

MELISSA WALKER

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Historian, 2017-2021

Converse College

Emerita George Dean Johnson, Jr. Professor of History, 2017-present

George Dean Johnson, Jr. Professor of History, 2008-2017

Associate professor of history, 2002-2008

Assistant professor of history, 1996 – 2002

Teaching American History in South Carolina, Master Scholar, 2004

Developed and taught American history curriculum for high school teacher institutes.

Bryant College, adjunct professor, Spring 1996.

Community College of Rhode Island, adjunct professor, Fall 1995.

Clark University, teaching assistant, 1994-1996.

Research Assistant, Dr. Sarah Deutsch, 1992-93.

HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

Converse College, Faculty Senate President, 2012-2014

Faculty Senate Member, 2003-2003, 2005-2009, 2014-15.

Member, Presidential Cabinet, 2012-2014

Chair, Tenure, Assessment, and Promotion Committee, 2012-2014

Strategic Enrollment Planning Steering Committee, 2012-2014.

Divisional coordinator, Humanities Division, 2010-2011, 2012-2017.

Co-chair, Okra to Opera: Conference on Southern Culture, 2012, 2014

Chair, Task Force on Center for Creative Thinking, Teaching, and Learning, 2008.

Member, Strategic Planning Leadership Team, 2007-2008.

Co-Chair, Writing in Past Tense Conference—Southern Appalachia in History and Literature, 2006.

Chair, Dean of Students Search Committee, 2005.

Chair, Strategic Planning Task Force on Undergraduate Curriculum-2001-2002.

Co-chair, Southern Women in the Twenty-First Century Academic Symposium, 2001.

Bryant University, Assistant Director, Development Research, 1992-1996.

Associate Director, Alumni Relations, 1987-1992.

Maryville College, Director, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, 1985-1987.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Doctor of Philosophy, U.S. and women's history

Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts. Major field: American Women's History with comparative fields in American social/cultural history and Chinese women's history.

Dissertation title: "All We Knew Was to Farm: Gender, Class, and Race among East Tennessee Farm Women, 1919-1941." Dissertation director Sarah Deutsch.

Master of Arts in History

Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island.

Master's Thesis: "Images of Women in American Popular Press Advertising in the Nineteen Twenties," May 1993.

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Bachelor of Arts in History, summa cum laude,
Maryville College, Maryville, Tennessee, May 1985

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Kansas Boy: The Memoir of A.J. Bolinger, co-edited with Jeffrey H. Barker, University Press of Kansas, 2021.

Commitment to Our Community: 100 Years of Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, co-authored with Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, 2021.

Southern Women in the Progressive Era: A Reader, co-edited with Giselle Roberts, University of South Carolina Press, 2019.

Recovering the Piedmont Past: Moments in Nineteenth Century Upcountry South Carolina History, co-edited with Timothy Paul Grady, University of South Carolina Press, 2013.

The Battles of Kings Mountain and Cowpens: The American Revolution in the Southern Backcountry, Routledge, 2012.

Editor, *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, vol. 16: Agriculture*, University of North Carolina Press, 2008.

Southern Farmers and Their Stories: Memory and Meaning in Oral History, University Press of Kentucky, 2006. **Named CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title for 2007.**

Work, Family, and Faith: Rural Southern Women in the Twentieth Century, co-edited with Rebecca Sharpless, University of Missouri Press, 2006.

Country Women Cope with Hard Times: A Collection of Oral Histories, University of South Carolina Press, 2004.

Southern Women at the Millennium: A Historical Perspective, co-edited with Joe P. Dunn and Jeanette R. Dunn, University of Missouri Press, 2003.

All We Knew Was to Farm: Rural Women in the Upcountry South, 1919-1941, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000. **Winner of the Willie Lee Rose Prize for the best book in Southern history authored by a woman from the Southern Association for Women Historians.**

Refereed and Invited Articles:

“A Place Where Women Can Feel Valued or Why Academic Professional Associations Matter, Especially for Women,” in *Sisterly Networks: Fifty Years of Southern Women’s Histories*, edited by Catherine Clinton, University Press of Florida, 2020.

“Inside the Farmhouse: Ruth Allen and Margaret Jarman Hagood Confront Rural Realities,” co-authored with Rebecca Sharpless in *Reassessing the 1930s South*, edited by Karen L. Cox and Sarah E. Gardner, Louisiana State University Press, 2019.

Foreword, *Recovering the Piedmont Past, vol. 2*, co-edited by Timothy P. Grady and Andrew Myers, University of South Carolina Press, 2018.

“A Slot Machine Approach to Dispensing Knowledge: New Agrarians and the Land Grant Legacy,” invited chapter in *Service as Mandate: How Land-Grant Universities Shaped the Modern World, 1920-2015*, edited by Alan Marcus, University of Alabama Press, 2015.

