

## **BILLY G. SMITH**

Professor of History, Michael P. Malone Professor of History,  
& Distinguished Professor of Letters and Science  
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### **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D., History, University of California, Los Angeles (1981)
- M.A. (1973) and B.A. (1971), History, University of California, Los Angeles

### **AWARDS & Honors**

- Elected member of the Council of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg (2014-2017)
- Norris and Carol Hundley Award for the most distinguished book on any historical topic by a historian living in the West, Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, 2015 (for *Ship of Death: A Voyage that Changed the Atlantic World*)
- A conference organized to honor my scholarship: “On the Anvil of Labor History in the Revolutionary Era: Billy G. Smith and Fellow Artisans,” held at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Univ. of Pennsylvania, November 7-9, 2013.
- Major University Awards for Outstanding Teaching and Research at MSU:
  - Cox Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research at MSU, 1994
  - James and Mary Ross Provost’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 2000
  - Wiley Award for Outstanding Research at MSU, 1991
  - Mortar Board Professor
- Elected Member of the American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, Mass.), 2006-present
- Acclaimed at the Early American Salon in Philadelphia as one of the two best stand-up comedians among Early American Historians (damning with faint praise)
- Recognition for *Colonization and Settlement, 1685-1763: The Encyclopedia* was selected “Outstanding Reference Source, 2004” by RUSA/ALA; “Editors’ Choice Reference Source, 2003” by BOOKLIST/RBB; “Best Reference Source, 2003” by *Library Journal*; “Outstanding Academic Title, 2003” by *Choice*.

### **GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS**

- Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library Company of Philadelphia, Winter/Spring, 2010
- Grant from INBRE (National Institute of Health Program), 2009-10 and 2010-11
- Grant from the Hewlett Foundation to “reinvent” the MSU CORE (\$150,000) in 1998-2000, and renewal (\$150,000) in 2000-02 (a member of a five-person committee)
- Research-Creativity Grants, College of Letters & Science, Montana State University, 11 annual grants from 1982 to 1997
- BEST Grant, MSU, 2012
- Scholarship and Creativity Grant, MSU, 12 annual grants from 1999 through 2011

- Research Grants from the American Philosophical Society, Fall, 1982 and Summer, 1993
- American Antiquarian Society and National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 1991-92
- Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, 1982-83
- Summer Stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities, 1982 and 1988
- Fellowship from the Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Fall, 1982 and Fall, 1984
- Montana Committee for the Humanities Grants, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001

## **PUBLICATIONS (All are refereed)**

### **Books**

- *Ship of Death: The Voyage that Changed the Atlantic World* (Yale University Press, 2013).
- *Class Matters: Early North America and the Atlantic World* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008). With Simon Middleton. Paperback 2010.
- *Down and Out In Early America* (University Park, Pa.: Penn State Press, 2004). Hardback and paperback.
- *Encyclopedia of American History: Colonization and Settlement, 1685-1763* (New York: Facts on File, 2003), Volume 2 of Gary B. Nash, series editor, *Encyclopedia of American History*. Revised edition, 2009.
- *"A Melancholy Scene of Devastation": The Public Response to the 1793 Philadelphia Yellow Fever Epidemic* (Philadelphia: Science History Publications, 1997). With J. Worth Estes. Paperback 2013.
- *Life in Early Philadelphia: Documents from the Revolutionary and Early National Periods* (University Park, Pa.: Penn State Press, 1995). Hardback and paperback.
- *The Infortunate: The Voyage and Adventures of William Moraley, An Indentured Servant* (University Park, Pa.: Penn State Press, 1992). With Susan E. Klepp. Hardback & paperback. Revised second edition, July, 2005.
- *The "Lower Sort:" Philadelphia's Laboring People, 1750-1800* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1990). Hardback and paperback (1993).
- *Blacks Who Stole Themselves* (Philadelphia: Univ of Pennsylvania Press, 1989). With Richard Wojtowicz.

### **Journal Editor of Specific Editions**

- Co-editor of "Class and Early America," an issue of the *William and Mary Quarterly*, Spring, 2006. With Simon Middleton. We edited the essays and wrote an Introduction for this issue.
- Co-editor of an edition of *Early American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* (published by the University of Pennsylvania Press): "Deference in Early North America." This issue appeared in print in the Fall of 2005, containing eight essays. We wrote the Introduction and edited the essays. With Simon Middleton.

- Co-editor of an edition of *Labor: Studies in Working Class History of the Americas* (published by Duke University press, Fall 2004): "Class Analysis in Early America and the Atlantic World: Foundations and Future." We wrote the Introduction and edited the essays. With Simon Middleton.

