

Conference on Race, Labor and Citizenship in the Post-Emancipation South College of Charleston, March 11-13, 2010

Tentative Conference Program

(Please do not circulate)

Thursday, March 11th

Thursday Session One: 9-10:30am

1. "Land enough to lay our Fathers' bones upon": Land Ownership and Property Accumulation after Emancipation

Chair: Lisa Randle, (Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program) College of Charleston

Presenters:

Matt Harper, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill:

Jubilee Riots and Promised Land: Religious Narratives and Black Land Aspirations in the Post-Emancipation South

Bruce Mactavish and Sherrita Camp, Washburn University:

African-American Families, Farms and Autonomy in Northern Mississippi, 1880

Story Matkin-Rawn, University of Central Arkansas:

From Land Ownership to Legal Defense: The World War I Watershed in Black Arkansan Organizing

Comment: Edmund L. Drago, College of Charleston

2. New Religious and Political Communities in the Reconstruction South

Chair: Clarence Taylor, Baruch College (CUNY)

Presenters:

Otis Pickett, University of Mississippi:

Rev. John Lafayette Girardeau and the Ecclesiastical Equality of Freedmen in Charleston, 1866-1877

Luke Harlow, Oakland University:

The Religion of Racial Separatism: the White Evangelical Response to Emancipation in Kentucky

Krystal D. Frazier, West Virginia University:

'Faith Without Works is Dead': African American Church Work, Adoptive Kinship and Mediating Repression in the Post-War South

Comment: Clarence Taylor, Baruch College (CUNY)

Charles F. Irons, Elon University

Thursday Session Two: 10:45-12:15pm

3. Contextualizing Reconstruction-Era Racial Violence: New Approaches to Interpreting the Rise, Popularity, and Representation of Vigilantism

(extended session)

Chair: O. Vernon Burton, Coastal Carolina University

Presenters:

Elaine Parsons, Duquesne University:

Klan Violence/Local Violence in Reconstruction-era Union County: A Social Network Analysis

Tsekani Browne, Duquesne University:

Race & Reconstruction: Collective Violence & the (Political) Use of History in Turn-of-the-Century Black Intellectual Discourse

Mitchell Snay, Denison University:

The White League of Louisiana: Race & Democracy in the Late Reconstruction South

Comment:

Margaret Storey, DePaul University

Hannah Rosen, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

4. New Dawn in the Lowcountry?: Continuity and Change in Coastal Georgia and South Carolina

(extended session)

Chair: Paul Ortiz, University of Florida

Presenters:

Dana Byrd, Yale University:

Picturing Emancipation: Henry P. Moore, Photographer

Janet G. Hudson, University of South Carolina:

A Rice Planter Faces the 'Complications' of Free Black Labor

Jeff Strickland, Montclair State University:

Race, Labor, and Occupational Mobility in Charleston, South Carolina, 1850-1880

John M. Bryant, Georgia Southern University:
"Surrounded on All Sides by an Armed and Brutal Mob": Labor, Politics, and Newspapers Shape the
Ogeechee Insurrection, 1868-1869
Comment: Paul Ortiz, University of Florida

Thursday Session Three: 1:30-3:00pm

5. Creating a Free Labor Regime: Violence and the State in the Post-Emancipation South

Chair: Clarence Taylor, Baruch College (CUNY)

Presenters:

William A. Link, University of Florida:

Wage Labor and Slave Emancipation in North Georgia, 1865-1870

Max Grivno, University of Southern Mississippi:

Riots and Railroads, Race and Class: Interpreting the Meridian Riots of 1871

J. Michael Rhyne, Urbana University:

"The Negroes Are No Longer Slaves": Free Black Families, Free Labor, and Racial Violence in Post-Emancipation Kentucky's Bluegrass Region

Comment: Susan O'Donovan, (After Slavery Project) University of Memphis

6. Reconstructing Race in North Carolina, 1865-1872

(extended session)

Chair: Scott Reynolds Nelson, College of William and Mary

Presenters:

David C. Williard, University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill:

Confederate Veterans and Race in Postwar North Carolina

Daniel Brown, Queen's University Belfast:

The Freedmen's Bureau Remit in Postwar Eastern North Carolina

Carole Watterson Troxler, Elon University (Emeritus):

Labor Supply and Reconstruction Violence in a North Carolina Piedmont County

Gregory P. Downs, City College of New York:

Anarchy at the Circumference: Statelessness and the Reconstruction of Authority in Emancipation North Carolina

Comment: Scott Reynolds Nelson, College of William and Mary

Thursday Session Four: 3:15-5:00pm

7. Policing the Lives and Labors of Migrants and Poor Women in the Reconstruction Era

(extended session)

Chair: Cheryl D. Hicks, University of Carolina-Charlotte

Presenters:

Brian D. Page, Ohio State University:

"Like the Oncoming of Cities": Wartime Migrations and Vagrancy in Civil War-Era Memphis

Elizabeth Parish Smith, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill:

"The accused is the woman that robbed me": Convicting Domestic Servants and Prostitutes in New Orleans

Felicity Turner, Duke University:

Prosecutions for Infanticide in Post-Emancipation North Carolina: Embedding New Ideas of Race and Gender in the Law

Ann Holder, Pratt Institute:

The Sexual Politics of Citizenship in Post-Emancipation Richmond

Comment: Cheryl D. Hicks, University of Carolina-Charlotte

8. From the Border & Beyond: Rewriting Southern and African American History from Outside the Confederacy

(extended session)

Chair: Deirdre Cooper Owens, University of Mississippi

Presenters:

Kate Masur, Northwestern University:

George T. Downing and the Effort to Establish an African American Lobby during Reconstruction

John W. McKerley, Freedmen and Southern Society Project:

The Balance of Political Power: Migration and Independent Black Politics in the Urban Border South, 1877-1908

Jesse T. Schreier, Freedmen and Southern Society Project:

"If we do not work for ourselves, who will?": Black Mobilization in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, 1866-1898

Leslie A. Schwalm, University of Iowa

"Emancipation's Diaspora"

Comment: Stephen Kantrowitz, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Thursday Evening: Public Session—7:30pm
Physician's Auditorium: College of Charleston

9. Race and Public Memory in Post-Emancipation Charleston

Chair: Bernard E. Powers, Jr., College of Charleston

Presenters:

Stephanie E. Yuhl, College of the Holy Cross:

Remapping the Tourist Trade: Confronting Slavery's Commercial Core at the Old Slave Mart Museum

Blain Roberts, California State University, Fresno:

A Statue in the Square and a Bench by the Road: The Public Landscape of Race in Charleston

Ethan J. Kytte, California State University, Fresno:

"Is It Okay to Talk About Slavery?": Race and Historical Tourism in Charleston

Comment: Douglas R. Egerton, Le Moyne College

Bernard E. Powers, Jr., College of Charleston

Friday, March 12th

Friday Session One: 9-10:30am

10. Race, Working-Class Activism, and Repression in the Free Labor South

Chair: Keeanga Taylor, Northwestern University

Presenters:

Robert Cassanello, University of Central Florida:

"Maintaining the Public Peace": Black Workers, Labor Strikes and the Public Space in Florida, 1867-1882

Robert S. Shelton, Cleveland State University:

Labor, Race, and Political Reform in Galveston, Texas, in the 1880s

Chad Pearson, University of Alabama-Huntsville:

"The South wants to be free": N. F. Thompson, the KKK, and the Origins of the Southern Open Shop Movement

Comment: Steven A. Reich, James Madison University

11. Taking the Measure of Grassroots Resistance to the Klan and White Paramilitaries

Chair: Talitha L. LeFlouria, Florida Atlantic University:

Presenters:

Aaron Astor, Maryville College:

"Fully Equipped and Prepared to Fight": Black Politics and Armed Citizenship in Postwar Kentucky

Joseph Moore, University of North Carolina-Greensboro:

Brick Masons, Methodists, and Republicans: Armed Self-Defense in Wimbushville, Abbeville District, in 1877

Thomas F. Brown, Northeast Lakeview College:

Paramilitary Violence and Resistance in Reconstruction-Era North Carolina

Comment: Kwando M. Kinshasa, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)

Christopher B. Strain, Florida Atlantic University (tentative)

12. Reconsidering the Black Military Experience

Chair: Lewie Reece, Anderson University

Presenters:

Carole Emberton, SUNY Buffalo:

"Only Murder Makes Men": The Role of Violence in Emancipationist Discourse

Jim Downs, Connecticut College:

"In Sickness and in Health": Freedwomen's Health Conditions and the Problems of Enlistment

Nancy Bercaw, University of Mississippi:

Human Remains and the Measure of Freedom: Military Museums in Post-emancipation America

Comment: Kimberly Phillips, College of William and Mary

Friday Session Two: 10:45-12:15pm

13. Solving the South's "Negro Problem": Southern Whites and Immigrant Labor in the Early Twentieth Century

Chair: David Gleeson, Northumbria University

Presenters:

J. Vincent Lowery, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay:

Redesigning the Southern Labor Force: Immigration Policy and Questions of Desirability in the Early Twentieth Century Carolinas

Sarah Cornell, University of New Mexico:

"We Have No Rights Because We Have No Vote": Mexican Workers in Louisiana and Mississippi, 1901-1906

Lauren H. Braun, University of Illinois-Chicago/Temple University:

Confronting the 'Planter Mentality': What a Little-Known Experiment in Italian Colonization Tells Us about Labor Relations in the Post-Emancipation South

Comment: Jon Wells, Temple University

14. Upheaval and Change in the Piedmont and Upcountry South

Chair: Valinda Littlefield, University of South Carolina-Columbia

Presenters:

Steven E. Nash, East Tennessee State University:

Mountain Masters Without Slaves: The Aftermath of Slavery in North Carolina's Mountains, 1865-1867

Bradley Proctor, University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill:

Ku Klux Klan Violence, Race, and Citizenship in Rutherford County, North Carolina

Evan P. Bennett, Florida Atlantic University:

Does the Crop Matter?: Connecting Fields and Ballot Boxes in the Virginia-North Carolina Piedmont

Comment: John C. Inscoe, University of Georgia

15. Southern Populism and the Color Line: New Research and Interpretations

Chair: Cindy Hahamovitch, College of William and Mary

Presenters:

Omar H. Ali, Towson University:

The Making of Black Populism in the New South: A Regional Study of Post-Emancipation Independent Political Struggle

Joel Sipress, University of Wisconsin-Superior:

"The Interests of the White and Colored People of the South Are Identical": Populism and Race in Grant Parish, Louisiana

David Silkenat, North Dakota State University:

"Nothing Less than a Question of Slavery or Freedom": Debt, Race, and Populism in North Carolina

Comment: James M. Beeby, Indiana University Southeast

Friday Lunchtime: 12:30-1:15pm

FILM: I Am Somebody

Introduced by Mary Moultrie, Local 1199 Organizer, 1969 strike leader

In 1969, 400 poorly paid black women- Charleston hospital workers-went on strike to demand union recognition and a wage increase, only to find themselves in a confrontation with the National Guard and the state government. Supported by such notables as Andrew Young, Ralph Abernathy, and Coretta Scott King, the women nonetheless conducted a strike under the guidance of District 1199, the New York-based union, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. A testament to the courage of these women who would not be humbled, I AM SOMEBODY is both an inspiring film and an important historical record.