“‘To do justice to it either in observing or recording’: The Life and Work of Margaret Jarman Hagood,” invited chapter in *North Carolina Women: Their Lives and Times*, co-edited by Michele K. Gillespie and Sally McMillen, University of Georgia Press, 2014.

“Mineral Water, Dancing, and Amusements: The Development of Tourism in the Nineteenth

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- Century Upstate,” in *Recovering the Piedmont Past*, 2013.
- “Contemporary Agrarianism: A Reality Check,” *Agricultural History*, winter 2012.
- “Complicating the Picture: Oral History and the Study of the Rural South,” co-authored with Lu Ann Jones, Adrienne Petty, Mark Schultz, and Rebecca Sharpless, *Agricultural History*, fall 2010.
- Introduction, with Tom Moore Craig, to *Upcountry South Carolina Goes to War: A Collection of Civil War Letters*, edited by Tom Moore Craig, University of South Carolina Press, 2009
- “Polly Hill Woodham and the Transformation of the Rural South,” invited article in *South Carolina Women*, edited by Marjorie Spruill, Joan Marie Johnson, and Valinda Littlefield, University of South Carolina Press, 2012.
- “The Hearth and Map: The Life and Work of Wilma Dykeman,” invited chapter in *Tennessee Women*, edited by Sarah Wilkerson Freeman and Beverly Bond University of Georgia Press, 2009.
- “From Cotton Fields to Classrooms: South Carolina Women Tell the Story of a Changing Countryside,” *2005 Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association*.
- “One Foot in Each World,” invited chapter in *Black Earth and Ivory Tower: New American Essays from Farm and Classroom*, edited by Zachary M. Jack, University of South Carolina Press, 2005.
- “Shifting Boundaries: Race Relations in the Rural Jim Crow South,” invited chapter in *Rural African Americans*, edited by R. Douglas Hurt, University of Missouri Press, 2003.
- “Rural Southern Women, the Family Economy, and Economic Change,” in *Revolution in the Land: Southern Agriculture in the Twentieth Century*, proceedings of the Mississippi State University History Forum, May 2003.
- “Culling Out the Men From the Boys: Concepts of Success in the Recollections of a Southern Farmer,” *Oral History Review*, Summer 2000.
- “Narrative Themes in the Oral Histories of Farming Folk,” *Agricultural History*, Spring 2000.
- “Farm Wives and Commercial Farming: The Case of Loudon County, Tennessee,” *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, Summer 1998.
- “African Americans and TVA Reservoir Property Removal: Race in a New Deal Program,” *Agricultural History*, Spring 1998.
- “Making Do and Doing Without: East Tennessee Farm Women Cope With Economic Crisis: 1920-1941,” *Journal of East Tennessee History*, Spring 1997.
- “Home Extension Work Among African Americans in East Tennessee, 1920-1939,” *Agricultural History*, Summer 1996.
- “‘A Smile on Her Face and a Song on Her Lips’: Home Extension Work Among East Tennessee Farm Women During the Agricultural Depression of the 1920s,” *The Southern Historian*, Spring 1994.
- “Present Wherever Smart Women Assemble’: Images of the Housewife in American Popular Press Advertising, 1920-29.” *Popular Culture Review*, February 1994.

SELECTED RECENT PRESENTATIONS

- “From Plume Street to the Polls: The Women’s Suffrage Movement in South Carolina,” South Carolina Women in Law/South Carolina Bar Association Joint Meeting, February 2020.

