

James L. Hill

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., History (2016)

The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA

M.A., History (2010)

University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL

B.A., History and Spanish (2008)

University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Assistant Professor of History, 2024-present

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2019-2024

Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

Lecturer, 2017-2019

University of The Bahamas, Nassau, The Bahamas

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2016-2017

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Creek Internationalism in an Age of Revolution, 1763-1818. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2022.

Reviewed by *The American Historical Review*, *Ethnohistory*, *H-Net*, *The Journal of American History*, *The Journal of the Early Republic*, *The Journal of Southern History*, *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, and *Tribal College Journal*.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“‘We want to govern our Selves’: The Legal Effort to Protect Mashpee Wampanoag Land and Autonomy, 1700-1788,” *Ethnohistory* (accepted, tentative publication date July 2027)

“‘The Land we live in is our own’: Indigenous Conceptions of Space in Eighteenth-Century Florida,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 100, no. 1 (2021): 76-106.

“‘Bring Them What they Lack’: Spanish-Creek Exchange and Alliance-Making in a Maritime Borderland, 1763-1784,” *Early American Studies* 12, no. 1 (2014): 36-67.

“New Systems, Established Traditions: Governor James Grant’s Indian Policy, 1760-1771,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 93, no. 2 (2014): 133-166.

Book Reviews

Stealing America: The Hidden Story of Indigenous Slavery in U.S. History, by Linford Fisher, *Journal of Early Modern History* (published online ahead of print, 2026), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/15700658-12342800>

Aggression and Sufferings: Settler Violence, Native Resistance, and the Coalescence of the Old South, by F. Evan Nooe, *American Historical Review* 130, no. 1 (2025): 525-526.

East Florida in the Revolutionary Era: 1763-1785, by George Kotlik, *Journal of the Early Republic* 43, no. 4 (2023): 671-674.

The Indian World of George Washington: The First President, the First Americans, and the Birth of the Nation, by Colin G. Calloway, *Ethnohistory* 68, no. 4 (2021): 551-552

Borderland Narratives: Negotiation and Accommodation in North America’s Contested Spaces, 1500-1800, eds. Andrew K. Frank and A. Glenn Crothers, *The Journal of Southern History* 85, no. 1 (2019): 139-141.

Property and Dispossession: Natives, Empires, and Land in Early Modern North America, by Allan Greer, *Hispanic American Historical Review* 99, no. 2 (2019): 351-352.

Indian Captive, Indian King: Peter Williamson in America and Britain, by Timothy J. Shannon, *H-AmIndian, H-Net Reviews in the Humanities & Social Sciences* (2018). <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=52037>.

Aiming for Pensacola: Fugitive Slaves on the Atlantic and Southern Frontiers, by Matthew J. Clavin, *Labor* (2017): 95-97.

An Aqueous Territory: Sailor Geographies and New Granada’s Transimperial Greater Caribbean World, by Ernesto Bassi, *The Junto* (2017). <https://earlyamericanists.com/2017/06/27/guest-post-review-of-an-aqueous-territory/>.

Endgame for Empire: British-Creek Relations in Georgia and Vicinity, 1763-1776, by John T. Juricek, *The William & Mary Quarterly* 74, no. 1 (2017): 157-162.

Adventurism and Empire: The Struggle for Mastery in the Louisiana-Florida Borderlands, by David Narrett, *Journal of the Early Republic* 36, no. 3 (2016): 564-566.

Other Publications

“The Indian Frontier in British East Florida: Letters to Governor James Grant from Soldiers and Indian Traders at Fort St. Marks of Apalache, 1763-1784,” transcribed documents, Florida History Online, <http://www.floridahistoryonline.com> (2010).

“Synopsis of Official Spanish Correspondence Pertaining to Relations with the Yuchis Indians, 1771-1783,” transcribed and translated documents, *Florida History Online*, <http://www.floridahistoryonline.com> (2008).

