# TED OWNBY

William F. Winter Chair in History and Southern Studies

Barnard Observatory

University of Mississippi

University, MS 38677

# Telephone 662-915-7148, Email hsownby@olemiss.edu

**Professional experience**

Past director, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, University of Mississippi, 2008-2019

William F. Winter Chair and Professor of History and Southern Studies, beginning 2018

Professor, History and Southern Studies, University of Mississippi, 2001-present

Associate Professor of History and Southern Studies, University of Mississippi, 1994-2000

Assistant Professor of History and Southern Studies, University of Mississippi, 1988-1994

Visiting Assistant Professor, Central Michigan University, 1987-1988

Instructor, Western Washington University, 1986-1987

**Education**

Johns Hopkins University, MA, 1984, Ph.D., 1987

Vanderbilt University, Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, PBK, 1982

**Publications: Books as author**

*“Hurtin’ Words”: Defining Family Problems in the Twentieth-Century South.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2018.

*American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty, and Culture, 1830-1998.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999.

*Subduing Satan: Religion, Recreation, and Manhood in the Rural South, 1865-1920.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990, paperback, 1993.

**Publications: Books as editor or coeditor**

Coeditor with Becca Walton, *Clothing and Fashion in Southern History.* University Press of Mississippi, 2020.

Coeditor with Darren Grem and James Thomas of *Southern Religions, Southern Cultures: Essays Honoring Charles Reagan Wilson*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2018, paperback 2020.

Coeditor with Charles Reagan Wilson, Ann Abadie, Odie Lindsey, and James Thomas, associate editors, *Mississippi Encyclopedia,* Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2017, with an updated version online, in partnership with the Mississippi Humanities Council, beginning 2018.

Ed., *The Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi.* Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2013, paperback edition 2019.

Coeditor, with John T. Edge and Elizabeth S.D. Engelhardt, *The Larder: Methods in Southern Foodways Research.* Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2013.

Coeditor, with Nancy Bercaw, of the *Gender* volume (Volume 13) of the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture,* Charles Reagan Wilson, gen. editor, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009.

Ed., *Manners and Southern History***.** University Press of Mississippi, 2007.

Ed., *The Role of Ideas in the Civil Rights South.* University Press of Mississippi, 2002.

Ed., *Black and White: Cultural Interaction in the Antebellum South.* University Press of Mississippi, 1993.

**Publications: Articles**

Coauthored historiography essay, "New stories for a 'new south': race-making, ethnic diversity, urbanization, and gendered politics," with Mikaela Morgane Adams, for Craig Friend and Lorri Glover, eds., *Reinterpreting Southern Histories: Essays in Historiography.* Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2020.

“J.F.H. Claiborne and Dunbar Rowland: Reading their Surveys of Mississippi History,” in Lori Watkins, ed., *A Literary History of Mississippi* (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2017).

"The New Southern Studies and Re-thinking the Question, 'Is there still a South?'" in *Journal of American* Studies roundtable, Summer 2015.

Introduction to Joel Williamson, *Elvis Presley, A Southern Life.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

“Brotherhood and Its Limits,” in Peter Slade, Charles Marsh, and Peter Goodwin Heltzel, ed., *Mobilizing for the Common Good: The Lived Theology of John M. Perkins*. University Press of Mississippi, 2013.

"Gladys Presley, Dorothy Dickins, and the Limits of Female Agrarianism in Twentieth Century Mississippi," in *Mississippi Women: Their Time and Place,* Volume II, edited by Elizabeth Payne, Marjorie Spruill, and Martha Swain. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009.

Introduction to the section on Souvenirs in *Dixie Limited: The South and Consumer Culture,* edited by Anthony Stanonis. University of Georgia Press, 2008.

"Three Agrarianisms and the Idea of a South Without Poverty," in Martin Crawford and Richard Godden, ed., *Reading Southern Poverty Between the Wars.* University of Georgia Press, 2006.

“Donald Wildmon, the American Family Association, and the Theology of Media Activism,” in Glenn Feldman, ed., *Politics and Religion in the White South* (University Press of Kentucky, 2005).

Essay on religious demography in Charles Reagan Wilson and Mark Silk, ed., *Religion and Public Life in the South: In the Evangelical Mode* (NY: Alta Mira Press, 2005).

“’A Crude and Raw Past’: Work, Folklife, and Anti-Agrarianism in Twentieth-Century African American Autobiography,” in R. Douglas Hurt, ed., *African American Life in the Rural South, 1900-1950.* Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2003.

