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School Zone

The Journal Sentinel education reporters offer news and notes from their beat

UW-Madison hires military history professor

By Erica Perez of the Journal Sentinel

Apr. 1, 2009

More than a decade after University of Wisconsin-Madison alum Stephen Ambrose set up a fund to hire a military history professor, the school is finally fulfilling the late historian's vision.

Ambrose, the famed author of "Band of Brothers" who grew up in Whitewater, established an endowment for the Ambrose-Hesseltine Chair in U.S. Military History in 1998. When he died in 2002, the UW Foundation received the proceeds of his gift — about \$500,000. The endowment reached \$1.2 million last June, although it has probably decreased since that time.

The long delay in hiring provoked some controversy, suggesting that the university was purposely avoiding hiring a military historian. But officials refuted that claim.

The university has hired Major John Hall, who will join the History department in July as an assistant professor.

A native of Wisconsin, Hall received his undergraduate education at the U.S. Military Academy before embarking on a career in the Army, in which he has served 16 years. During that time, he continued his education as a historian, earning a doctorate in History at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 2007, while teaching history at his alma mater.

This year, Harvard University Press will publish his new book, "Uncommon Defense: Indian Allies in the Black Hawk War." The book reflects Hall's interest in military conflict and cooperation between Native peoples and the emerging American republic. His next book will examine the military history of the Indian Removal in the American southeast.

Hall will start his teaching duties in the fall semester. UW-Madison officials said Hall emerged as the strongest candidate during a year-long search that assessed a pool of approximately 35 applicants ranging from full professors to graduate students completing their dissertation.

"The combination of his professional experience to date and his continuing interest in Native American history provide us with an experienced and versatile expert in a wide variety of areas addressed by military historians," History department chair David McDonald wrote in an e-mail to faculty.

"We look forward to Hall's arrival and we are equally certain that he will impress the larger state community as much as he impressed us during a rigorous selection and recruitment process."

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John Hall

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## John Hall

Assoc. Prof. at University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Madison, Wisconsin Area Higher Education

Current University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation Board, U.S. European Command

Previous United States Military Academy, U.S. Army TRADOC

Education U.S. Army Command and General Staff College

Send a message

500+ connections

https://www.linkedin.com/in/john-hall-63958215

Contact Info

### Background

#### Summary

I am primarily interested in the ethnohistorical examination of military conflict and cooperation between the Native peoples of North America and European colonial powers. More generally, I am interested in Native American and early American history with particular emphasis on the Revolutionary Era and the Early Republic. Within the field of military history, my research has focused on "small wars" involving irregular forces and U.S. defense policy. I am currently working on a military history of Indian Removal in the southeastern United States.

#### Experience

##### Assoc. Prof.

University of Wisconsin-Madison

July 2009 – Present (7 years 7 months) | Madison, Wisconsin Area

Ambrose Hesseltine Chair in U.S. Military History



A soldier and a scholar

### People Also Viewed

- Ali Hasan**  
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- Patricia Fountain**  
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- Jeremi Suri**  
Professor at the University of Texas at Austin
- Beena shawki**  
Student at Hawler medical university
- William Foster**  
Supervisor at Oxford ATS
- Duane Kleven**
- Jim McSloy**  
Retired Detective Bronx Homicide NYPD

### Courses related to John's skills

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Viewers: 8,364
- Leadership Fundamentals**



**John W. Hall**

Ambrose-Hesseltine  
Associate Professor of  
U.S. Military History

608.263.2364

jwhall3@wisc.edu

Curriculum Vitae (pdf)

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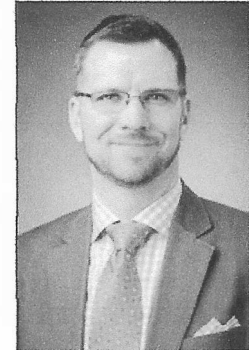
**Mailbox:**

5014 Mosse Humanities

**Office Hours:**

TBA

I am primarily interested in the ethnohistorical examination of military conflict and cooperation between the Native peoples of North America and European colonial powers. More generally, I am interested in Native American and early American history with particular emphasis on the Revolutionary Era and the Early Republic. Within the field of military history, my research has focused on "small wars" involving irregular forces and U.S. defense policy. I am currently working on a military history of Indian Removal in the southeastern United States.



**Education:**

- PhD - University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- MA - University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- BS - U.S. Military Academy

**Books:**



*Uncommon Defense: Indian Allies in the Black Hawk War* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009). [View Book Details](#)

**Selected Publications:**

- "An Irregular Reconsideration of George Washington and the American Military Tradition," *Journal of Military History* 78, no. 3 (July 2014): 961-993.
- "'My Favorite Officer': George Washington's Apprentice, Nathanael Greene," in *Sons of the Father: George Washington and His Protégés*, ed. Robert McDonald, 149-168 (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2013).
- 'A Reckless Waste of Blood and Treasure': The Last Campaign of the Second Seminole War," in *Between War and Peace: How America Ends Its Wars*, ed. Matthew Moten (New York: Free Press, 2011).

