

Ford Risley (2024)



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Ford Risley is a Distinguished Professor in the Bellisario College of Communications at Penn State where he has been on the faculty since 1995. He teaches Mass Media History, Mass American Journalism and other courses. His research centers on mass media history, especially Civil War-era journalism. He is the author, co-author, or editor of five books. His book, *Abolition and the Press: The Moral Struggle Against Slavery* (Northwestern, 2008) won the American Journalism Historians Association's award for the best book on media history. He also has published articles, essays, and book reviews in *American Journalism*, *Civil War History*, *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, and *Journalism History*. He served as associate dean for undergraduate and graduate education in the Bellisario College from 2014-2020. Prior to that, he was head of the Department of Journalism from 2002-2014. He holds a B.A. from Auburn University, a M.A. from the University of Georgia, and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. He serves on the Board of Governors of the Centre County Historical Society and is co-editor of the Centre County Encyclopedia of History & Culture. He and his wife, Mary, have two daughters and one granddaughter.