Works in Progress

Native Peoples, Guardianships, and Trusteeships in Early America, 1700-1850 (book manuscript in progress)

This manuscript examines Native societies that were placed under guardianship and trusteeship systems by Anglo-American colonies during the eighteenth centuries and how those systems carried over beyond American independence, into the nineteenth centuries. The project will explore the opportunities and constraints imposed by these systems, as well as the ways in which Native societies, such as the Mashpee Wampanoag and the Nottoway-Meherrin, utilized legal and political activism to preserve land rights and regain political autonomy within the frameworks imposed upon them by colonialism.

The Women Proprietors of Mashpee: Gender, Property and Native Land Rights in Antebellum New England (article manuscript in progress, plan to submit to the *Journal of the Early Republic* in Spring 2028)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Mellon Career Enhancement Fellowship, Mellon Foundation (application submitted, 2026)

Lapidus Fellowship for the Study of Rare Early American Legal Texts, Wolf Law Library, The College of William & Mary (2026)

Short-term Fellow, Massachusetts Historical Society (2023-24)

Arthur W. Thompson Award, Outstanding Article Published in the Florida Historical Quarterly, Florida Historical Society (2021-22)

George Washington Fellow of the General Society of Colonial Wars (2015-16)

Provost's Dissertation Fellowship, The College of William & Mary (2015-16)

Barra Dissertation Fellow, McNeil Center for Early American Studies (2014-15)

Charles H. Watts Memorial Fellow, John Carter Brown Library (2014-15)

Short-term Fellow, Huntington Library (2014-15)

Short-term Fellow, Newberry Library (2014-15, declined)

Fellow, David Library of the American Revolution (2013-14).

John E. Selby Teaching Award, The College of William & Mary (2013)

Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez grant to conduct research in Seville, Spain (2007)

INVITED TALKS

Commenter, Works in Progress: Early America, Organization of American Historians Annual Conference, Philadelphia (April 17, 2026)

“The Long Warrior and Cowkeeper,” Bartram Trail Conference, St. Augustine, Florida (August 2, 2025).

Invited Speaker, Massachusetts Historical Society Honorary Fellows Meeting (September 12, 2024).

Keynote Speaker, World History Center Teachers’ Workshop, “New Approaches to Frontier History” (June 11, 2022).

Invited Speaker, University Library Services Workshop on Primary Sources in Teaching and Learning (February 11, 2022).

“‘Bring Them What they Lack’: Spanish-Creek Exchange and Alliance-Making in a Maritime Borderland, 1763-1784,” Center for the Study of the Gulf South, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi (February 19, 2019).

“A Voyage ‘Ill Advised’: Creek and Cherokee Experiences in Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Upper Canada, 1790-1794,” Wilson Institute for Canadian History, Hamilton, Ontario (March 15, 2018).

“‘Creeks’ and Cherokees’ Failed Attempts to Reconnect with the British Atlantic, 1790-94,” McNeil Center for Early American Studies Seminar, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (January 29, 2016).

“An Imagined Empire: U.S. Cartography and the Trans-Appalachian West in the Early Republic,” John Carter Brown Library (July 8, 2015).

CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

Panel title TBD, Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Seattle, Washington (January 2028)

Panel title TBD, Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory

“The Political Economy of Early American Welfare: Guardianship, Forced Indentures, and Poor Relief in Antebellum New England,” Labor and Working-Class History Association Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts (June 24-26, 2027)

“Native Networks, Knowledge and Empire in the Late 18th Century,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, Oaxaca, Mexico (October 11-13, 2018).

“‘Playing Indian’ and the Performance of Identity in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century North America,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, New Orleans, Louisiana (September 11-15, 2013).

“Indigenous Communication Strategies in Early America,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, Springfield, Missouri (November 7-10, 2012).

