

Duke University  
Department of History  
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## **Elizabeth K. Brake**

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### **Education**

#### **Duke University, Durham, North Carolina**

Ph.D. Program in History

Examination Fields (exams pending, Spring 2009):

Major: Colonial North America and the United States, 1600-2000

Minor: United States South, 1600-2000

Outside: Business-State Relations in the Modern Trans-Atlantic World

Other areas of interest: U.S. Agricultural and Rural History, Oral History, American Business History

#### **Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York**

A.B. in History, 2001

#### **New York University, Prague, Czech Republic**

Study abroad, Spring 2000 (credits transferred to Vassar College; applied to A.B.)

#### **SouthWest Edgecombe High School, Pinetops, North Carolina**

Honors Graduate 1997

### **Scholarship and Grants**

- Summer Research Fellowship, Graduate School, Duke University 2009
- Department Summer Research Award, Department of History, Duke University 2007
- L.L. Staton Scholarship, Vassar College, 1997-2001

### **Grading, Research and Teaching Assistantships, Conference Organization**

- **Research Assistant**, Prof. Jacquelyn Hall (UNC-Chapel Hill), Summer 2007-Present
- **Teaching Assistant**, History 158AD/Econ 122D (Duke University), "American Business History," Prof. Edward Balleisen, Spring 2009
- **Workshop Series Organizer**, "Examining Encounters: Markets, Institutions, and Strangers," Department of History, Duke University, Spring 2008
- **Grading Assistant**, History 111G, (Duke University) "U.S. History Since 1933," Prof. L. Michael Allsep, Fall 2007
- **Research Assistant**, Prof. Robert Korstad (Duke University), Summer 2007
- **Grading Assistant**, History 104 (Duke University), "New Perspectives on Civil Rights," Prof. Robert Korstad, Spring 2007

- **Grading Assistant**, History 166A (Duke University), “The Insurgent South,” Prof. Robert Korstad, Fall 2006

### **Affiliations**

American Historical Association  
Organization of American Historians  
Southern Association for Women Historians (pending)

### **Other Employment**

#### **General Manager, Sandyland Produce, LLC, Tarboro, NC, April 2004-July 2006**

Scheduled and oversaw all aspects of fresh produce packing (sweet potatoes, squash, zucchini, cucumbers, watermelons, eggplant, jalapeño peppers, cubanelle peppers). Hired, trained, scheduled, and supervised all employees, with work-force seasonally as large as 60. Supervised loading of all trucks completed trucking manifests. Tracked weekly income and expenses and reported to company owners. Assisted in invoicing and collection of accounts receivable. Maintained inventory and stock of all supplies, raw materials, and packed product, and reported inventories to sales staff. Served as liaison between company and USDA and NCDA, scheduled inspections and ensured company was in compliance with the regulations of these agencies. Maintained food safety program. Coordinated with other produce packers and represented company in industry organizations. Performed minor mechanical trouble-shooting and maintenance and occasional equipment operation. Supervised field crews.

#### **Quality Controller and Marketer, Sandyland Produce, LLC, Tarboro, NC, June 2001-April 2004**

Responsibilities for packing, shipping, employee management, invoicing and collection, inventories, maintenance, and communication with government agencies same as General Manager above. Established food safety program and passed initial USDA inspection for food safety certification. Attended national and local trade shows to promote the company and its products. Created all promotional materials for company, including brochures and business cards and design of some product packaging. Scheduled and supervised field crews. Maintained sales accounts and traveled to meet with produce buyers.

#### **After-School Teaching Assistant, Poughkeepsie Day School, Poughkeepsie, NY August 1997-May 2001**

Assisted in supervising groups of up to 40 children of elementary school age on school grounds and on field trips. Assisted in planning activities for smaller groups of children, both for education and entertainment.

#### **Intern, Monsanto Company Summers 1998, 1999, 2000.**

Attended intensive training at Monsanto’s Memphis, TN headquarters. Independently traveled the eastern North Carolina and south-eastern Virginia territories of sales representatives. Met with cotton growers and seed and chemical retailers, and tested cotton fields to verify compliance with EPA acreage restrictions on some genetically modified varieties of cotton. Fulfilled other grower-related administrative tasks for supervising sales representatives as needed, especially regarding technology fee refunds and waivers for re-plants and ultra-narrow row cotton cultivation.