

Pleun Clara Bouricius

Historian, Writer, Photographer

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Coaching writers: developing a voice, creative non-fiction, writing with history, business writing, grant writing, editing

Planning and implementing the future of history: planning support for organizations looking to increase their viability; evaluations of programs and historical resources including buildings and landscapes; program development and management

(Online) publishing for small business and organizations: websites, online exhibits, blog editing

Copywriting and independent publishing: creating print publications for small historical organizations

Shaping clear and engaging exhibits: curation, content development, and evaluation of real and virtual exhibits

Editing and Grant Development Services

SELECTED CLIENTS AND PROJECTS

Conversations on the Commons: Concept, realization, and management of monthly online peer panel conversations on topics of interest to small historical organizations and the people that work with them. 2020-

Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. Creation and management of the first two phases of *Revolutionary Stories: The Enduring Legacies of the American Revolution*, including envisioning and building a collaboratively created and publicly accessible inventory of Revolutionary War history, as well as heritage, in the landscape and archives of the Heritage Area. Creating a framework for subsequent use of the inventory as part of the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War. 2021-2022

Leverett Historical Commission. Building capacity for community-wide preservation planning in Leverett, MA by documenting and raising awareness of the town's early industrial past and archaeological resources (predominantly mill and cellar foundations) Research, (strategic) planning, and development and management of public events. 2018-

Massachusetts History Conference. Management and content development of growing annual service conference held at College of the Holy Cross, Worcester. Collaboratively organized by and for professional and volunteer staff of historical organizations, independent professionals, and students in public history. 2007-2022

Reading Frederick Douglass. Creation and management of award-winning statewide program offering community public readings of Frederick Douglass' 1852 speech, "The Meaning of the Fourth of July to the Negro," organized in collaboration with dozens of organizations around the state. 2009-2016

Ideas Matter: Checking in with the Public Humanities. Concept and realization of a short weekly radio segment showcasing public humanities programming in the Northeast, a collaborative initiative with the state humanities councils of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont) and WAMC Northeast Public Radio (Albany, NY). 2013-2016

Created Equal 40th Anniversary Events, An (Un)Civil Action, and Massachusetts and the Economy of Slavery. Concept and realization of Mass Humanities statewide collaborative film-and-discussion program series featuring a series of documentaries on the history of civil rights 2008-2015

EXPERIENCE

- Freelance Writer and Consulting Historian**, owner, SwiftRiverPress.com. Writing, editing, consultations and workshops in history and photography 2017-
- President and founding co-director** Massachusetts History Alliance (MHA), a network of Massachusetts public history organizations and institutions of all sizes. Provided leadership in negotiations and collaborative planning, continuity, and impetus for an emerging statewide organization serving the public history field. Managed MHA Board and fundraising. 2016-2023
- Member**, State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB), Massachusetts Archives. Policy- and grant-making committee that provides support and grants for archival work for organizations around Massachusetts, especially smaller archives and volunteer archivists. 2014-2023
- Curator**, Plainfield Historical Society. Volunteer board position with small historical society. Responsible for intellectual and physical management of all of the PHS collections; policy development; volunteer management; cataloguing; informative lectures and talks; grant writing; donor development 2011-2021
- Assistant Director and Director of Grants and Programs**, Mass Humanities. Managed Mass Humanities' grant making and council-conducted programming and -staff; worked with board-based committees; participated in strategic planning, policy making, and fundraising efforts as member of the executive team; created projects and programs and wrote grant applications, reviews, and reports; program officer work (see below) 2010-2016
- Senior Program Officer**, Mass Humanities. Worked with grant applicants and grantees; managed grant projects; managed Mass Humanities' Massachusetts history grants, programs and projects, including planning of the annual Massachusetts History Conference 2007-2010
- Consulting Historian**, Plainfield Historical Society. Project development and management, fundraising, grant writing, database design, volunteer recruitment. 2005-2007
- Member and Consulting Contractor**, Plainfield Buildings Committee. Volunteer position on town committee overseeing maintenance, evaluation, and improvement of town buildings. 2004-2009
- Restoration contractor, carpenter, and small business owner**, Measure Twice Renewal (active in estimating, design and overseeing since 2008) 2002-
- Project Manager**, Women in Business Survey, Baker Library, Harvard Business School. Designed and supervised survey of manuscript collections; curated project exhibition; created online finding aid/guide to archival women's history resources at HBS 2001-2002
- CDL A Driver**, Werner Enterprises, Omaha, NE. Long haul truck driving 2000
- Lecturer**, Harvard University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Division of Continuing Education. Seminars and lecture classes in American history and literature. Freshman seminars, sophomore to senior group and on-on-one tutorials. Team-taught with rotating partners; supervised (thesis-) writing; created and evaluated general and oral exams. 1997-2000
- Teaching Fellow and Head Teaching Fellow**, Harvard University Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Division of Continuing Education (History and Literature, English Literature and Language, History, and Women's Studies). Taught individual and thesis-writing tutorials and discussion sections; team-taught with rotating partners; supervised (thesis-) writing; created and evaluated general and oral exams; supervised other Teaching Fellows and coordinated course administration 1987-1997