“Crossing Boundaries, Creating Communities: Creek and Seminole Indians in the Florida Borderlands,” Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society, Pensacola, Florida (May 21-23, 2009).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Land and Labor: Guardianship and Proprietorship among the Mashpee Wampanoag, 1730-1834,” Annual Meeting of the Labor and Working-Class History Association, Boston (June 24-26, 2027)

“‘Artful Females’: Mashpee Wampanoag Women and the Revolutionary Potential of Female Proprietorship, 1746-1834,” Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture Annual Conference, Nashville, Tennessee (June 11-13, 2026)

“An ‘Ardent Sense of Freedom’: The Legal Efforts of the Mashpee Wampanoag against Guardianship, 1788-1834,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of the Early American Republic, Providence, Rhode Island (July 17-20, 2025).

“‘Sovereigns of this Nation’: The Use of Euroamerican Legal Discourse in the Native (American) South, 1790-1830,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Legal History, San Francisco, California (October 24-26, 2024).

“‘The Land we live in is our own’: Indigenous Conceptions of Space in Eighteenth-Century Florida,” Annual Meeting and Symposium of the Florida Historical Society (virtual, 2021).

“Andrew Ellicott’s Survey and the Limits of American Empire, 1796-1802,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, Oaxaca, Mexico (October 11-13, 2018).

“Every door is shut against them”: Creek Diplomacy and the Creek “Nation” during the Era of the Creek and Seminole Wars, 1803-1818,” Annual Meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (July 20-23, 2017).

“‘Las continuas Tropas de hombres, mugeres, y niños que baxavan’: Creek Families and Diplomatic Networks in Havana and the Florida Gulf Coast, 1763-1805,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, Las Vegas, Nevada (November 4-8, 2015).

“‘They can neither help themselves nor us’: The Bahamas as a Place of Refuge in the Creek and Seminole Wars, 1812-1820,” Annual Meeting of the Association of Caribbean Historians, Nassau, Bahamas (May 17-22, 2015).

“‘The Lying Captain’: William Augustus Bowles and the Diplomatic Utility of an Indian Poser,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, New Orleans, Louisiana (September 11-15, 2013).

“Father, think no more about the Spaniards’: Creek Anti-Colonial Strategies After the Seven Years’ War, 1763-1781,” Annual Meeting of the North American and Indigenous Studies Association, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (June 13-15, 2013).

“My Warriors are Victorious over the Americans in Every Quarter’: The Spanish-Creek Alliance and its Efforts to Combat the New Republic, 1784-1789,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory, Springfield, Missouri (November 7-10, 2012).

“Cowetas and Cubans: A Creek Town’s Diplomatic Ties to the Spanish, 1763-1783,” Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society, Pensacola, Florida (May 21-23, 2009).

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2019-present

HIST 0600, U.S. History to 1877

Undergraduate; taught Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2025, Spring 2026

HIST 0760, Introduction to Public History

Undergraduate; taught Fall 2021

HIST 1001, Introductory Research and Writing Seminar for History Majors

Undergraduate; taught Spring 2020, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2026

HIST 1541, History of the Early Caribbean to Emancipation

Undergraduate; taught Spring 2020, Spring 2021

HIST 1683, Native American History

Undergraduate; taught Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2026

HIST 2023, Historical Methods and Approaches

Graduate; taught Spring 2026

Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi, 2017-2019

GR 4123, Geography of Latin America

Undergraduate; taught Fall 2018

HI 1063, U.S. History to 1877

Undergraduate; taught Fall 2017, Fall 2018

HI 1073, U.S. History since 1877

Undergraduate; taught Fall 2018, Spring 2019

HI 1173, World History after 1500

Undergraduate; taught Spring 2019

HI 3813, Modern Latin America

Undergraduate; taught Fall 2017, Spring 2019

HI 4143, Revolutionary America
Undergraduate; taught Spring 2018

HI 4333, Native American History to 1830
Undergraduate; taught Spring 2018

University of The Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas, 2016-2017