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- “A Place Where Women Can Feel Valued: Mentoring and Nurturing Women’s History Scholarship in the Southern Association for Women Historians,” Richard Milbauer Symposium, University of Florida, November 2018.
- “Alice Paul: Women’s Suffrage Activist,” Greenville Chautauqua, February 2018.
- “Childhood in the Great Depression,” Children’s Museum of the Upstate,” October 2017.
- “‘Sometimes, I feel like I ain’t doing my duty.’: Country Women Growing Older,” Agricultural History Society, Banff, Alberta, Canada, June 2013.
- Panelist, Roundtable Discussion, “Agricultural History in the Age of Michael Pollan,” Agricultural History Society, Banff, Alberta, Canada, 2013.
- [A New Vision for Building Community](#), TEDx Spartanburg, September 2012.
- “Agrarians, Locavores, Foodies, and Congressmen: Some Thoughts on Contemporary Food Issues,” The Charles L. Wood Lecture in Agricultural History, Texas Tech University, February 2012.
- “One doesn’t lose all pride as one gets older’: Work, Autonomy, and Aging among Twentieth Century Women,” Southern Conference on Women’s History, Fort Worth, Texas, June 2012.
- “A Slot Machine Approach to Dispensing Knowledge: New Agrarians and the Land Grant Legacy,” invited talk at “Thinking Land Grants: A ‘Cerebration’ of the 150th Anniversary of the Morrill Land Grant Act,” Mississippi State University, October 2012.
- “Women Who Risked Their Necks: Backcountry Women in the American Revolution,” Spartanburg History Hub and Cowpens National Battlefield, September 2012.
- “The Problem with Contemporary Agrarianism,” Nature and Society Series lecture, Mississippi State University, January 21, 2011.
- “Oral History: How to Do It, How To Use It,” invited Black History Month lecture, Clemson University History Department, February 5, 2010.
- “Polly Hill Woodham and the Transformation of the Rural South,” South Carolina Women, Their Lives and Times Symposium, Columbia, South Carolina, June 4, 2009.
- “Research is a Passion With Me: Three Pioneering Women Scientists,” Invited Address at Association of Southeastern Biologists Annual Meeting, Spartanburg, SC, April 2008.
- Reading Dead People’s Mail and Listening to Old People’s Stories—or How I Became a Historian,” Phi Alpha Theta Initiation, Presbyterian College, April 2008.
- “Oral History and Women’s Labor History,” Guest Lecture, Clemson University, April 2008.
- “Rural Southern Women, the Family Economy, and Economic Change,” Annual Address for Spartanburg County Historical Association, February 24, 2008.
- “Why Stories Matter,” Invited lecture at Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Scholarship Society, Maryville College, May 19, 2007.
- “All The Men in This Community Believed That I Would Fail”: Ruth Hatchette McBrayer’s Peach Farming Odyssey,” Dorothy Lambert Whisnant Lecture in Women’s History, Clemson University, March 1, 2007 and Women’s History Month Lecture, University of South Carolina at Spartanburg, March 18, 2008.
- “*Southern Farmers and Their Stories: The What Happened, The Why, the How, and the So What,*” an invited lecture for the history department, Wake Forest University, February 19, 2007.

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“Southern Farmers and the New Deal: Experiencing State Intervention, Remembering State Intervention” at the Interwar Rural Research Group Conference at Royal Holloway College of the University of London, January 5, 2007.

“Women and Work,” invited talk for “Making History Personal: Family and Local History in the Classroom,” East Tennessee Historical Society Teaching workshop, June 6, 2006.

GRANTS

Individual:

Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Travel Grant, 2012.

Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University of Chicago, Travel Grant, 2012.

Schlesinger Library for Women’s History, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Travel Grant, 2011-12.

Guion Griffis Johnson Research Stipend, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library, travel grant, 2003

Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society, travel grant, 2003

Converse College Summer Faculty Development Grant, 2003

John Hope Franklin Center for African and African-American Documentation, Duke University, travel grant, 2001.

Converse College Summer Faculty Development Grant, 2001.

Baylor University Institute for Oral History, Visiting Scholar, includes fellowship to fund research at Baylor’s Oral History Institute, 1990-2000.

Converse College Summer Faculty Development Grant, 1998.

Converse College Summer Faculty Development Grant, 1997.

Rockefeller Archives Center travel grant, in support of dissertation research awarded 3/94.

Institutional:

South Carolina Humanities Council, \$1,000 to support Okra to Opera II, 2014.

South Carolina Humanities Council, \$4,000 to support Okra to Opera: The Converse Conference on Southern Culture, 2012.

Converse College Creative Collaboration Grants totaling over \$15,000 to support collaboratively developed programming including a screenings of the documentary films “Miss Representation” and “Shared History, Okra to Opera, “One Day,” A Collaborative Theater Performance exploring women and aging, and a career planning workshop series for liberal arts majors, 2009-2013.

National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks in American History and Culture Grant, to run two workshops on the American Revolution in the Southern Backcountry for K-12 teachers, 2006-2007, 2008-2009.

South Carolina Humanities Council, \$1,200 grant to support “Writing in Past Tense” Symposium, March 2006.

South Carolina Humanities Council, \$12,000 grant to support Southern Women in the Twenty-First Century Conference at Converse College, March 2001

South Carolina Humanities Council, \$800 grant to support Women’s History Month Programming, March 1999

AWARDS

Career Woman of the Year, Business and Professional Women of South Carolina, 2019.

Faculty Marshal, selected by my peers to be the first faculty mace carrier at Converse College, 2016-17.

Joe Ann Lever Award, a faculty excellence award chosen by the senior class, 2013.

Maryville College Alumni Citation, 2011.

Faculty Involvement and Collaboration Award, Converse College, recognition for work with students outside the classroom, 2008.

Woman of Achievement in Education, Spartanburg Community College, 2008.

CASE/Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching South Carolina Professor of The year, 2007.

Scholarly and Creative Achievement Award, Converse College, 2007.

Finalist, Governor's Distinguished Professor Award, 2006.

O'Herron Award for Faculty Excellence, Converse College, 2002.

