

Curriculum Vitae
(Revised January, 2017)

J. Ronald Spencer
Associate Academic Dean & Lecturer
in History, *Emeritus*
Trinity College

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Education: B.A. with Honors in History, Trinity College, 1964
M.A. in History, Columbia University, 1966
ABD, Columbia University, 1968

**Positions Held
at Trinity College** FACULTY: Lecturer in American Studies, spring 2012
Lecturer in History and American Studies, 2008 – 2010
Lecturer in History, 1978 - 2008
Instructor in History, 1968-1978

ADMINISTRATION: Associate Academic Dean, 1980 - 2008
Special Adviser to the President, 1979-1980
Dean of Studies, 1976-1979
Dean of Students, 1971-1976

Other Positions Lecturer in History, Brooklyn College, CUNY, 1966-1968
Reporter, *The Hartford Times*, 1962 - 1964

**Courses Taught
(partial list)** HISTORY: The Civil War Era, 1845-1877; The Coming of the
Civil War, 1845-1861; The Civil War & Reconstruction, 1861-
1877; U.S History, 1865- Present; Senior Thesis Research
Seminar; Violence and Conflict in U. S. History; Seminar in
American Political Historiography

AMERICAN STUDIES: Lincoln and His Era (senior seminar)

**Publications/presentations
(partial list)** “A Connecticut Yankee in Lincoln’s Cabinet,” *Connecticut
Explored*, Vol. 12 (Fall 2014), pp. 20-25

*A Connecticut Yankee in Lincoln’s Cabinet: Navy Secretary
Gideon Welles Chronicles the Civil War* (The Acorn Club in
conjunction with the Wesleyan University Press, 2014)

“Civil War Mobilizations,” *OAH Magazine of History*, Vol. 26
(April 2012), pp. 7 – 12 (co-authored with Louis P. Masur)

“The Causes of the Civil War,” in *Encyclopedia of the United
States in the 19th Century*, ed., Paul Finkelman (New York:
Charles Scribner's Sons, 2000)

Moderator/panelist on “Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War,” Norwalk Community College, November 7, 2012

“Lincoln, Slavery, and Race,” lecture in the Arts & Humanities Program for Physicians & Medical Interns, Winthrop-University Hospital, Mineola, NY, April 2009

“Religion, Race & Repressive Violence: The Dark Side of the American Dream,” lecture to Humanity in Action Fellows, U.S. Holocaust Museum, June 2000

“Charles Dudley Warner’s Nook Farm,” lecture at the Watkinson Library commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Mark Twain’s move to Hartford, 1974

**Selected Other
Professional Activities**

Acorn Club (publishes materials in Connecticut history)
2007 – present (president 2012, 2014 – 2017; editor 2013-14)

Member, American Antiquarian Society (elected April 2016)

Member, Board of Trustees, Connecticut Historical Society, 2013 - 2016

Member, Connecticut Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, 2008-09

Co-chair, American Planning Board, Humanity in Action
(international human rights organization), 1998- 2014

Board member, New England Consortium for Undergraduate
Science Education, 1987 - 1995

Member, Editorial Advisory Board, New Liberal Arts Book
Series, McGraw Hill and MIT Press, 1988 – 1992

**Professional
Memberships**

Abraham Lincoln Association
Organization of American Historians
Society of Civil War Historians
Southern Historical Association