**Selected Awards:**

- 2015 - Philip R. Certain & Gary D. Sandefur Distinguished Faculty Award, College of Letters and Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2015 - Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award for "An Irregular Reconsideration of George Washington and the American Military Tradition"
- 2014 - William H. Kiekhofer Distinguished Teaching Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2012 - Dorothy and Hsin-Nung Yao Teaching Award, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2011 - Vilas Associate, 2011-2012, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Advisor To:**

- Denis Alfin
- Leslie Bellais
- Marlana Margaria

- Steve Oreck
- Tom Rider
- Kevin Walters

**History Courses:**

- History 201 - The Historian's Craft - The History of Wisconsin in 100 Objects - Syllabus 2016 (pdf)
- History 221 - Explorations in American History: "The American Military Experience Since 1899" - Syllabus 2011 (pdf)
- History 396 - Military History of the United States to 1902 - Syllabus 2011 (pdf)
- History 427 - The American Military Experience to 1902 - Syllabus 2014 (pdf)
- History 428 - The American Military Experience Since 1899 - Syllabus 2016 (pdf)
- History 600 - U.S. Military History
- History 600 - American Ways of War - Syllabus 2010 (pdf)
- History 600 - Indian Removal - Syllabus 2013 (pdf)
- History 941 - Indians and Empires - Syllabus 2012 (pdf)
- History 958 - Seminar in American Military History - Syllabus 2014 (pdf)

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**Historian**

U.S. European Command

September 2014 – Present (2 years 5 months) | Patch Barracks, Vaihingen-Stuttgart, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany

**Historian**

United States Military Academy

January 2013 – August 2014 (1 year 8 months)

**Strategic Planner & Concept Developer**

U.S. Army TRADOC

July 2007 – July 2009 (2 years 1 month) | Ft. Monroe, VA

Chief, Future Studies Branch, Future Warfare Division.

**Faculty**

United States Military Academy

July 2003 – June 2006 (3 years) | West Point, NY

**Student**

U.S. Army

January 2001 – January 2003 (2 years 1 month) | Chapel Hill, NC

**Infantry Company Commander**

U.S. Army

November 1999 – January 2001 (1 year 3 months) | Ft. Stewart, GA

**Battalion Motor Officer**

U.S. Army

January 1998 – January 1999 (1 year 1 month) | Ft. Stewart, GA

**Air Operations Officer**

U.S. Army

January 1996 – January 1998 (2 years 1 month) | Ft. Campbell, KY

**Platoon Leader**

U.S. Army

January 1995 – January 1996 (1 year 1 month) | Ft. Campbell, KY

**Student**

U.S. Army Infantry Center

January 1994 – January 1995 (1 year 1 month) | Ft. Benning, GA



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**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Ph.D., History

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2003 – 2007

Earned an MA and a PhD in American history with concentrations in early American military and Native American history.

Activities and Societies: Triangle Institute for Security Studies.

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

M.A., History

2001 – 2003

Earned an MA and a PhD in American history, concentrating in American military and Native American history.

**United States Military Academy at West Point**

B.S., History

1990 – 1994

B.S. in Military History  
Distinguished Graduate

Activities and Societies: Orienteering, Phi Alpha Theta, Sandhurst, Infantry Tactics Club, intramural boxing and wrestling

Additional Info

• **Personal Details**

Marital Status Married



Volunteer Experience & Causes

**Causes John cares about:**

- Animal Welfare
- Arts and Culture
- Children
- Civil Rights and Social Action
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Human Rights
- Politics

Recommendations



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## Publications

### **Uncommon Defense: Indian Allies in the Black Hawk War**

Harvard University Press

September 2009

In the spring of 1832, when the Indian warrior Black Hawk and a thousand followers marched into Illinois to reoccupy lands earlier ceded to American settlers, the U.S. Army turned to rival tribes for military support. Elements of the Menominee, Dakota, Potawatomi, and Ho Chunk tribes willingly allied themselves with the United States government against their fellow Native Americans in an uncommon... [more](#)

### **"A Reckless Waste of Blood and Treasure': The Last Campaign of the Second Seminole War"**

in *Between War and Peace: How America Ends Its Wars*, ed. Matthew Moten (New York: Free Press, 2011).

### **"Washington's Irregulars," in *A Companion to George Washington*, ed. Edward Lengel,**

Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell

2012

### **"Battle of Great Bridge / Burning of Norfolk," in *Reporting the Revolutionary War*, ed. Todd Andriak**

Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks

2012

### **"My Favorite Officer': George Washington's Apprentice, Nathanael Greene," in *Sons of the Father: George Washington and His Protégés*, ed. Robert McDonald**

Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press

2013

### **An Irregular Reconsideration of George Washington and the American Military Tradition"**

*Journal of Military History* 78, no. 3

July 2014



## Education

### **U.S. Army Command and General Staff College**

2006 – 2007

## □ People

### Completes Ranger School

Second Lt. John William Hall was graduated from the U.S. Army Ranger School on



Feb. 24 at Fort Benning, Ga. The rigorous 72-day course is considered by many to be the toughest course offered by the military with less than half of those

Hall

entering Ranger School

making it to graduation.

Hall was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point on May 28, 1994, and received his commission as a second lieutenant of infantry in the Army. He was graduated 36th in a class of 1,038, making him a West Point honor graduate.

While at West Point, he was a member of the USMA Orienteering Team, earned membership in Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Alpha Theta honor societies and was decorated for military achievement. He was a history major and was graduated as the top ranked history major.

Before Ranger School, Hall completed the infantry officer basic course and will now join the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky.

He is the son of Phillip and Barbara Hall of Eagle and fiance of Heidi Miller of Waukesha.