Fort Sumter to the Emancipation Proclamation* (Black Dog and Leventhal Publishers, 2013), 411-15.

“‘When Johnny Comes Marching Home’: The Demobilization of Lee’s Army,” in William C. Davis and James I. Robertson eds., *Virginia at War: 1865*, (University Press of Kentucky, 2011): 85-101.

“Is There Not Glory Enough To Give Us All a Share?’: An Analysis of Competing Memories of the Battle of the Crater,” in Aaron Sheehan-Dean ed., *The View From the Ground: Experiences of Civil War Soldiers*, (University Press of Kentucky, 2007), 227-248.

Other Academic Publications

“The Civil War at 150: Memory and Meaning,” co-edited with Megan Kate Nelson, *Common-Place* [(Winter 2014) [<https://commonplace.online/topic/civil-war-at-150/>]].

Magazine Articles

John Bird Foster’s Civil War and His Unlikely Pen-Pal,” forthcoming in the *Civil War Monitor* (2027).

“They Say That ‘Uncle Abe’ Is On the Verge of Lunacy: Robert Gould Shaw Confronts the War in 1862,” forthcoming in the *Civil War Monitor* (Fall 2026).

“Removing Confederate Monuments Does Not Erase History,” *The Civil War Monitor* (Winter 2020): 26-28.

“History in the Digital Age,” *The Civil War Monitor* (Spring 2020): 30-31, 73.

“Teaching Confederate Monuments as Primary Sources,” *Georgia History Today* (Spring/Summer 2019): 3-6.

“To Savannah and the Sea,” and “Crossing at Ebenezer Creek,” *Cobblestone*, (January 2018): 20-33/26-27.

“Confederate Like Me,” *The Civil War Monitor* (Spring 2013): 60-67.

“Teaching Civil War Mobilization With Film,” *Magazine of History* (April 2012): 33-36.

Co-authored with Myra Chandler Sampson, “The Loyalty of Silas Chandler,” *Civil War Times* (February. 2012): 30-34.

“‘Until Every Negro Has Been Slaughtered’: Did Southerners See the Battle of the Crater as a Slave Rebellion?” *Civil War Times* (October 2010): 32-37.

“Has the Lost Cause Lost?,” *Wilson Quarterly* (Summer 2010): 7, 10.

Editorial on Confederate History Month in *Civil War Times* (June 2010): 44.

“Executing Justice,” *Civil War Times* (April 2010): 46-51.

“‘The Earth Seemed to Tremble’: Confederate Reactions to the Battle of the Crater,” *America’s Civil War* (May 2006): 22-28.

“Using North and South Magazine in the Classroom,” *OA H Magazine of History* (May 2005): 54-57.

Book Reviews

Over 100 reviews in: *American Nineteenth-Century History*, *Civil War Book Review*, *Civil War History*, *Civil War Monitor*, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *Florida Historical Quarterly*, *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, *H-Net*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Journal of the Civil War Era*, *Louisiana History*, *North and South Magazine*, *North Carolina Historical Review*, *Northwest Ohio Quarterly*, *Ohio Valley History*, *Pennsylvania History*, *Reviews in American History*, *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, *Southern Historian*, *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, *Washington Times*.

Invited Talks and Presentations

“Uncle Abe” on the Verge of Lunacy: Robert Gould Shaw Confronts the Challenge of Emancipation, Lincoln Forum, Gettysburg, PA, (November, 2026).

“A Glorious Fate: The Life and Legacy of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw,” Sam Houston State University Fall Consortium, (October, 2026).

“How Colonel Robert Gould Shaw Became a Martyr for Abolition,” William Crozer Lecture at the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia, (September, 2026).

“The Cornerstone of Robert E. Lee’s Army: Confederate Slaves at Gettysburg,” Seldom Heard History of the Civil War Era Conference, Monterrey, CA, (May, 2026).

“Robert Gould Shaw and *Glory*,” La Guardia Community College, New York City, NY (May 2026).

