

W. Jeffrey Bolster
Associate Professor of History
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Office hours: on sabbatical 2007-2008.

COURSES REGULARLY TAUGHT

History of Early America
African American History to 1865
Environmental History of the Northwest Atlantic
History of New Hampshire
Readings in Early American History (graduate level)
Research Seminar in Early American History (graduate level)

AREAS OF INTEREST

I continue to explore historical problems regarding peoples' interaction with the sea. As a social historian I am especially interested in the relationship of experience and meaning. As an environmental historian I am intrigued with anthropogenic changes to the sea and the ways those changes have influenced human society and culture. I have written on African American seamen in the age of sail; the social and environmental history of the Piscataqua estuary that separates Maine and New Hampshire; shipping in the making of America; and most recently, the marine environmental history of the northwest Atlantic. Reflecting the plasticity of professional labels, I have been called maritime historian, a historian of Afro-America; an environmental historian, and an Atlantic historian. I am currently part of an interdisciplinary, international research project called HMAP (History of Marine Animal Populations). Funded by the National Science Foundation, NH Sea Grant, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and others, HMAP is working on marine environmental history and historical ecology globally. The HMAP Center at UNH, which I co-direct, works specifically on the Gulf of Maine and Nova Scotian Shelf. See our Gulf of Maine Cod Project website.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History; Johns Hopkins University, 1992.
M.A. in History; Brown University, 1984.
Summer graduate courses in History; University of Conn. through The Munson Institute of Mystic Seaport, 1978.
B.A. in History; Trinity College, Hartford, CT., 1976.

PRIZES, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Excellence in Public Service Award, UNH, 2005.

P.I.: NH Sea Grant funding (\$160,000 for two years) for "Analyzing 19th Century Fisheries Records to Determine the Historical Abundance and Distribution of Gulf of Maine Cod," 2004-2006.

Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies, Syddansk University, Denmark, 2002-2003.

James H. Hayes and Claire Short Hayes Chair in the Humanities, UNH, 2002-2007.

Co-winner, Wesley-Logan Prize, American Historical Association, best book in African American History, for Black Jacks, 1998.

Association of American Publishers' Professional/Scholarly Division Award for "Best Book in History," for Black Jacks, 1998.

North American Society for Oceanic History's John Lyman Book Award for best book in U.S. Maritime History, 1997, for Black Jacks.

The New York Times Book Review selected Black Jacks as a "Notable Non-Fiction Book of the Year" for 1997.

Hortense Cavis Shepherd Professorship, 1995-1998, chosen from among assistant professors at UNH "to recognize outstanding, untenured members of the teaching faculty."

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers, 1993-1994.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, awarded 1993.
(declined so as to accept the Fellowship for University Teachers)

Co-runner up, Allan Nevins Prize (1992), by the Society of American Historians for the best doctoral dissertation in American history.

Binkley-Stephenson Award (1991), awarded by the Organization of American Historians for the best scholarly article in The Journal of American History during the preceding year.

Louis Pelzer Memorial Award (1989), awarded by the Organization of American Historians for the best article in American History submitted to the JAH by a graduate student.

Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, Afro-American Communities Project, Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, twelve months, 1990-91.

Paul Cuffe Memorial Fellowship for the Study of Minorities in Maritime History, awarded by Mystic Seaport Museum, 1989.

Departmental Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 1986-90.

Hardin Craig Prize (1978), awarded by the Munson Institute of Mystic Seaport Museum for the best seminar paper.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Alex Roland, W. Jeffrey Bolster, and Alexander Keyssar, *The Way of The Ship: America's Maritime History Reenvisioned, 1600-2000* (NY: John Wiley & Sons, 2007).

"*Cross-Grained and Wily Waters*": *A Guide to the Piscataqua Maritime Region*, Editor. (Portsmouth, NH: Peter Randall Publishers, 2002). 42 contributors, 75 short essays, 245 illustrations.

Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1997).

Museum Exhibition Catalog

Soldiers, Sailors, Slaves, and Ships: The Civil War Photographs of Henry P. Moore co-author with Hilary Anderson (Concord: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1999).

