

DONNA J. RILLING

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania. American History, Ph.D. May 1993.
Yale University. History. B.A. 1981.

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Associate Professor, SUNY, Stony Brook, September 2001 to present
Assistant Professor, SUNY, Stony Brook, 1995 to 2001
Project Historian, North Philadelphia Project, Historic American Buildings Survey/
Historic American Engineering Record, National Parks Service, Summer 2000
Acting Director, Philadelphia/ McNeil Center for Early American Studies,
University of Pennsylvania, Spring 1994
Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania, 1992-1994
Instructor, West Chester University, Pennsylvania, Fall 1993

CURRENT RESEARCH

Mill Creek: A Biography

PUBLICATIONS

Co-editor with Brian C. Black, Special Issue on Energy in the MidAtlantic Region.
Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, v. 139, October 2015.
“Locating Philadelphia’s Water-Powered Past.” *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (October 2015), 356-59.
“Bone Boilers: Nineteenth-century Green Businessmen?” in *Nature’s Entrepôt: Philadelphia’s Urban Sphere and its Environmental Thresholds*. Edited by Brian C. Black and Michael J. Chiarappa. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012. Pp. 75-90.
“Review Essay: Reinforcing Material History,” *Journal of Urban History* 35 (July 2009), 768-76.
“Small Producer Capitalism in Early National Philadelphia,” in *The Economy of Early America: Historical Perspectives and New Directions*. Edited by Cathy Matson. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006.
“Liberty is Innovation.” Invited article in Special Issue on the Market Revolution, *OAH Magazine of History* 19 (May 2005), 12-15. Edited by John L. Larson.
Making Houses, Crafting Capitalism: Builders in Early Philadelphia, 1790-1850
University of Pennsylvania Press, Series in Early American Studies, 2001.
Nominated for the Abbott Lowell Cummings Prize in Vernacular Architecture.
“Sylvan Enterprise and the Philadelphia Hinterland” *Pennsylvania History* 67 (Spring 2000), 194-217.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of Smith, Ryan K., *Robert Morris's Folly; The Architectural and Financial Failures of an American Founder*. *Pennsylvania History*, 83 (2) Spring 2016.
- Review of Vitiello, Domenic, *Engineering Philadelphia; the Sellers Family and the Industrial Metropolis*. *American Historical Review*, 119 (5) (2014): 1690-1691.
- Review of Luskey, Brian P., *On the Make: Clerks and the Quest for Capital in Nineteenth-Century America*. *Journal of the Early Republic*, 31 (Fall 2011), 526-29.
- Review of Middleton, Simon, *From Privileges to Rights: Work and Politics in Colonial New York City*. *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d ser., 64 (July 2007), 665-68.
- Review of Herman, Bernard, *Town House: Architecture and Material Life in the Early American City, 1780-1830*. H-Urban, H-Net Reviews. August 2006.
<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=12139>
- Review of John H. Hepp, *The Middle-Class City: Transforming Space and Time in Philadelphia, 1876-1926*. *American Historical Review* 110, no. 5 (Dec. 2005), 1548-9.
- Review of Majewski, John, *A House Dividing: Economic Development in Pennsylvania and Virginia before the Civil War*. H-SHEAR, H-Net Reviews. December 2001.
<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=5760>

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Faculty Fellowship, Humanities Institute at Stony Brook, Fall 2015
- Co-project leader, *Mapping Long Island*. Seed grant for interdisciplinary web-based project. Fine Arts, Humanities, and Lettered Social Sciences Provostial Grants, SUNY, Stony Brook, AY 2014-15
- Gordon Cain Postdoctoral Fellowship in Technology, Policy and Entrepreneurship, Chemical Heritage Foundation, 2003-2004
- Scholar-in-Residence Grant, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Summer 2003
- Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Program in Early American Economy and Society at The Library Company of Philadelphia, 2000-2001
- Nuala McCann Drescher Affirmative Action Leave Award, State University of New York/United University Professions, 1998-1999
- Harvard-Newcomer Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Business History, Harvard Business School, Harvard University, 1994-1995
- Charles E. Peterson Research Fellowship in Early American Architecture and Building Technology, The Athenaeum of Philadelphia, 1993-1994
- Early American Industries Association Grant-in-Aid, 1993-1994

PUBLIC HISTORY

- Co-authored with Oscar Beisert, Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Peter Woll & Sons Manufacturing Company, Curled Hair, 152-78 W Berks St. <https://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/152-78-W-Berks-St->