“History and Memory in Post-Civil War Boston,” Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill, MA (September 2025).

“It Was Cruel To Murder Them In Cold Blood”: Racial Violence at the Crater, Seldom Heard History of the Civil War Era Conference, Monterrey, CA, (May, 2025).

“Before Glory: Robert Gould Shaw and the Second Massachusetts,” (2025) Monterrey, CA (2023) Gettysburg College, Atlanta Civil War Round Table.

“Searching for Black Confederates”: (2024) Volunteer State Community College, (2023) Binghamton University, (2021) Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, University of Pennsylvania, Catawba County (NC) Truth & Reconciliation Committee, Norwich University (2020) Filson Historical Society,

University of Maryland at College Park, National Civil War Center, Troy University, Flagler College, Louisiana Tech University (2019) Atlanta History Center, Massachusetts Historical Society, National Archives in Washington, D.C., University of Maryland at Baltimore County, Hood College, Virginia Museum of History & Culture, North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

“Confederate Monuments and Race in America,” (2023) Springfield Museums (2022) America 250 Commission (2021) Montgomery County (MD) Historical Society, Gallaudet University, Newburyport (MA) Public Library

“The Last Confederate Monuments: The Myths and Lies We Tell About Loyal Slaves and Black Confederates,” Auburn University, June 4, 2019.

“Confederate Monuments in History and Memory,” Georgia Historical Society, June 21, 2017.

“Reconstructing the Myth of the Black Confederate Soldier,” Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, June 22, 2016.

“Remembering Reconstruction,” Lynn Historical Museum, May, 19, 2016.

“Unfurling the History and Memory of the Confederate Battle Flag,” Springfield College, March 30, 2016.

Searching For Black Confederate Soldiers in History and Memory,” The National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg, PA, September 26, 2015.

“When a Confederate General Brought Reconstruction to Virginia,” Facing History & Ourselves, Boston, MA, September 22, 2015.

“The Flags are Down. Now What? Grappling with Monuments and Iconography,” Participant in Roundtable Discussion, Annual Meeting of American Association of State and Local History, Louisville, KY, September 18, 2015.

“The Battle of the Crater in Memory,” Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA, June 2014.

“Race, Labor, and Mobilization: Teaching the Civil War Through Film,” Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Milwaukee, WI, April 2012.

“Searching for Black Confederates in History and Memory: The Case of Silas Chandler”, Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Richmond, Virginia, October 2011.

“‘When You’re Black, the Great Battlefield Holds Mixed Messages’: Discussing Race at the Petersburg National Battlefield” Conference on the Civil War Sesquicentennial and Public History at North Carolina State University, March 26, 2011.

“Reflections on the Civil War Sesquicentennial in Virginia” sponsored by the Brunswick County Committee of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, forum with Waite Rawls III and Christie Coleman, October 26, 2010.

“Mahone’s Brigade and the Defense of Petersburg”, The Civil War and American Society Seminar sponsored by Shepherd University and Pamplin Park, June 2010.

“Teaching Ken Burns in the Classroom”, Society for Civil War Historians Biennial Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 2008.

“The Relevance of Lee Today,” University of Virginia Continuing Studies Program sponsored conference on “Lee at 200” October 31, 2007.

“The Battle of the Crater, William Mahone, and Civil War Memory,” Conference on Civil War Memory, Shepherd University, June 2007.

“Landscapes and the Lost Cause: An Analysis of the 1903 and 1937 Crater Reenactments,” The Virginia Forum, Winchester, Virginia, March 2006, Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Philadelphia Pennsylvania, January 2006.

“I Understand Our Men Just Chopped Them To Pieces”: Confederates Remember U. S. Colored Troops at the Crater,” Conference on African Americans in the Civil War, Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia, May 2005.

History Education Presentations

“Civil War Memory and America 250,” Ford’s Theatre, Washington, D.C., July 22, 2026.

