Matthew Costello, Ph.D.

The White House Historical Association

P.O. Box 27624 Washington, D.C. 20038

mcostello@whha.org/ (202) 218-4330

Education

Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

Ph.D. in American History (2016)

Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

M.A. in American History (2011)

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

B.A. in History, Political Science (2009)

Employment

Acting Director, The David M. Rubenstein National Center for White House History, The White House Historical Association, April 2019—present

Assistant Director, The David M. Rubenstein National Center for White House History, The White House Historical Association, February 2019—April 2019

Senior Historian, The White House Historical Association, November 2016—February 2019

Project Contributor, George Washington Bibliography Project, The George Washington Papers University of Virginia September 2015—August 2016

Honors

Fred W. Smith National Library at Mount Vernon Fellowship 2015-2016

United States Capitol Historical Society Fellowship, 2014-2015

Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship, The Virginia Historical Society, 2014-2015

Publications

*Books*

“‘The Property of the Nation’: Democracy and the Memory of George Washington, 1799-1865,” University Press of Kansas, (under contract, forthcoming 2019).

“The Roosevelts: America’s First Family in the White House,” The White House Historical Association, (under contract, forthcoming 2022).

*Articles*

Perspectives on History, AHA Member Spotlight, October 30, 2018 <https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/october-2018/aha-member-spotlight-matthew-costello>

“First in War, First in Peace, and First in Death: A History of Presidential Mourning,” *White House History,* 47 (Fall 2017).

“American Sepulcher: George Washington’s Tomb in the United States Capitol,” *The Dome*, volume 54, number 1, United States Capitol Historical Society (Fall 2017, invited).

“Creating the Sacred: Washington’s Body and the Relics of Mount Vernon.” *Journal of History and Cultures*, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, (Issue 4: (July 2014), 1-23. (Peer-reviewed; selected *Best Article of the Year*.)

“Blood, Bones, and Soil: Virginian Identity and the Attempted Desecration of George Washington.” *Essays in History*, Corcoran History Department, University of Virginia, (Volume 58: Summer 2012), 34-51.

*Encyclopedia Entries*

“Parson Weems,” *American Myths, Legends, and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore,* ed. Jeffrey Webb, ABC-CLIO (2016)

“John Augustine Washington III,” “The Centennial Celebration of George Washington’s Birthday,” and “George Washington’s Tomb and the Pilgrimage to Mount Vernon.” *The Digital Encyclopedia of George Washington,* eds. Adam Shprintzen and Joseph Stolz. http://www.mountvernon.org/encyclopedia

*Reviews*

*Unearthed: Storied Artifacts and Remarkable Predecessors of the Saint Joseph’s College Campus,* by Steven L. Bridge. *Maine History*, The Maine Historical Society (forthcoming)

*Shifting Grounds: Nationalism and the American South, 1848-1865*, by Paul Quigley. The *Southern Historian*, University of Alabama (Volume 35: Spring 2014): 152-153.

Lectures/Presentations

“The Property of the Nation: George Washington’s Tomb, Mount Vernon, and the Memory of the Firs President,” Historic Locus Grove, Louisville, Kentucky, 3 April 2019.

“Living and Dying in the White House: Treating America’s First Families,” sponsored by Columbia University, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, and HEALTH for Youths, 5 April 2018.

“The Origins of His Excellency’s Character: George Washington and the American West,” George Washington Masonic National Memorial Symposium, 24 February 2018.

“American Sepulcher: George Washington’s Tomb in the United States Capitol,” United States Capitol Historical Society, 21 February 2018.

“Picketing the White House: The Suffragist Movement During the Great War,” George Washington Textile Museum, 12 February 2018.

“The Peaceful Transfer of Power,” The White House Historical Association, September 14, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoRWcMSDhFU>

“The Eternal Six-Star General: George Washington’s Legacy as a Military Commander,” Fred W. Smith National Library, Mount Vernon, Virginia, 9 July 2016, George Washington Teacher Institute (invited lecture).

“The Property of the Nation: Democracy and the Memory of George Washington, 1799-1865,” Fred W. Smith National Library, Mount Vernon, Virginia 29 September 2015.

Teaching Experience

*Adjunct Professorial Lecturer*

A History of the White House Fall 2018-2019

American University

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue: A History of the White House Fall 2017

Virginia Museum of History & Culture

Worldviews and World History 163, Concordia University Summer 2016

Introduction to American History 1101, Marquette University Fall 2014

*Online Instructor*

United States History 1763-1877, Lamar University Spring 2014-Fall 2016

Professional Organizations

Society of Historians of Early American Republic, American Historical Association, Organization of American Historians, Society for History in the Federal Government

Press/Interviews

From the White House to Notre Dame: Why We Rebuild Historical Icons, April 4, 2019

<https://www.msn.com/en-ie/news/world/from-the-white-house-to-notre-dame-why-we-rebuild-historical-icons/ar-BBW38bn>

Remembering the Scottish architect who created the Capitol building in Washington D.C., March 23, 2019

<https://www.scotsman.com/news-2-15012/remembering-the-scottish-architect-who-created-the-capitol-building-in-washington-d-c-1-4894666>

Wives of Political Leaders Have Long Been Called ‘First Ladies.’ California’s Jennifer Siebel Newsom Has Other Plans, January 11, 2019

<https://time.com/5499825/newsom-first-partner-first-lady/>

A Funeral for a President, and a Fleeting Unity for a Nation, December 4, 2018

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/04/us/politics/george-bush-funeral-unity.html>

A Stately Goodbye: How State Funerals Are Planned, December 4, 2018

<https://wamu.org/story/18/12/04/a-stately-goodbye-how-state-funerals-are-planned/>

Presidential Funerals: From Private Family Affairs to Major National Events, December 2, 2018

<https://www.npr.org/2018/12/02/672675476/presidential-funerals-from-private-family-affairs-to-major-national-events>

George H.W. Bush chose a train for his final ride, reviving a bygone tradition, December 6, 2018

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20181206/george-hw-bush-chose-a-train-for-his-final-ride-reviving-a-bygone-tradition>

C-Span <https://www.c-span.org/person/?118476>

How U.S. presidents shaped the Thanksgiving holiday: A short history, November 21, 2017

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2017/11/21/how-u-s-presidents-shaped-thanksgiving-holiday-short-history/885062001/>

Press Pool with Julie Mason, November 19, 2018

<https://www.siriusxm.com/clips/site/path/1d16518a-2b9a-11e8-9f5c-4d85774653e5/story/3e7b0bce-ec45-11e8-85a9-f1e305ffe5e8>

Halloween at the White House: How Presidents and Their Families Have Celebrated Through the Years

<https://parade.com/706364/lindsaylowe/halloween-at-the-white-house-how-presidents-and-their-families-have-celebrated-through-the-years/>

How a Groundbreaking Interior Designer Helped Jackie O. Change the White House, July 17, 2017

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/inventor-american-shabby-chic-helped-design-jackie-o-white-house-180964072/>

How Ireland Uses Shamrocks to Gain Access to the U.S. President, March 17, 2017

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/shamrock-ceremony-st-patricks-day>

Washington Post, January 19, 2017 <https://live.washingtonpost.com/home-front-20170119.html>