

Eigentumsgeschichte(n): Nationale und Indigene Erzählungen über Land als Eigentum in den USA

The Claims of History: Native and National Narratives of Land as Property in the U.S.

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The Claims of History: Native and National Narratives of Land as Property in the U.S.

Combination of two interrelated sub-projects:

- ▶ Imagination and Entitlement: State Histories and the Historical Novel in the U.S. 1763-1830 (Schneck)
- ▶ Visions of Peoplehood and Indigenous Futurity in Native American Removal Literature (Meyer)

The Claims of History:

Native and National Narratives of Land as Property in the U.S.

General Objectives:

- ▶ The project will investigate the historical emergence and contemporary persistence of national and Native narratives of *land as property*.
- ▶ It is based on the observation that the ongoing negotiation of competing concepts of property and especially the struggle between opposing claims of possession in regard to land have been foundational as well as formative for U.S.-American literature and culture.
- ▶ The main interest of our research is in the specific ways in which the *narrative conceptualization* of history (in historiographical, but also in literary and legal texts) is used to legitimize and sustain particular claims of ownership and possession of land as property. If the basic mode to conceptualize and to legitimize property consists in recounting stories about it, historical narratives of property serve as claims within the larger context of the ongoing negotiation and contestation of property interests and rights.

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General Objectives:

- ▶ The main *methodological* interest and objective of the project is to establish a robust and substantial theoretical and methodological framework based on 'property' as a major conceptual and epistemological 'tool' for the historical and contextual analysis of literary and legal texts.
- ▶ Both sub-projects share a common core interest in the specific forms or genres in which property concepts and conflicts are negotiated and perpetuated and how the ongoing negotiation of property interests and claims also engenders and shapes the history of literary forms and *textualities* in general.
- ▶ Finally, in regard to the field of American Studies, the projects aims to highlight the centrality of property concerns and the negotiation of proprietary relations in U.S.-american literature and culture, and thus to map out the study of the cultural and literary history of property as a central subject of investigation and criticism in American Studies in general.

Imagination and Entitlement:

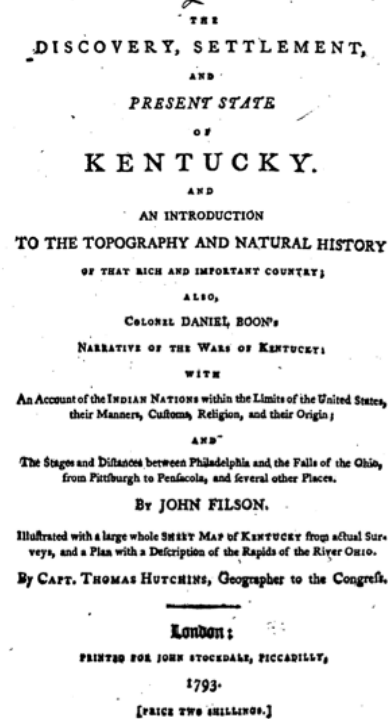
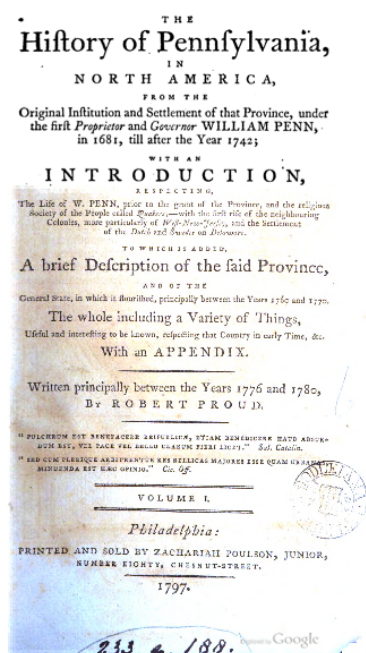
State Histories and the Historical Novel in the U.S. 1763-1830 (Schneck)

Objectives of the Sub-Project:

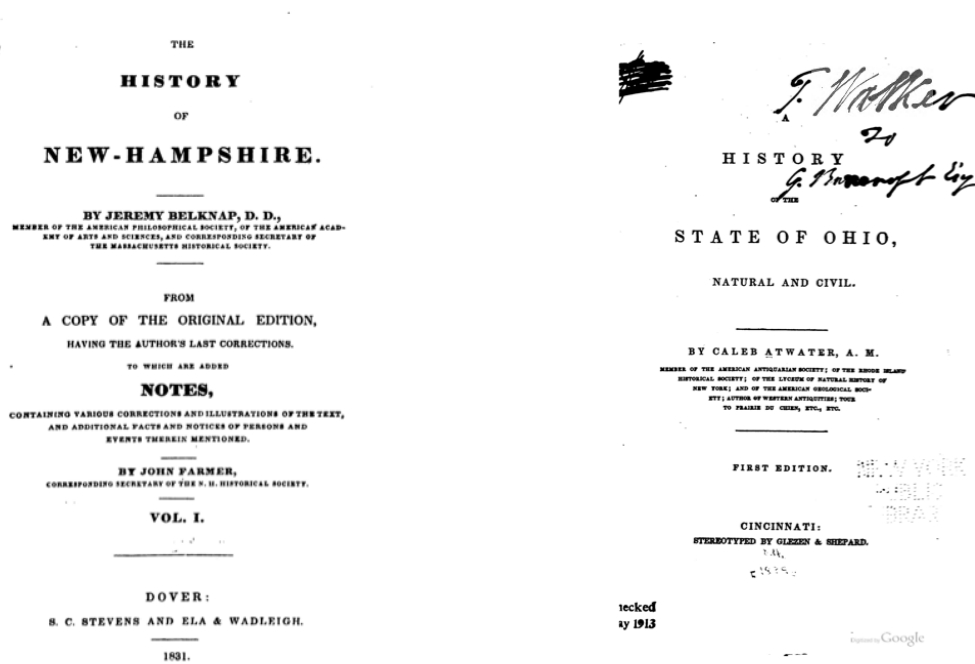
- ▶ Starting point: Motivated by the interdisciplinary work on property, ranging from anthropology to legal, cultural and literary studies, the project aims to work out the methodological and analytical potential of property as analytical tool - a term of engagement - for the general study of literary and legal texts and their cultural impact and function.
- ▶ Main thesis: Property cannot be reduced to nor understood exclusively by its legal forms and their history - property struggles and the negotiation of proprietary relations (especially in regard to land) are essentially struggles about history and the forms through which historical knowledge itself can be appropriated and 'owned'.
- ▶ Historical Case Study: *State histories* as a proto-national and *transitional genre* of historical writing meant to justify and legitimize both territorial and property claims. Template both for legal and fictional 'histories' in the late 18th and early 19th century; mutual enforcement of formal standardization and narrative 'logic'.

Imagination and Entitlement:

State Histories and the Historical Novel in the U.S. 1763-1830 (Schneck)



Imagination and Entitlement: State Histories and the Historical Novel in the U.S. 1763-1830 (Schneck)



Visions of Peoplehood and Indigenous Futurity in Native American Removal Literature (Meyer)

- I. Project Outline
- II. Peoplehood and Native American Literature
- III. The Indian Removal and Visions of Native Peoplehood
- IV. Narrative, History, Collective Identity, Property, and the Law

Visions of Peoplehood and Indigenous Futurity in Native American Removal Literature (Meyer)

Guiding Questions

- 1) How do the selected Native writings on the Indian Removal negotiate – on the levels of content and form – the legal debates about sovereignty, property, and land ownership that were at the heart of the removal controversy?
- 2) What were the legal and political contexts from which these removal writings sprang; how do these contexts interact with these writings?
- 3) What role do literary texts play in Native communities' internal processes of organization and self-articulation?

Table of Contents (preliminary)

1. Embroiled in a "Controversy for Jurisdiction": Cherokee Visions of Peoplehood Around the Time of Removal
2. Questioning the U.S. Federal Policy of Assimilation: Early 20th-Century Removal Writings and their Visions of Interracial Collaboration, New Native Leadership, and Native Self-Reliance
3. From the "Death of [Federal] Indian Law" to the Jurisdictional Framework of Human Rights: Native Removal Literature of the 1990s
4. "Is the Cherokee Nation a Race or a Nation?" Contemporary Afro-Native Removal Literature and its Negotiation of Race, Property, and Peoplehood
5. "Owning *Red*": Native Speculative Removal Fiction and Its Representation of Cultural Appropriation
6. Epilogue: The Indian Removal – Citational Figure vs. Historical Event

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"It may seem a strange thing [...] that a *Historical Society* should have formed in this Territory, less than a year after its organization, when its history was apparently but a few months old, when the wilderness was, as it is yet, around us, when the smoke of Indian lodges still intercepted our view of the horizon, when our very name was so new that men disputed as to its orthography, and formed parties in contesting its literal meaning."

Gov. Ramsey 1st president / Minnesota Historical Society, 1850

"America was until this last generation a white country, designed for ourselves and our posterity. It is our creation, it is our inheritance and it belongs to us."

Richard B. Spencer, alt-right movement, Washington, 20.11. 2016

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