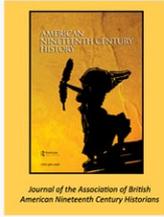


In 2017, the peer-reviewed *British Journal of American Nineteenth Century History* (BrANCH) published my piece on Greytown's demise. In 2018, the highly-regarded *History News Network* published my op-ed on Greytown. Below are comments about these works from eight top-tier American historians — and a tribute by me to a ninth.



## American Nineteenth Century History

### Revisiting nineteenth-century U.S. interventionism in Central America: capitalism, intrigue, and the obliteration of Greytown

Will Soper

Published online: 16 May 2017.



Columbian College  
of Arts & Sciences  
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## History News Network

Because the past is the present and the future too



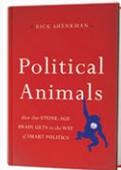
## Can an Amateur Historian Rewrite History?

10/23/18

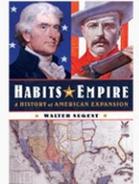
by Will Soper

## Fellow Authors' Testimonials

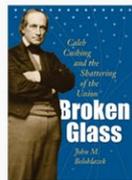
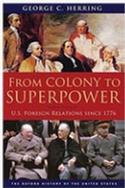
"This is an amazing story," Rick Shenkman, founder and former editor of *History News Network* (HNN), told me when I submitted my op-ed (see above.) "And it's extremely well-written." (Rick is the author of *Political Animals: How Our Stone-Age Brain Gets in the Way of Smart Politics* plus six other books.)



HNN consultant Walter Nugent (Professor of History, Emeritus, Notre Dame, and author of *Habits of Empire: A History of American Expansion*) had this to say about my journal article (at top) and HNN op-ed: "Fine work! I had not known anything about Greytown, nor about its (mis)use, via the court decisions, to support executive actions. Fascinating and significant."

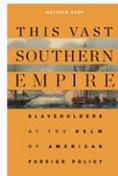


"I thoroughly enjoyed reading your op-ed and article on the Greytown incident," George C. Herring, told me. He is the author of *From Colony to Superpower*, a volume in the highly regarded *Oxford History of the United States*. "Impressive detective work on your part, and I wish I had had them when I was writing *From Colony to Superpower* way back when."



"Praise from GH [George Herring] is indeed high praise," John M. Belohlavek, Professor of History at the University of South Florida and author of *Broken Glass: Caleb Cushing and the Shattering of the Union*, told me. "As you know, he is considered one of the country's finest diplomatic historians and you should be very pleased at his remarks. His recognition of your quality research and writing should both satisfy and inspire. Well done."

"It's a marvelous piece of detective work, and perhaps the definitive account of the incident, Princeton Assistant Professor of History Matthew Karp told me. "I really had no idea how important Greytown was as a precedent for executive action ... [and] that much of the legal precedent and justification for current US foreign policy is based on a giant error of fact, surrounding a 160-year-old bit of gunboat diplomacy." Matt is the author of *This Vast Southern Empire: Slaveholders at the Helm of American Foreign Policy*.

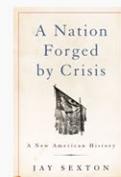


"Your approach is promising," journalist, noted history book author, and academic Stephen Kinzer emailed me. "You're taking the history in an interesting direction." Kinzer is the author of, among others, *Overthrow, America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*. A former *New York Times* correspondent, Stephen is currently a senior fellow in international and public affairs at Brown University's Watson Institute. We have been corresponding since early 2017.

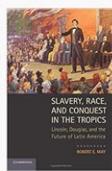
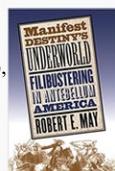


"This is fascinating stuff," Greg Grandin said of my 2017 journal article. Formerly a professor of history at New York University and now at Yale, Grandin added: "My sense ... would be to wait until some anniversary related to the AUMFs [the laws sanctioning presidential war-making that followed *Durand v. Hollins*, the case law associated with Greytown] and then write a story that you could pitch to the NYT's [New York Times.]" Greg is the author of *Empire's Workshop, Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism* and *The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America*.

"I think the [2017] article is great," Jay Sexton emailed me. "As for promoting the findings to a wider public audience, tell them why it matters to get this episode right. Maybe they'll listen?" Jay was a Marshall Scholar and then a faculty member at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He is now Professor and Kinder Endowed Chair in Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri and author of *A Nation Forged by Crisis: A New American History*.



I'd also like to mention Robert E. May, Professor of History, Emeritus, Purdue University, an expert on US "filibustering" (illegal private military expeditions against foreign countries), with three books on the subject. (One of the twin intrigues against Greytown was a filibuster.) His informal but prodigious and indispensable advice has been essential to my Greytown research and writing efforts since 2014.



Left to right: *Manifest Destiny's Underworld: Filibustering in Antebellum America*; *The Southern Dream of a Caribbean Empire, 1854-1861*; and *Slavery, Race, and Conquest in the Tropics: Lincoln, Douglas, and the Future of Latin America*.