### **Chapters in Books**

- "Benjamin Franklin: Civic Improver," in Page Talbott, ed., *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2005), 91-124.
- "Resisting Inequality: Black Women Who Stole Themselves in Eighteenth-Century America" in Carla Gardina Pestana and Sharon V. Salinger., eds., *Inequality in Early America* (Hanover, N.H: University Press of New England, 1999), 134-159.
- "Runaway Slaves in the Mid-Atlantic Region during the Revolutionary Era," in Ronald Hoffman and Peter J. Albert, eds., *'The Transforming Hand of Revolution': Reconsidering the American Revolution as a Social Movement* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1996), 199-230.
- "Black Family Life in Philadelphia from Slavery to Freedom, 1750-1800," in Catherine E. Hutchins, ed., *Shaping a National Culture: The Philadelphia Experience, 1750-1800* (Winterthur, Del.: Winterthur Museum, 1994), 77-98.
- "Poverty in Early America," in *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies*, Jacob Ernest Cooke et al., eds., 3 vols. (N.Y.: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1993), 1:483-494.
- "The Vicissitudes of Fortune: The Careers of Laboring Men in Philadelphia, 1750-1800," in Stephen Innis, ed., *Work and Labor in Early America* (Institute of Early American History: University of North Carolina Press, 1988), 221-251. Hardback and paperback editions.

### **Articles**

- "A Flâneur in Philadelphia: Class, Gender, Race & All that Jazz, *Early American Studies*, forthcoming 2015.
- "Philadelphia and Its Peoples in Maps: 1790s," *The Encyclopedia of Early Philadelphia*, <http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/philadelphia-and-its-people-in-maps-the-1790s/>. With Paul Sivitz.
- "It's the Economy **and** Class, Stupid," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (January, 2010).
- "William Moraley," *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, 2005. With Susan Klepp.
- "Walking Moraley's Streets: Philadelphia," *COMMON-PLACE*, 3:4 (July, 2003), <http://www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/philadelphia> (American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts)
- "Poverty and Economic Marginality in Eighteenth-Century America," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, 32, No. 1 (1988), 85-118.
- "The Family Lives of Laboring Philadelphians, 1750-1800," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, 133, No. 2 (June, 1989), 328-332.
- "Comment" on Standards of Living in British America, *William and Mary Quarterly*, XLV, 3d Series (January, 1988), 163-66.
- "Inequality in Late Colonial Philadelphia: A Note on Its Nature and Growth," *William*

*and Mary Quarterly*, XLI, 3d Series (October, 1984), 629-645.

- "Laboring Americans and the American Revolution," *Labor History*, Volume 24, No. 3 (Summer, 1983), 414-439. With Gary B. Nash and Dirk Hoerder.
- "The Material Lives of Laboring Philadelphians, 1750-1800," *William and Mary Quarterly*, XXXVIII, 3d Series (April, 1981), 163-202. Reprinted in Robert St. George, ed., *Material Life in America, 1600-1860* (Northeastern University Press: Boston, 1988), 233-260; and in Peter Charles Hoffer, ed., *The Pace of Change: Politics and Society in Pre-Revolutionary America* (Garland Publishing Inc.: N.Y., 1990).

#### **Edited Publications**

- "Wrestling the 'Pale Faced Messenger': The Diary of Edward Garrigues During the 1798 Philadelphia Yellow Fever Epidemic," *Pennsylvania History*, 65 (1998): 243-68. With Anita DeClue.
- "The Precarious Freedom of Blacks: Excerpts from the *Pennsylvania Gazette* 1728-1776," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, CXIII, No. 2 (April, 1989), 237-264. With Richard Wojtowicz.
- "Advertisements in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* for Runaway Slaves, Servants, and Apprentices, 1795-1796," *Pennsylvania History*, 54 (January, 1987), 34-71. With Richard Wojtowicz.
- "The Prisoners for Trial Docket for Philadelphia County, 1795," *Pennsylvania History*, 53 (October, 1986), 289-319. With G. S. Rowe.
- "The Records of Gloria Dei Church: Marriages and 'Remarkable Occurrences,' 1794-1806," *Pennsylvania History*, 53 (April, 1986), 125-151. With Susan E. Klepp.
- "The Records of Gloria Dei Church: Burials, 1800-1804," *Pennsylvania History*, 53 (January, 1986), 56-79. With Susan E. Klepp.
- "The Daily Occurrence Docket of the Philadelphia Almshouse, 1800," *Pennsylvania History*, 52 (April, 1985), 86-116. With Cynthia Shelton.
- "The Daily Occurrence Docket of the Philadelphia Almshouse: Selected Entries, 1800-1804," *Pennsylvania History*, 52 (July, 1985), 183-205. With Cynthia Shelton.

#### **Reviews**

- Numerous Book Reviews in the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *The Annals of the American Academy of Political & Social Science*, *The Journal of Economic History*, *The Journal of the Early Republic*, *Pennsylvania History*, *The Journal of American History*, *Slavery and Abolition*, *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, the *William and Mary Quarterly*, and other journals.

