



Civil War Legacies: A Sesquicentennial Symposium



March 25, 2010, 7 p.m.

McCallum Ballroom, Bryan Campus Life Center



Rhodes College
—1848—

Civil War Legacies: A Sesquicentennial Symposium



Welcome Russell Wigginton,
Vice President for College Relations, Rhodes College

Introduction of Panelists Timothy Huebner,
Chair, Department of History, Rhodes College

Discussion: Civil War Legacies

Edward Ayers, President and Professor of History, University of Richmond

Nancy Bercau, Associate Professor of History, University of Mississippi

David Blight, Professor of History, Yale University

Kenneth Goings, Professor of History, The Ohio State University

John McCardell, President, University of the South (Sewanee)

A reception and book signing will follow in Crain Lobby.

This event is sponsored by the Department of History at Rhodes College, the Department of History at St. George's Independent School, the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, Virginia, and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

About the Panelists

Edward Ayers is President and Professor of History at the University of Richmond. Previously Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia, where he began teaching in 1980, Ayers was named the National Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in 2003. A historian of the American South, Ayers has written and edited ten books. *The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction* was a finalist for both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. *In the Presence of Mine Enemies: Civil War in the Heart of America* won the Bancroft Prize for distinguished writing in American history and the Beveridge Prize for the best book in English on the history of the Americas since 1492. A pioneer in digital history, Ayers created *The Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War*, a Web site that has attracted millions of users and won major prizes in the teaching of history. Ayers has received a presidential appointment to the National Council on the Humanities, served as a Fulbright professor in the Netherlands, and been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Nancy Bercaw is an Associate Professor of History and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. Her research and teaching focus on race, gender, and South in the nineteenth century United States, and she is an active member of the UM Interdisciplinary Working Group on the Global South. She is the editor of *Gender and the Southern Body Politic* (2000); the co-editor with Ted Ownby of *Gender: The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* (2009) and the author of *Gendered Freedoms: Race, Rights, and the Politics of the Household in the Mississippi Delta 1861-1875* (2003). Her current project, "Science and Citizenship: African American and Indian Bodies in Post-Emancipation America" analyzes the collections of the Army Medical Museum to investigate the biomedical reconstruction of race following the Civil War. She is the recipient of a Huntington Library NEH Long-Term Fellowship, a Smithsonian Institution Senior Scholar Fellowship, a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship at the Center for Research on Women at the University of Memphis, and a Smithsonian Institution Pre- Doctoral Fellowship.

David W. Blight is Class of 1954 Professor of American History at Yale University and Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale. He is currently writing a book on the anticipation of the Civil War sesquicentennial (2011-15), rooted in the work of Robert Penn Warren and comparing the 100th anniversary of America's most pivotal event to its 150th, and has begun work on a new, full biography of Frederick Douglass that will be published by Simon and Schuster by 2013.

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Blight is the author of *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including their Narratives of Emancipation*, (2007), which won three book prizes, and *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (2001), which received eight book awards, including the Bancroft Prize, the Abraham Lincoln Prize, and the Frederick Douglass Prize. Other published works include a book of essays, *Beyond the Battlefield: Race, Memory, and the American Civil War* (2002) and *Frederick Douglass's Civil War: Keeping Faith in Jubilee* (1989). Blight is also a frequent book reviewer for the Washington Post Book World, the Chicago Tribune, the Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe, Slate.com and other newspapers.

Kenneth Goings is Professor of History and former Director of the African American and African Studies Department at The Ohio State University. He specializes in 19th- and 20th-century African American history. His research interests include the history of historically black colleges and universities, the history of African Americans in the post-Emancipation South, African American popular culture, and African American urban history. Professor Goings is the author of *The NAACP Comes of Age: The Defeat of Judge John J. Parker* (1990), which won the Outstanding Book Award on the Subject of Human Rights from the Gustavus Myers Center in 1990; *Mammy and Uncle Mose: Black Collectibles and American Stereotyping* (1994), which won the Outstanding Book Award on the Subject of Human Rights from the Gustavus Myers Center in 1994; and is co-editor of *The New African American Urban History* (1996). Goings is the author of numerous articles, essays, and book chapters and book reviews. In 2001 he was appointed a Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians.

John M. McCardell Jr. is the recently named president of the University of the South (Sewanee) and president *emeritus* of Middlebury College. He is a distinguished historian and respected national leader in liberal arts education. A professor of history at Middlebury since 1976, McCardell served the college as dean for academic development and planning, dean of the faculty, provost, and vice president for academic affairs before being named president in 1992. McCardell was only the second president in the almost 200-year history of the college to be selected from the ranks of the faculty. In honor of his service as president, Middlebury's Board of Trustees named the college's science center "John M. McCardell Jr. Bicentennial Hall," created an endowed professorship, and established an endowed fund, the "John and Bonnie McCardell Scholarship," which will support students from the South who attend the college. A prolific writer, McCardell is the author of *The Idea of a Southern Nation*, as well as many essays, chapters, articles, and book reviews. His specialty is U.S. history in the 19th century with special emphasis on the Old South and on American historiography.