TEACHING-RELATED EXPERIENCE

- Conversations on the Commons*: Moderating online peer panel conversations on topics of interest to small historical organizations and the people that work with them. 2020-
- Shaw Memorial Library, Plainfield: Workshops in History and Photography 2018-2022
- Plainfield Reads*: Reading Frederick Douglass and Founding Documents in Plainfield. Moderator 2016-

TEACHING-RELATED EXPERIENCE, continued

Plainfield Historical Society, "Hidden Walls, Hidden Mills," lecture series about the settlement and early history of the hill towns of Western Massachusetts, Plainfield Historical Society	2012
Federation of State Humanities Councils: "Making Social Media Work for the Public Humanities: an Experiment," presentation at the annual conference of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, Albuquerque, NM	2010
Mass Humanities: "Whence the Money?" Research project presented as a walking tour of Beacon Hill that explores the relationship between the economies of slavery and the resources that created the built environment of Beacon Hill.	2008
Mass Humanities: "The Ask," a workshop in the art of humanities grantsmanship, taught as the opportunity arose around the state, occasionally in collaboration with NEH	2010- 2016
Harvard University Extension School: History of Women in America.	2000
Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning (Harvard University)	
▶ Graduate Writing Fellow (seminar)	1993-1995
▶ Creating support materials for international teachers (video, workshops).	
Harvard Business School: Master Classes for Educators	
▶ Teaching with Cases I	1992-1993
▶ Teaching with Cases II: Discussion Leadership Skills	

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

<i>Northern Byways and Other Essays From The Road</i> . Swift River Press (Plainfield, MA), as AgathaO. Essays and photographs reading the landscape across the continent and back through Canada.	2024
<i>Born Wet</i> . Swift River Press (Plainfield, MA), as AgathaO. An elegy to the water that makes our lives possible: nature, history, philosophy, and the art of seeing	2022
<i>Beech, the Fall and Rise of a Forest</i> (as AgathaO). Swift River Press (Plainfield, MA). Photographs and short essays in history, ecology, and experience	2019
"Dowsing for history." <i>Earthcare Catalog</i> . David Perkins, ed. Hilltown Chautauqua, 2018	2018
<i>The Bog</i> , as AgathaO. Swift River Press (Plainfield, MA). Photographs and short lyric prose	2017
"Of time on the river." <i>Stone Walls II</i> (Summer, 2017)	2017

TEACHING-RELATED GRANTS AND AWARDS

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities Discussion Grant to Earthdance, Inc. for 'Reading Frederick Douglass and Founding Documents' in Plainfield	2017-
Plainfield and Cummington Cultural Council grant for photography workshops	2020-2023
Plainfield Cultural Council grant for <i>Making History Workshop series</i> ' by Swift River Press	2018-2019
Federation of State Humanities Councils, Helen and Martin Schwartz Prize for "Best Overall Program," for Reading Frederick Douglass	2012
Stephen Botein Teaching Prize in History and Literature (student-nominated department prize for best teacher in History and Literature, granted no more than once)	1998
AAUW Dissertation Grant (alternate)	1996
Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize for Excellence in the Art of Teaching. The Hoopes Prize is awarded to outstanding undergraduate work and to those instructors who have supervised and nominated the prize-winning works	1993