- [nomination.pdf](#) Approved (with modification) by the Philadelphia Historical Commission, May 2019.
- Co-authored with Oscar Beisert, Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Peter Woll & Sons, Curled Hair & Bristles, 173 W Berks St.
<https://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/173-W-Berks-St-nomination.pdf>
Approved by the Philadelphia Historical Commission, May 2019
- Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, 4111-4123 Chestnut Street/
African Friends to Harmony Burial Ground, July 2017. Approved Nov. 2018
<https://www.phila.gov/media/20190401093121/4111-23-Chestnut-St-nomination.pdf>
- Co-authored with H.R. Haas, Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, 1416-1432 West Girard Avenue, Philadelphia Historical Commission, October 2017. Approved May 2018 as one of the first Historic Districts designated in several years. <https://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/1416-32WGirardHDnom.pdf>
- With J.M. Duffin and Oscar Beisert, The Keeping Society of Philadelphia, Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, William and Letitia Still's Residence/ Underground Railroad Station, 625 S. Delhi St., December 2017. Approved by the Philadelphia Historical Commission, February 2018.
<https://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/625-S-Delhi-St-nomination.pdf>
- Editor and historical consultant, Objection by J.M. Duffin to Application to Reclassify 1601-03 Lombard Street, a/k/a The Cinderella Inn/Apex Beauty School, from contributing to non-contributing building in the Rittenhouse-Fitler Square Historic District. (Report on the Historical Significance.) Submitted to the Philadelphia Historical Commission, November 2017. Successful.
http://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/1601LombardSt_Report.pdf
- Editor and contributor to research, Nomination by Oscar Beisert, The Keeping Society of Philadelphia, to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Esslinger & Son/ The Dallett Chandlery, 401-29 N. 10th St., July 2017. (Pending.)
https://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/401-29_N_10th_St_Nomination.pdf
- Editor and contributor to research, Nomination by Josh Bevan to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, 836 N. Preston St., July 2017. Pending final approval by the Philadelphia Historical Commission.
- Using Court Records for Historic Preservation Research*, Philadelphia Place History, Philadelphia, March 2017.
- Court records inventory, Philadelphia City Archives and Records, Fall 2016. Inventoried 184 banker boxes of unsorted legal filings from Philadelphia's nineteenth-century courts.
- Historical report, Disston House, 1530 N. 16th Street, Philadelphia, Historic American Buildings Survey, 2000.
<http://cdn.loc.gov/master/pnp/habshaer/pa/pa3800/pa3862/data/pa3862data.pdf>

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Historic Preservation and the case of a West Philadelphia Burial Ground, Drexel University, Philadelphia, May 2019

Corrupt & Contested: Remaking Nature in Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia, Humanities Institute, Stony Brook University, April 2016

Comment, Session on "Tapping Nature's Bounty in Wayne County—At the end of the Eighteenth Century and Now," Pennsylvania Historical Association, Philadelphia, November 2014

Judicious Regulation: Philadelphia's Board of Health, 1855-1860s
American Society for Environmental History, Toronto, April 2013

Transforming a Nineteenth-Century Watercourse and its Neighborhood
Rivers, Cities, Historical Imaginations, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich, February 2013

Colored, Corrupted, and Contested: a 19th-Century Creek and Its Valley
GRID + Flow: Philadelphia and Beyond: Mapping and Reimagining Urban Ecologies Through the Arts and Humanities. Temple University, April 2011

Boundary Crossings: Between Water Purity and Pollution in Environmental History
In Dialogue Series, Humanities Institute, SUNY, Stony Brook, March 2011

Everyman a Speculator: House Builders in Jacksonian Philadelphia
Keynote address, Construction History Society, May 2010

Poor Women Strategize to Fight Nuisance in mid-19th-century Philadelphia
American Society for Environmental History, March 2010

American Legal Culture and Environmental Knowledge in the Nineteenth Century
5th Round Table on Urban Environmental History, Berlin, July 2008

Naturalists and Environmental Consequences of mid-19th-century Pollution
American Society for Environmental History, March 2006

Bone Boilers: 19th-century Green Businessmen?
American Society for Environmental History, March 2005

Comment, Session on "Graduate Student Work-in-Progress"
Pennsylvania Historical Association, October 2004

Enticing Topographical and Environmental Change Out of Two-Dimensional Sources
Symposium on "Stories and Sources: Exploring History Through Documents,"
Historical Society of Pennsylvania, November 2004

"Vitriol Vagabonds," Acerbic Naturalists, and Befeared Women: the Contested Discourse of Nuisance
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, July 2004

When Pollution was New: Confronting Industrial Waste in the mid-19th Century
Invited Speaker, Frankford Historical Society, Philadelphia, June 2004

Nineteenth-century Environmental and Technological Knowledge: who has it, how does it circulate, and what is its content?
Science & Society Discussion Series, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Feb. 2004

Landscapes of Technology, Pollution and Suburbanization in 19th-century Philadelphia
Academy of Natural Sciences Colloquium, December 2003