“Nobody Knows the Troubles I’ve Seen, But Does Anybody Want to Hear About Them When They’re on Vacation?” concluding essay in Richard Starnes, ed.*,* *Southern Journeys: Tourism in the Modern South*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2003.

"Manhood, Memory, and White Men's Sports in the Recent American South," revised version of a 1998 article in the *International Journal of the History of Sport*, in Patrick B. Miller, ed., *The Sporting World of the Modern South.* Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2002.

"'Ethos Without Ethic:' Samuel S. Hill and Southern Religious History," in Glenn Feldman, ed., *Reading the South: Historical Interpreters and Interpretations.* Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2001.

"Patriarchy in the World where there is no Parting? Power Relations in the Confederate Heaven," in Catherine Clinton, ed., *Southern Families at War: Loyalty and Conflict in the Civil War South.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

"Unpaid Debts: Metaphors and Millennialism in Southern Sectarian Movements," in Larry Eskridge and Mark A. Noll, eds., *More Money, More Ministry: Money and Evangelicals in Recent North American History.* Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2000.

"Struggling to be Old-fashioned: Evangelical Religion in the Modern Rural South," in R. Douglas Hurt, ed., *The Rural South Since World War II*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1998.

"Freedom, Manhood, and Male Tradition in 1970s Southern Rock Music," in Anne Goodwyn Jones and Susan V. Donaldson, eds., *Haunted Bodies: Gender and Southern Texts.* Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1998.

"'Does a South still exist?': A Historian's Critique of the Question," *Crossroads*, vol. 5, no. 2 (Spring 1998), 3-12.

"Southern Harvest Celebrations and the Challenge of Mass Culture," in Genevieve Fabre and Ramon Gutierez, ed., *Celebrations in North American Ethnic Communities.* University of New Mexico Press, 1995.

"The Snopes Trilogy and the Appeal of Consumer Goods," in Donald Kartiganer and Ann J. Abadie, eds., *Faulkner and Ideology.* Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1995.

"Mass Culture, Upper-Class Culture, and the Decline of Church Discipline in the Evangelical South: The 1910 Case of the Godbold Mineral Well Hotel," in *Religion and American Culture,* February 1994.

"The Defeated Generation at Work: White Farmers in the Deep South, 1865-1890," *Southern Studies,* Winter 1984.

**Publications: Encyclopedia entries, online and public history publications**

Entry on Consumer Behavior in Steven A. Reich, *The World of Jim Crow* (Greenwood Press, 2019).

Over 100 entries for *The Mississippi Encyclopedia,* published 2017.

Entries on Extortion, Leisure, and Fast Days in *The Encyclopedia of the Confederacy,* New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993.

Entries on Temperance, Prohibition, and Billy Graham in Peter Parrish, ed., *Reader's Guide to American History,* London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1997.

Entries on Bob Riley and Rock Music in Cornell Van West, *Encyclopedia of Tennessee History and Culture,* Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1998.

Entries on Dueling, Southern Manhood, and Images of Jesus, in Bret Caroll, ed., *American Masculinities.* New York: The Moschovitis Group, 2003.

Entry on Southern Rock in Carroll Van West, ed., *A History of Tennessee Arts: Creating Traditions, Expanding Horizons,* Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2004.

Entries on Violence and Religion, and Church Discipline in Samuel S. Hill and Charles H. Lippy, ed., *Encyclopedia of Religion in the South, 2nd edition*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2005.

Entry on New Age Religion, in Charles Reagan Wilson, ed., *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Religion;* Entry on Family in Wilson, ed., *Myth, Memory, and Manners.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006. Entries on David Cohn and John Grisham, in Wilson, ed., *Literature,* 2008. Entries on Moynihan Report, Manly Independence, in Wilson, ed., *Gender,* 2009.

Edited a Roundtable discussion in the online journal, *Journal of Southern Religion,* Summer 2006, on Jerry Falwell’s book, *Listen, America!*

Article on Jimmie Rodgers for *Mississippi History Now,* an online publication primarily for students and teachers in Mississippi schools.

**Papers and presentations, since 2010**

“Church Discipline, Dancing, and a Lynching in Summit, Mississippi, 1909-1910,” the Mississippi Historical Society meeting, March 2020.

Discussed *Hurtin’ Words* at a panel on Civil Rights history at the Mississippi Book Festival, Jackson, MS, August 2019.

Paper on the Diary of Virginia Howell and ideas of innocence, Southern Studies Forum, Odense, Denmark, April 2019.