The Kathrynne Amelia Brown Award for Distinguished Teaching, Converse College, 2001.

South Carolina Governor's Distinguished Professor Award, 2001.

National Mortar Board Excellence in Advising Award, 2000.

John Trotwood and Mary Daniel Moore Memorial Award, for most outstanding article in *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, awarded 2000 for 1998 article.

"Above and Beyond Award" for efforts which helped student retention, Converse College, 2000

Most Outstanding Student Organization Advisor, Converse College, 2000

Joseph J. Malone Fellow, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, 1998 (three week faculty Study tour in Syria)

Second prize, graduate paper, Phi Alpha Theta Eastern Regional Conference, April 1993

Phi Alpha Theta, History Honor society, 1992

Pi Gamma Mu Social Science Honor Society, 1984

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING

Project Scholar, Humanities SC, Smithsonian Institution Museums on Main Street The Way We Worked Exhibition, Consulted with staff at six SC museums on local humanities programming related to the visiting exhibition, 2015-2017.

Consultant, Anderson University, conducted training workshop on developing oral history Projects and conducting interviews.

Exhibit Writer, Spartanburg County Regional Museum of History.

Consultant, Spartanburg County Historical Association, interpretation of slave cabin at Historic Price House

Project Scholar, Smithsonian Institution's Museums on Main Street Barn Again! Exhibit.

Consulted with staff at six SC museums on local humanities programming related to the visiting exhibition and conducted five oral history workshops in local communities. 2003-2005.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Proposal Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks in American History and Culture grants, 2013.

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Review Team, Fulbright Senior Scholars Applications, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 2011-2013.

Juror, CASE/Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year Competition, 2013.

Editorial Board, *Journal of Southern History*, 2011-present.

President, Agricultural History Society, 2010-2011.

President, Southern Association for Women Historians, 2009; First Vice President, 2008; Second Vice President, 2007; Executive Secretary, 2000-2005, Treasurer, 2010-2015.

Editorial Board, *Agricultural History*, 2008-2009.

Editorial Board, *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, 2005-2008.

Membership Committee, Organization of American Historians, 2009-2010.

Manuscript reviewer, Northern Illinois University Press, Pearson Publishing, University of South Carolina Press, University of Illinois Press, Addison, Wesley, Longman,; University Press of Florida, Texas A and M University Press, University Press of Kentucky, University of Iowa Press, University of Georgia Press, University of North Carolina Press.

Proposal reviewer, National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a division of the National Archives and Records Administration.

Article reviewer, *Women's History Magazine* (Britain), *Agricultural History*, *American Quarterly*, *Oral History Review*, *National Women's Studies Association Journal*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association*, *Frontiers*.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Guest Scholar, Dr. Walter Edgar's Journal, SC Educational Radio, 2020, 2017, 2014.

"Don't Blame the Sexual Revolution," op-ed in *Spartanburg Herald Journal* and *Hendersonville Times-News*, December 2017.

"Past Refugee Crisis Provides Lessons," op-ed in *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, February 2017.

South Carolina ETV documentary, "Cheating the Stillness: The Life of Julia Mood Peterkin," Interviewed on camera about women's education in the late nineteenth century, March 2010.

"The American Revolution in the Southern Backcountry," op-ed piece in *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, *The State*, *Charlotte Observer*, July 2009.

"Some of the Best Science Minds Belong to Women," Op-ed piece in *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, April 16, 2008.

Numerous interviews on WYFF-TV4, WSPA-TV7, "Your Day" radio show, Bill Drake radio show, *The State*, *The Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, *Sandlapper Magazine*, and the *Charlotte Observer*.

"U.S. No Stranger to Immigration Issues," Op-ed piece in *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, June 2007.

SC-ETV documentary, "Hearts of Glass II," interviewed on camera on American culture in the Post-World War II period, aired November 2001.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Board of Directors, Hope Center for Children.

Board of Directors, Hub City Writer's Project, 2013-present. Secretary, 2015-2018.

Awards Chair, Breakfast Business and Professional Women, 2016-2018.

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Secretary, Board of Directors, Hub-Culture, Inc., 2009-2010, Board of Directors, 2011-2013.

Grants Committee, Women Giving for Spartanburg, 2009, 2010.

President, Board of Directors, Hub City Writer's Project, 2007-2009.

Event Volunteer, Spartanburg County Historical Association.

Member, Research Committee, Women Giving for Spartanburg, 2008.

Secretary, Board of Directors, Hub City Writers Project, 2004-2006

Converse Heights Neighborhood Association, volunteer in researching application for National Historic Register status, 2005.

Spartanburg Historical Society; board of directors, 2001-2006.

Membership Vice President, League of Women Voters 1999-2000 (Executive Board, 1998-2000).

Past Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Career Development Association

Business and Professional Women

Southern Association for Women Historians

Agricultural History Association

Southern Historical Association