

Abena Boakyewa-Ansah

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[UNC Asheville](https://www.unca.edu/) | Asheville, NC

EDUCATION

PhD., Vanderbilt University, May 2022

- Dissertation: "Freedom Was Their North Star: African American Women's Efforts to Define and Secure Freedom in the American Civil War"
- Advisor: Richard Blackett

Scottish MAhons., University of Edinburgh, 2015

- Dissertation: "Crafted 'By Their Own Hands': African American Religious Experience in Union Occupied North Carolina, 1861-1865"
- Advisor: David Silkenat

EMPLOYMENT

University Fellow for Faculty Diversity, History Department, UNC Asheville, July 2022- present

Archival Researcher, Center for Latin American Studies, Vanderbilt University, June 2018-August 2018

Research Assistant, Kim Welch, Vanderbilt University, June 2017- September 2017

Graduate Assistant, Black Cultural Center, Vanderbilt University, January 2017- July 2017

PUBLICATIONS

"Crafted 'By Their Own Hands': African American Religious Experience in Union Occupied North Carolina, 1862-1865," *North Carolina Historical Review*, Vol.94, July 2017. p. 299-332.

AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS

Certificate in Humanities Teaching and Learning, Vanderbilt Center for Teaching, 2019

Distinguished Student Award, Vanderbilt Black Cultural Center, 2018

Harold Sterling Vanderbilt Scholarship, Vanderbilt University, 2016

Compton Prize for American History, University of Edinburgh, 2015

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

J. Léon Helguera Endowed Fellow, Vanderbilt University, 2021-2022

Summer Residency in Meaningful Pedagogy, National Humanities Center, 2021

Graduate Teaching Fellow, Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University, 2020-2021

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow, Library Company Philadelphia, 2019-2020

Dissertation Fellow, Wilson Library, University North Carolina Chapel Hill, 2019-2020

Ruth R. Miller Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2019-2020

Neilsen Public Liberal Arts Teaching Fellow, Nielsen Center, Eckerd College, 2023

CONFERENCES AND PUBLIC HISTORY SERVICE

Guest Speaker: "She was Hunting Freedom: Black Women's Civil War," **Etowah Public Library**, June 2023

Faculty Advisor: Asheville Christian School Senior Thesis Panelist, **Asheville Christian Academy**, 2022-2023

Writer: "What Do We Miss in the Fatherlessness Conversation?" **Common Good Magazine**, January 2023

Editor: Gibbs-Smith AP African American History Textbook Reader/Editor, **Gibbs-Smith Publisher**, *summer 2022*

Conference Paper: "She Was Hunting Freedom: Enslaved Women's Efforts to Leave the Confederacy," **Southern Historical Association Panel**, November 2021

Podcast Co-Host: "Carved in Ebony Podcast," **Highest Good Media**, November 2021.

Podcast Interview: "History, and the Gospel with Abena Ansah-Wright," **Sweet Tea with Jasmine and Portia**, May 2021

Workshop Series Co-coordinator: "Teaching Race in Higher Education," **Vanderbilt Center for Teaching**, 2020-2021

Round Table Panellist: "What is the function and purpose of history in times of rapid social, political and technological change?", **300th Anniversary of History at Edinburgh University**, *November 2019*

Researcher: **Center for Latin American Studies**, *Summer 2018*

(Crafted historical timeline with archival sources, classroom discussions questions and activities for K-12 schools in Tennessee)

Conference Paper: "Freedom Constrained: Black Nashville in Slavery and Freedom," **Vanderbilt University's Wrestling with Our Past Conference**, *March 2018*

TEACHING

IoR, "Black Civil War and Reconstruction: A Freedom Narrative," Spring 2023

IoR, "Black Women Leaders," Spring 2023

Guest Lecturer, "Research cataloging and Note taking," for History Thesis Course, Fall 2022

Guest Lecturer, "Uncovering Marginalized Voices: Research Methods," Historians' Craft, Fall 2022

IoR, "African American History to 1865: African American Experience and Culture," Fall, 2022

IoR/Co-Lecturer, "Slavery in American History," Spring 2022

Graduate Teaching Fellow, Graduate student pedagogical development seminars, *June 2020-June 2021*

TA for "Capital, Labor and Democracy in the United States," *Spring 2019*

TA for "American History 1877-1945," *Fall 2018*