“Civil War Memory: Four Interpretive Traditions,” Ford’s Theatre, Washington, D.C., July 24, 2023, 2024, 2025.

“Confederate Monuments and Race in America,” Rochambeau, the French International School, Bethesda, Maryland, January 20, 2021.

“Boston’s Civil War and Reconstruction Memory,” Massachusetts Historical Society, August 8, 2019.

“Civil War Monuments and the Legacy of Reconstruction,” Ford’s Theatre, Washington, D.C., July 26, 2019.

The Myth of the Black Confederate and Social Media,” History Department, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, October 2, 2018.

“Understanding Confederate Monuments in the Wake of Charlottesville,” Jefferson Heritage Center, Charlottesville, VA, September 21-22, 2018.

“The Contested Landscape of Confederate Monuments,” Ford’s Theatre, Washington, D.C., July 27, 2018.

“The Contested Landscape of Confederate Monuments,” John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston, MA, July 11, 2018.

“Understanding Confederate Monuments in the Wake of Charlottesville,” Jefferson Heritage Center, Charlottesville, VA, June 11, 2018.

“Frederick Douglass and the Fight for Civil War Memory,” Teacher Workshop, Lynn, MA, June 2, 2018.

“Teaching Reconstruction and Historical Memory,” w/Ford’s Theatre Staff at National Council for History Education, San Antonio, TX, April 21, 2018.

Monuments & Historical Memory,” Teacher Workshop, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA, March 17, 2018.

“Contested Monuments and Contested Civil Spaces in the United States, 1865 to the 21st Century,” Webinar, National Humanities Center, w/Prof. W. Fitzhugh Brundage, February, 28, 2018.

“Understanding Confederate Monuments in the Wake of Charlottesville,” New Trier High Public School, Chicago, Ill, February 1, 2018.

“Monuments & Historical Memory,” Teacher Workshop, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA, December 5, 2017.

“Understanding Confederate Monuments in the Wake of Charlottesville,” Ford’s Theatre, Washington, D.C., July 28, 2017.

“Who Won the Civil War? Who Won the Peace?” Ford’s Theatre, Washington, D.C., July 29, 2016.

“Unfurling the History and Memory of the Confederate Battle Flag,” Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, June 22, 2016.

“Teaching Reconstruction,” Workshop for Lynn Area High School Teachers, May 26, 2016.

“Why Visit Civil War Battlefields?,” Wellesley Middle School, April 6, 2016.

“Appomattox in History and Memory,” Civil War Institute, Gettysburg College, June 21, 2015.

“Remembering and Commemorating Civil War Soldiers,” Framingham History Center, Framingham, MA, July 12, 2013.

“The Other Gettysburg Address: An Introduction to Civil War Memory,” Civil War Institute, Gettysburg College, June 2013.

“Teaching Glory in the Classroom” and “Black Confederates and Digital Media Literacy in the Classroom,” The Richard Bartol, Jr. Educator’s Conference at Gettysburg, National Park Service, July 16, 2012.

“Teaching Civil War Monuments” Civil War Trust Annual Teachers Conference, Charleston, S.C., July 13, 2012.

“Teaching Civil War Film: Where History and Hollywood Intersect” Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Milwaukee, WI, April 2012.

“From Civil War to Civil Rights” w/Professor Aaron Sheehan-Dean, West Virginia University [Teaching American History Grant Workshop for teachers from Virginia Beach], January 2012.

“How to Teach the Tough Stuff: The Civil War, Reconstruction, and Historical Memory”, Virginia Beach, Virginia, March 2011.

“From Civil War to Civil Rights” w/Professor Fitzhugh Brundage, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill [Teaching American History Grant Workshop for teachers from Virginia Beach], January 2011.

Roundtable Discussion on teaching Civil War history and Social Media, Civil War Preservation Trust Annual Teachers Institute, July 2010.

“Civil War Memory in the Classroom” w/ Professor Robert Kenzer, University of Richmond [Teaching American History Grant Workshop for teachers from Charlotte County, Danville City, Halifax County, and Pittsylvania County Public Schools], February 20, 2009.