Discussions of *Hurtin’ Words,* Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, and Center for the Study of the American South, University of North Carolina, November 2018.

Moderated a roundtable discussion on Samuel Hill’s *Southern Churches in Crisis* at the Southern Historical Convention, Dallas, November 10, 2017.

“*Roots,* The Black Family Reunion,and The Moynihan Report,” at the Black Love Symposium, University of Kansas, September 15-16, 2017.

25 discussions of *The Mississippi Encyclopedia* at bookstores, universities, libraries, museums, and other locations, usually in collaboration with other editors and contributors, from May 2017 to February 2018.

“Habitat for Humanity and the Tensions of Christian Activism in the 1970s,” 1976 and the Year of the Evangelical, a Conference at St. Anselm College, Manchester, NH, April 2017. I gave a similar talk at Duke University Divinity School, Fall 2016.

Panel Discussions on The Interaction of Country Music and the Blues, and Perspectives on Elvis Presley, at the International Conference on Country Music, Nashville, May 2016.

Talks on Brotherhood and the Civil Rights Era South at The University of Virginia (February), Flagler College (March), and the Catholic Institute of Paris (October), 2014, the University of Arkansas, September 2017.

Participant in a Roundtable on the future of religious studies in the South, at the Academy of American Religion Convention, Atlanta, November 2011.

Keynote speaker at the Ohio Valley Historical Society conference, Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, TN, Fall 2010.

“Family Definitions and the Absence of Debate in the 1970s South,” Organization of American Historians Convention, Washington, DC, April 2010.

“Free Bird, Roots, and Family Values: Southern Family Definitions in the 1970s,” Phi Alpha Theta lecture, Austin Peay State University, February 2009; Banners Series Lecture, McNeese State University, April 2010.

**Honors and awards**

I was named Fulbright Danish Distinguished Chair in American Studies, University of Southern Denmark for 2020-2021 but could not participate because of the pandemic.

Fulbright Teaching Fellow, University of Genoa, Italy, 1992

Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer, 2008-2020

Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism and American Culture Summer Program, 1995

Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals Program on Religion and Consumers, 1997-98

Project on Lived Theology participant in a program on Religion and Power, University of Virginia, 2002-2003

*American Dreams in Mississippi* named a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title, 2000 and received Honorable Mention for the American Culture Association’s John B. Cawelti Award

*The Mississippi Encyclopedia* won awards from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, the Mississippi Historical Society, and the Mississippi Heritage Trust, 2018.

**Professional service and development**

Southern Historical Association, Executive Committee (2014-2016); Membership Committee (2003, 2008-9), Nominating Committee (2004), Frank Owsley Prize Committee for the Best Book in Southern History (2007-8).

Southern Association of Women Historians, Book Prize committee, 2014.

Board of Editors, *Southern Cultures* (since 2003), *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* (1996-98*), The Journal of Southern Religion* (since 1998), University of North Carolina Press Book Series on Southern Studies (since 2004); *Study the South* (since 2014).

Mississippi Historical Society, Executive Council (2002-2005), Program Committee (head of the committee in 2001, member in 2003, 2010), Awards Committee (member, 2002).

Carstenson Prize Committee for the best paper in the journal *Agricultural History*, Agricultural History Society, 2004-2006 (chair, 2006).

Advisory Committee, Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, 2009-present; Board member, Southwest Mississippi Center for Culture & Learning, Alcorn State University, beginning 2020; Board member, Project Threadways, Florence, AL, beginning 2020; Advisor, Mississippi Department of Archives and History exhibit, “Mississippi Distilled,” 2020 planning committee

Participant, Religion and American Regions Project, organized by the Greenberg Center for Religion in Public Life, Trinity University, 2002-2003.

Member and chair of various long-term and short-term university, History Department, Southern Studies, Southern Foodways Alliance, Library, and other committees at the University of Mississippi.

I have written evaluations for approximately 40 scholars as a referee in their applications for tenure and promotion.

**Teaching**

I have taught classes in southern history and southern studies, graduate and undergraduate seminars, specialized courses, and team-taught introductory classes. I have taught southern religious history, southern cultural history, both halves of the southern history survey, American intellectual history, Mississippi history, the U.S. History survey, and seminars on methods, identity, autobiography, violence and peace, weekends, the contemporary South, and other topics. I have directed 30 History Department dissertations to completion, directed over 50 MA theses in History and Southern Studies, and served on over 100 dissertation, thesis, and internship committees in History, Southern Studies, and English, and on History Department committees at other universities.