HIS 112, Bahamian History to 1838
Undergraduate; taught Fall 2016, Summer 2017

HIS 160, U.S. History to 1877
Undergraduate; taught Spring 2017

HIS 301, Atlantic World History, 1400-1600
Undergraduate; taught Fall 2016

HIS 371, Themes and Topics in Caribbean History
Undergraduate; taught Fall 2016, Spring 2017

HIS 400, Comparative Race Relations
Undergraduate; taught Spring 2017

The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2012-2016

AMH 121, U.S. History to 1877
Undergraduate; taught Fall 2012

HIS 216, American History from Jamestown through the American Revolution
Undergraduate; taught Summer 2013

HIS 218, American History from the Revolution through the Civil War
Undergraduate; taught Summer 2016

SUPERVISED GRADUATE STUDENTS

MA/PhD Co-Advisor (with Alaina Roberts)
Connor Diaz (2026-present)

SUPERVISED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor
Thomas Ross (2025)

Undergraduate Thesis Committee Member
Jamie McGrail (2025)

Faculty Advisor for Digital Atlas Internships
Aquinnah Silverman (2024)
Max Miller (2023)
Julia Koehl (2022)

Faith Ruck (2022)
Wise Allen (2021)
Alexandra Leidy (2021)
Philippa Zang (2021)

Faculty Advisor for History Internships

Brendan Kane, University of Pittsburgh Library Systems Archives and Special Collections (2025)
Connor Russell, University of Pittsburgh Library Systems Archives and Special Collections (2024)
Olivia Embert, Filitalia History of Immigration Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2023)
James Tichenor, University of Pittsburgh Library Systems Archives and Special Collections (2023)
Elizabeth Staab, Soldiers and Sailors Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2022)

PUBLIC HISTORY

Interview with Alexis Papalia, featured in “Rivers of fortune: Pittsburgh’s waterways fueled economy before and after Revolutionary War,” *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, June 27, 2026, [rivers-of-fortune-pittsburghs-waterways-fueled-economy-before-and-after-revolutionary-war](#)

Interview with Bill O’Driscoll, featured in “As America turns 250, a portrait of Pittsburgh at the nation’s founding,” WESA, July 2, 2026, [america-250-pittsburgh-founding](#)

Interview with Anya Sostek, featured in “What was happening in Pittsburgh in 1776?” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, July 2, 2026, <https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2026/07/02/pittsburgh-in-1776/stories/202607020029>

Featured guest on “Native American Legal Activism in the Early Republic,” episode 7 of *Historians & Their Histories*, Massachusetts Historical Society, April 7, 2025, <https://www.masshist.org/podcast/hath-episode-7-hill>.

Appeared in *Out of the Woods: Battlefields of Western Pennsylvania*, broadcast on WQED on January 14, 2021.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Review of article submission for *Early American Studies* (2026)

Review of article submission for the *Journal of Southern History* (2025)

Review of article submission for the *Huntington Library Quarterly* (2025)

Book Proposal Review for University of Nebraska Press (2024).

Advisory Committee, John Hoge Collection Digitization Project, Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, Pennsylvania (awarded NEH Public Good Sustaining Grant, 2023-24).

Book manuscript Review for University of Nebraska Press (2023).

Review of article submission for *Terra Incognitae* (2020).

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Faculty Advisory Committee (August 2025-August 2026)

Workload Policy Development Committee (August 2025-August 2026)

Steward, Union of Pitt Faculty (August 2024-present)

Undergraduate Committee (August 2020-August 2026)

Undergraduate Academic Advisor (August 2020-May 2026)

Chair, Senior Thesis Award Selection Committee (2022-2024)

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee (January 2022-August 2023)

Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference Planning Committee (2021)

SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY-LEVEL SERVICE

Member, Native American Studies Working Group (November 2025-present)

Member, Election Committee, Union of Pitt Faculty (April-May 2025)

Member and Archivist, Bargaining Committee, Union of Pitt Faculty (January 2022-May 2024)

Member, Council of Representatives, Union of Pitt Faculty (January 2022-May 2024)

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

English

French

Muskogee (limited)

Spanish