“Key Turning Points in the Civil War and Reconstruction” w/ Professor Thavolia Glymph, Duke University, Virginia Beach, Virginia [Teaching American History Grant Workshop], February 26, 2009.

Chair/comment

“Interpreting Issues of Civil War Memory For the Classroom,” Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA, March 15, 2013.

Roundtables

Doing History in Public, Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA (June 2025).

Monuments and Memory, National Council for History Education, San Antonio, TX, April 19, 2018.

Civil War Institute, “Interpreting Issues of Civil War Memory For the Classroom,” Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA, March 15, 2013.

Civil War Sesquicentennial Working Group sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History at the Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Milwaukee, WI, April 2012.

“Soldiers, Citizens, and Sources: The Uses of Civil War Soldiers in Writing U.S. History,” Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2007.

Tours

George and Anne Richards Civil War Center at Penn State University: Civil War Atlanta (May 28-30, 2025).

Washington Latin Public School: Harpers Ferry (May 15, 2025).

Ford's Theatre: Harpers Ferry (May 10, 2025).

Providence Clemente Veterans' Initiative: Harpers Ferry, Antietam, Gettysburg (June 21-24, 2025).

George and Anne Richards Civil War Center at Penn State University: Civil War Boston (May 28-30, 2024).

Awards and Honors

Elected to Society of Fellows, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2021.

Eugene Feit Award for Excellence in Civil War Scholarship, New York Military Affairs Symposium, 2019.

Golden Apple Teaching Award, Better Living Inc., 2008

Cliopatria Award for Best Individual Blog, 2007

M. E. Rachal Award, Virginia Historical Society, 2005

Russell Weigley Award, Society for Military History, 2005

Award for best paper presented at regional meeting, Phi Alpha Theta, Virginia Regional Meeting, 2004

Award for best paper presented at annual meeting, Virginia Social Science Association, 2004

Mary N. Rawlings Prize, Albemarle County Historical Society, 2002

Professional Activities

Awards Committee

E. James Morton Award for Excellence in Civil War Cartography, Civil War Institute, 2026.

John L. Nau III Book Prize in American Civil War Era History, John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia, 2025.

Awards Committee, Peter J. Gomes Memorial Book Award, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2023.

Awards Committee, James P. Hanlan Book Award, New England Historical Association, 2021.

Peter Seaborg Award for Civil War Scholarship, Shepherd University, 2008.

Advisory

Advisory Council, Ford's Theatre, Washington, D.C., 2023.

Board of Directors, National Council for History Education, 2017-2023.

Advisory Board, Nau Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia, 2022.

Chaired Committee For the Award for Excellence in Public History, Blue and Gray Education Society and Society For Civil War Historians, 2014.

Advisory Board, Schlager Group-Milestone Documents Series, 2012

Advisory Council, Virginia Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, 2007-11.

Board of Directors: Virginia Social Science Association, 2004-2007, Secretary, 2005-06.

Museum Advisory

Atlanta History Center, Exhibit development at Margaret Mitchell House, 2021.

American Civil War Museum, Curriculum development, 2021.

Monticello: The Home of Thomas Jefferson, "The Liberty Gallery", 2006-07.

Consultant

PBS/Finding Your Roots, 2019, 2022.

Valley Sim Project, Flip Learning, 2011-13.

Commentary for documentary on Black Confederates produced and directed by Ken Wyatt, 2010.

Editorial

Editorial Advisory Board, *Civil War History*, 2018-2019.

Editorial Advisory Board: *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 2008-10.

Digital History Advisor for *The Civil War Monitor* magazine, 2011.

Manuscript Reviewer: Johns Hopkins University Press, University of North Carolina Press, Civil War History, Virginia Social Science Journal, Magazine of Albemarle County History, Louisiana History, Louisiana State University Press, University Press of Kentucky, Virginia Magazine of History and Biography.