

William E. Hardy, PhD

Assistant Professor of History / Lincoln Scholar / Executive Director, The Abraham Lincoln Center for Leadership and Public Policy



Biography

William E. Hardy is an Assistant Professor of History and the Lincoln Scholar in the History Department, Paul V. Hamilton School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, as well as the Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Center for Leadership and Public Policy at Lincoln Memorial University. He earned both his B.A. and M.A. in American History at the University of Louisville with a minor field in Latin America and his Ph.D. in 19th Century American History at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He has also earned a Masters of Education in Initial Teacher Licensure, Secondary Education (Social Studies, 6-12) at Lincoln Memorial University. Previously, Hardy served as an Academic Coordinator and Project Manager at the East Tennessee Historical Society on three, one-million dollar Teaching American History Grants awarded by the United States Department of Education and is a frequent presenter at teacher professional development workshops throughout East Tennessee.

Teaching and Research Interests

Hardy's teaching and research interests include American history, with primary areas of interests in: the American Civil War and Reconstruction; the life and times of Abraham Lincoln; Military, Southern, and Tennessee History; Nineteenth Century political and legal culture writ large (in both its local and its national manifestations); Foreign Policy (diplomatic relations between the United States and Latin America); Gilded Age, urbanization, and industrialization; and the history of sport in the United States. He also teaches the University's mission specific General Education Core Curriculum courses (LNCN-100 / CIVX-300) and has developed an Honors Lincoln course (LNCN-110).

Representative Publications and Presentations (last five years)

Publications

“‘A Perfect Mania’: The Origins of ‘Base Ball’ in Knoxville, Tennessee.” *Journal of East Tennessee History* 94 (2022): 58-87 (winner of the East Tennessee Historical Society's 2023 McClung Award for best article in the current volume of the *Journal of East Tennessee History*)

Review of *The Diary of Serepta Jordan: A Southern Woman's Struggle with War and Family, 1857-1864* edited by Minoa D. Uffelman, Ellen Kanervo, Phyllis Smith, and Eleanor Williams (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2020), *Journal of East Tennessee History* 96 (2024): 122-23

Review of *The Fifth Border State: Slavery, Emancipation, and the Formation of West Virginia, 1829-1872* by Scott A. MacKenzie (Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2023), *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 30 (2024): 102-04

Review of *Black Suffrage: Lincoln's Last Goal* by Paul D. Escott (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2022), *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 121 (Winter 2023): 79-80

Presentations

“‘Let Us Have Base Ball Clubs Organized’: The Origins of Baseball in Tennessee.” Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning, Roane State Community College, Oak Ridge, TN, July 10, 2025

“‘We Have no Union to Hope For, no Constitution to Struggle For’: East Tennessee Unionists’ House Dividing.” East Tennessee: 1863 Civil War Symposium, East Tennessee Historical Society and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, East Tennessee History Center, Knoxville, Tennessee, November 16, 2024

“Lincoln’s Example of Leadership” (guest lecturer in Dr. Michael Wieting and Dr. Brandy Fuesting’s DOSYS 781 Foundations of Modern Healthcare I course). Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN, November 13, 2024

“2024 U.S. Presidential Election Symposium” (panelist). The Honors Scholars Association and Paul V. Hamilton School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN, September 26, 2024

“A. Lincoln Confronts Slavery, Race, and Reconstruction” (lead presenter). Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Summer Teacher Institute (Knox County Schools Social Studies Teachers, 6-12), East Tennessee History Center, Knoxville, Tennessee, May 30, 2024

“A. Lincoln Confronts Slavery, Race, and Reconstruction.” Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Summer Teacher Institute, East Tennessee History Center, May 30, 2024

“Crash Course – Lincoln’s Life and Legacy: 10 Things You Should Know About Abraham Lincoln.” CHASE Camp, Lincoln Memorial University, May 29, 2024

“Early East Tennesseans Who Shaped American Democracy” Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Summer Teacher Institute, East Tennessee History Center, May 9, 2024

“Lincoln’s Dilemma: Slavery, Morality, and Politics” (joint presentation with Dr. Michael Toomey). Abraham Lincoln Center for Leadership and Public Policy, Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum, April 19, 2024

“Lincoln’s Example of Leadership” (guest lecturer in Dr. Michael Wieting and Dr. Brandy Fuesting’s DOSYS 781 Foundations of Modern Healthcare I course). Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN, November 8, 2023

“Redefining the Purpose of the American Civil War: Abraham Lincoln as Moral Leader.” Kinkaid Lecture Series, Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum, September 22, 2023

“Tennessee’s Great Sphinx: Governor DeWitt Clinton Senter of McMinn County, Tennessee.” C. Scott and Muriel Mayfield Foundation Heritage School Lecture Series, McMinn County Living Heritage Museum, Athens, Tennessee, July 15, 2023

“Uninvited Guests: The State of Franklin, Shays’s Rebellion, and the Constitution” & “Connecting Tennessee’s Founding to the Nation’s Founding” (lead presenter). “Tennessee During the Nation’s Founding.” Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Summer Teacher Institute (Knox County Schools Social Studies Teachers, 6-12), East Tennessee History Center, Knoxville, Tennessee (site visits/presentations at Blount Mansion & Marble Springs State Historic Site, Knoxville, Tennessee & Tipton-Haynes Historic Site, Johnson City, Tennessee), June 7-9, 2023

“‘A Perfect Mania’: The Origins of ‘Base Ball’ in Knoxville, Tennessee.” Brown Bag Lecture Series, East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville, Tennessee, May 10, 2023

“Origins of Base Ball in Knoxville, Tennessee.” Annual Meeting of the Membership, Historic Ramsey House, Knoxville, Tennessee, July 9, 2022

“Some Key Points of Tennessee’s 1834 & 1870.” Tennessee Humanities Teacher Workshop, East Tennessee History Center, Knoxville, Tennessee, June 28, 2022

“‘Under Rebel rule once more’: The Constitutional Convention of 1870 and the end of Tennessee’s Reconstruction.” The Historic Homes of Knoxville Statehood Lecture Series, Mabry-Hazen House, Knoxville, Tennessee, February 23, 2021

LMU and other Professional Service

LMU

Executive Director of the Lincoln Center for Leadership and Public Policy (2022-present)

Co-directs General Education Core Curriculum courses – LNCN-100 Lincoln’s Life and Legacy / CIVX-300 American Civics (2022-present)

Student Awards Committee (2022-present)

Undergraduate Student Success Committee (2022-present)

Search Committee Member, Adjunct HUFA (2025)

Professional Service

Museum of East Tennessee History Content Advisor for “Home Runs & Home Teams: A History of the National Pastime in Tennessee” Exhibit (2024-2025)

East Tennessee Historical Society Education and Interpretation Committee (2022-present)

Gilder Lehrman Tennessee Teacher of the Year Selection Committee (2021-present)

Book Review Editor, *Journal of East Tennessee History*, Vols. 81-86 (2009-2014)