This talk, based on the author's recent book, will relate southern Christmas customs involving slaves to the disintegration of the Confederate home front during the last years of the Civil War. If American popular culture fails to acknowledge just how abusive slave labor was in Dixie, it has something to do with a barrage of "Lost Cause" memoirs, novels, and short stories depicting the supposedly glorious times enslaved people had over the Yuletide. This stereotype is horribly misleading, and its flaws were exposed under the stress of wartime deprivations. May believes that a better understanding of the essence of slave-master Christmas relations should inform modern controversies over statues, place names and the like romanticizing the Confederate cause.