#### **CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

- Co-Organizer, Malone International Conference: "Mapping History," October, 2012, 320 Ranch, Big Sky, Montana. With Catherine Dunlop.
- Co-Organizer, Malone International Conference: "It's the Economy, Stupid: or The Importance of Economic History" October, 2009, 320 Ranch, Big Sky, Montana. With Josh Ober, Stanford University.

- Chair and Co-Organizer of a conference: “Deference in Early North America,” at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies (University of Pennsylvania), December 11, 2004. With Simon Middleton.
- Co-Organizer, Malone Conference: “Creating Space: Across Histories, Cultures, and Disciplines,” at the 320 Ranch in Big Sky, Montana, September 2004. This national conference attended by 50 scholars took place at the 320 Ranch in Big Sky, Montana, September 123-26, 2004. With Brett Walker and Michael Reidy.
- Co-Organizer, Malone International Conference: “Class and Class Struggle in North America and the Atlantic World, 1500-1820.” This conference, attended by 135 scholars, took place at the 320 Ranch in Big Sky, Montana, September 18-21, 2003. With Simon Middleton.
- Co-Organizer, Front Range Early American Historians Annual Conference, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, September, 2001. With Ron Hatzenbuehler.

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (Select)**

- Consultant on documentary about Philly, *Philadelphia: The Great Experiment*, 2012
- Consultant for re-creating 18<sup>th</sup>-century life in games constructed by Ubisoft, Montreal, 2011
- Invited member, Historical Society of Pennsylvania’s National Advisory Council
- Program Organizer of a Program: “Benjamin Franklin’s Legacy,” March 30, 2006 at the Museum of the Rockies. The program included Gary Nash (UCLA) and Rick Beeman (Univ of Penn), as well as Roz Remer, the Executive Director of the Franklin Tercentenary in Philadelphia.
- Speaker, “Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary,” Philadelphia Free Library, December, 2005. Broadcast nationally on CSPAN, January 2006.
- Research Consultant for “Mapping Philadelphia,” an exhibit and teaching project at the Philadelphia Regional National Archives, summer, 2003.
- Elected Member of the Nominating Committee of the Organization of American Historians, 1998-2000.
- Acting Director (Spring, 1995) and Associate Director (Fall, 1994), Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania.
- Chair, New Core Task Force to Reinvent the Core at Montana State University, 1998-2000 (funded by a grant from the Hewlett Foundation and Montana State University).
- Teleconferencing with students and faculty at Susquehanna University discussing my book, *The "Lower Sort,"* Sept. 23, 1998.
- Lecture: "Philadelphia Women during the American Revolution," Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia, March 16, 1998.
- Lawrence Henry Gipson lecture at Lehigh University, March 1, 1995.
- Program Committee Member for the Institute of Early American History and Culture Conference at the University of Colorado in June, 1996.
- Organization of American Historians Membership Committee, 1994-1999.
- Elected Member of the Council of the Pacific Coast Branch, American Historical Association, 1995-1998.

- Documents Editor, *Pennsylvania History*, 1985-87. This position entailed editing one piece for each edition of the journal, which is published quarterly.
- Member of Search Committee for Vice President for Research at MSU, 1998
- Director of the History Graduate Program at Montana State University, 1986-88, 1990-91.

#### **CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES (recent)**

- Paper: “Nothing in view but Freedom”: Escaped Slaves and the Quest for Liberty in Early America,” Omohundro Institute of Early American History, Halifax, June 2014
- Paper: “A Flâneur in Philly: Class, Gender, Race & All that Jazz,” Seminar at the McNeill Center for Early American Studies, Nov. 8, 2013, University of Pennsylvania
- Paper: “Mapping America’s First City,” Conference of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History, Huntington Library, June, 2012. With Paul Sivitz.
- Paper: “Walking the Constitutional City,” Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, 1750-1850/40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference-Charleston, South Carolina, February 2010.
- Paper: “Incarcerated Innocents: Inmates, Conditions, & Survival Strategies in Philadelphia’s Almshouse and Workhouse,” *Incarceration Nation* conference, Philadelphia, April 2009.
- Paper: “Early America’s Wandering Poor,” Organization of American Historians annual conference, March, 2009.
- Three dozen other papers or comments at conferences

#### **COURSES TAUGHT (select)**

- Race, Class and Jazz in the American Past and Present
- Researching Slavery (Core research course for non-majors)
- Colonial American History
- Revolutionary America
- Historical Methods (graduate seminar; senior seminar)
- American History to 1865 (graduate seminar)
- African American Slavery (graduate seminar; senior seminar)
- Racism and Race in the American Past (Honors seminar)
- Violence in the American Past