Technology, Pollution and Suburbanization encounter Mill Creek
Pennsylvania Historical Association Meeting, October 2003

Floating Fish and Floating Ideas: Spreading Environmental and Technological Knowledge through 19th-century Pollution Lawsuits
Society for the History of Technology, October 2003

Noise, stinks and toxins in the 19th-century industrial city. Brown Bag Series,
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, August 2003

Dirty Little Secrets: Industrial Pollution in the Nineteenth Century
History Workshop in Technology, Society and Culture,
University of Delaware, April 2002

*Airing Dirty Linen: Industrial Waste and Responses in the Nineteenth-Century
Textile City Industrial Environments: Creativity and Consequences,*
Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, March 2002

Intra-Industry Contests Over Pollution Rights
American Society for Environmental History, March 2002

Comment, Session on “Negotiating Geographic and Cultural Boundaries”
Pennsylvania Historical Association, October 2001

Small Producer Capitalism in Philadelphia, 1812-1840
The Past and Future of Early American Economic History: Needs and
Opportunities. Inaugural Conference, Program in Early American Economy
and Society at The Library Company of Philadelphia, April 2001

In Defense of Polluting the Nineteenth-Century Metropolis
Joint Seminar of the Program in Early American Economy and Society, and the
McNeil Center in Early American Studies, March 2001

Comment, Session on “Capital and Patterns of Regional Economic Development”
Pennsylvania Historical Association, October 1998

Creative Construction: Entrepreneurial Strategies of Philadelphia Builders, 1790-1850
Business History Conference, July 1997

Creative Construction: Artisan Builders in Philadelphia, 1790-1850
Columbia University Seminar for Early American History, November 1996

Comment, Session on “19th-Century Business”
Pennsylvania Historical Association, October 1995

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Advisory Board, Pennsylvania Historical Association Book Series, April 2015-present
Post-doctoral Fellowship Committee, McNeil Center for Early American Studies,
2012-13

Tenure and promotion review for a candidate at the university level, November 2011

Manuscript referee for The University of Virginia Press; The Johns Hopkins University
Press; *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*; *Journal of the Early
Republic*; *Business History Review*; *Pennsylvania History*; *Journal of Social
History*; *Early American Studies*; *Eighteenth-Century Studies*; *Chemical Heritage*;
Virginia Magazine of History and Biography; University of Tennessee Press;
University of Pennsylvania Press; SUNY Press

Philip S. Klein Book Prize Committee, Pennsylvania Historical Association, 2010

Envirotech Article Prize Committee, Spring 2009-Spring 2010

Panel Organizer, “Commerce, Industry, and Environmental Change around the Atlantic,”
American Society for Environmental History, Annual Meeting, March 2006

Member, Fellowship Committee, Wolfe Institute Faculty Fellowships, Brooklyn College, Spring 2005
Member, Editorial Board, *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, September 2004-2010
Panel Organizer, "Nature's Resources: Narratives of Commodification, Consumption, and Indigestion," Society of the History of the Early American Republic, Annual Meeting, July 2004
Conference Organizer and Program Chair, "Cities, Industry, and Environment in Transatlantic Perspective," Cain Conference, Chemical Heritage Foundation, April 2004
Dissertation Fellowship Committee, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, Spring 2004
Member, Program Committee, Pennsylvania Historical Association Annual Meeting, October 2001
Fellowship Committee, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 1994

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Undergraduate Program Director, June 2018-present
Review Committee, Graduate Fellowship & Faculty Research Program (AHLSS), 2019
Promotion and Tenure Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, AY 2014-15
Graduate Committee, Department of History, Fall 2010-2013
History Department Senator, College of Arts and Sciences Senate, Fall 2008-Spring 2011
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of History, July 2006-July 2008
Departmental Search Committee, Consortium for Inter-Disciplinary Environmental Research, Spring 2007
Chair, Department Promotions and Tenure Committee for April Masten, 2006-07
Executive Committee, Department of History, Spring 2006-2008
Spearheaded revision of the department bylaws
Admissions Committee, Program for Master of Arts in Teaching, 2005-06
Co-Chair, U.S. History Search Committee, 2004-05
General Assessment Education Requirement Committee, Spring 2005-2006
Delegate, United University Professions, 1999-2003
Member, U.S. History Search Committee, 1998-99
New American Studies Faculty Group, 1996-97. Curriculum initiative to design an interdisciplinary undergraduate major in the study of the Americas
History Department Graduate Committee, Spring 1997
History Department Undergraduate Advising Committee, 1995-96

TEACHING FIELDS: History of work, industry, and business; social history; urban environmental history; writing intensive course for history students; Early Republic and antebellum United States; Law and society in early America; American history survey to Reconstruction