Articles

Bolster, W.J.; Alexander, K.E., "Using Historic Records to Determine the Abundance of Cod on the Nova Scotian Shelf, 1852-1859: An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Environmental History of the Northwest Atlantic," in J.B.C. Jackson, Enrique Sala, and Karen E. Alexander, eds., *Marine Biodiversity: Using the Past to Inform the Future* (University of Chicago Press: forthcoming, 2008).

"Putting the Ocean in Atlantic History: Maritime Communities and Marine Ecology in the Northwest Atlantic, 1500-1800," *American Historical Review* 113 (Feb., 2008), forthcoming.

"'The Absurdity of Nonresistance': Reexamining Article 10 of New Hampshire's Constitution, the 'Right of Revolution,'" *Historical New Hampshire* 61 (Fall, 2007), 101-119.

"Letters by African American Sailors, 1799-1814," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd series, vol. LXIV (Jan., 2007), 167-182.

"Opportunities in Marine Environmental History," *Environmental History* 11 (July, 2006), 567-597.

Rosenberg, A.A.; Bolster, W. J.; Alexander, K.E.; Leavenworth, W.B; Cooper, A.B.; McKenzie, M.G., "The History of Ocean Resources: Modeling Cod Biomass Using Historical Records," *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* vol 3 (Mar., 2005), pp. 84-90.

"An Inner Diaspora: Black Seamen Making Selves" in Through a Glass Darkly: Reflections on Self in Early America eds. Ronald Hoffman, Mechal Sobel and Fredrika Teute (Chapel Hill: Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1997), pp. 419-448.

Reprinted as "Black Sailors Making Selves," in Captive Passage: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Making of the Americas (Washington: Smithsonian Press, 2002), 171-185.

"Black Jacks Revisited," a response to a roundtable in which 7 scholars reviewed my Black Jacks in The International Journal of Maritime History X (No. 2, December, 1998), pp. 275-286.

"'Every Inch a Man': Gender in the Lives of African American Seamen, 1800-1880" in Iron Men, Wooden Women eds. Margaret Creighton and Lisa Norling (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp. 138-168.

"African American, Native American, and Cape Verdean Seamen on Narragansett Bay," in What a Difference a Bay Makes (Providence, R.I., 1993), pp. 81-85.

"'To Feel Like a Man': Black Seamen in the Northern States, 1800-1860", The Journal of American History, 76 (March, 1990), 1173-1199.

Reprinted in A Question of Manhood: A Reader in U.S. Black Men's History and Masculinity eds. Darlene Clark Hine and Earnestina Jenkins, 2 vols. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999), vol 1: 354-381.

"The Impact of Jefferson's Embargo on Coastal Commerce", The Log of Mystic Seaport, Winter, 1986, pp. 111-123.

"The Changing Nature of Maritime Insurrection", The Log of Mystic Seaport, Spring, 1979, pp. 14-21.

Popular History and Encyclopedia Articles

One of 22 section editors in The Encyclopedia of New England (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005) responsible for 35 essays & entries, and a 5000 word overview on "Maritime New England," pp. 1041-1098.

"Tall Ship Festivals" in Encyclopedia of New England, 1089-1090.

"Yachting and Recreational Boating," *ibid.*, 1097-1098.

"Privateers," Violence in America: An Encyclopedia 3 vols. (NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1999), vol. 2, 613-614.

"Whaling: A Double-Edged Sword for Black Society," in Footsteps, a history magazine for middle-school students, vol 1., no. 3, May/June, 1999, pp. 2-6.

"African American Seamen," in A History of the African American People eds. James O. Horton and Lois Horton (London, Salamander Press, Ltd., 1995), 34-35.

"`Business in Great Waters': Black Seamen in the Age of Sail," in Reunion: The News that Celebrates People, Heritage and Achievement (February, 1995). This is a New England regional African American newspaper.

"Westward Traces Columbus: A Documentary Crew Re-Traces Columbus's First Voyage Through the `Indies'" Sea History 55 (Autumn, 1990), pp. 20-21.

Book Reviews

More than 25 reviews, including seven in *The New York Times Book Review*.