Friday Session Three: 1:30-3:00pm

16. Race Polarization, Activist Traditions and the Labor Question in the Post-'Redemption' South

Chair: Kimberley Phillips, College of William and Mary

Presenters:

Deborah Beckel, Independent Scholar:

Cultural Dissidence: Relationships Between North Carolina and Northern Political and Labor Activists in the Post-Emancipation Era

Aaron Reynolds, University of Texas-Austin:

"If I had known it was an Island, I would not have gone." Life and Labor in Florida's East Coast Railroad Work Camps, 1905-1906

Robert H. Woodrum, Clark Atlanta University:

"History Has Taught Us a Lesson": The International Longshoremen's Association and Black Working Class Activism in Mobile, Alabama, 1900-1913

Comment: Eric Arnesen, George Washington University

17. The 'Feasible Limits' of Resistance: Negotiation, Accommodation and Black Politics at the Nadir

Chair: Janette Thomas Greenwood, Clark University

Presenters:

Dorothy Pratt, University of South Carolina-Columbia:

The Conundrum of Isaiah Montgomery

Nikki Taylor, University of Cincinnati:

The Democratic Machine as a Vehicle for African- American Citizenship?: The Politics of Peter H. Clark, 1882-1888

Hilary N. Green, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill:

"Colored Teachers for Colored Schools": Richmond Colored Normal Graduates Struggle for Employment

Comment: Janette Thomas Greenwood, Clark University

18. Political Economy and Historical Possibility after the End of Slavery

Chair: Bruce Baker, (After Slavery Project) University of London-Royal Holloway

Presenters:

Scott Reynolds Nelson, College of William and Mary:

Scapegoats and Scapegraces: Black Southerners, Redemptionist Violence, and the Economic Fate of the Postwar South

Keeanga Taylor, Northwestern University:

The World the Freedmen Made: Re-considering Du Bois's *Black Reconstruction* and the Possibilities and Limitations of Multiracial Democracy in the South

William McKee Evans, California State Polytechnic University (Emeritus):

Why the Half-Century Delay between Emancipation and the Great Migration?

Comment: Alex Lichtenstein, Florida International University

Friday Session Four: 3:15-5pm

19. Freedom on Trial: The Role of the Courts in Protecting African American Rights, 1870-1900

Chair: Felicity Turner, Duke University

Presenters:

Lou Falkner Williams, Kansas State University:

"A Wearisome and almost thankless work": David Corbin, William Stone, and the Black Franchise

Christopher Waldrep, San Francisco State University:

The Supreme Court and African-American Jury Service, 1875-1900

William Lewis Burke, Jr., University of South Carolina-Columbia

Troubled Fields: The Pink Franklin Case

Comment: William C. Hine, South Carolina State University at Orangeburg

20. Vision, Agency, and Constraint: Parameters of Political Mobilization in the Reconstruction South

Chair: Ken Riley, ILA Local 1422 (Charleston)

Presenters:

James Illingworth, University of California Santa Cruz:

Urban Unrest and the Origins of Radical Reconstruction in New Orleans, 1865-67

Brian Kelly, (After Slavery Project) Queen's University Belfast:

'Storm Beyond Control': Freedpeople and the Republican Party in Reconstruction South Carolina

Justin Behrend, SUNY Geneseo:

The Problem of Black Democrats: Allegiances, Elections, and Competing Visions of Political Community during Reconstruction

Comment: Leslie S. Rowland, (Freedmen and Southern Society Project) University of Maryland

Robert Korstad, Duke University

Friday Evening Keynote: 7:30pm

Steven Hahn, Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania:

"Reconstruction and the American Political Tradition"

Co-Chairs:

Ken Riley, ILA Local 1422

Brian Kelly, After Slavery Project

Reception to Follow

Saturday, March 13th

Saturday Session 1: 10am-12 noon

21. Teachers' Workshop: Reconstructing Lives, 1865 and Beyond: Exploring Race, Labor, and Political Change after Slavery

Chair: Donald Stewart, SC Department of Archives and History

Presenters:

Susan O'Donovan, (After Slavery Project) University of Memphis:

Online Resources: Using the After Slavery Website in the History Classroom
Thomas Riddle and Paula Burgess (Social Studies Coordinators, Greenville County [SC] Public Schools):
If Walls Could Speak: Discovering the African-American History of Greenville through Historic Preservation
Ann Claunch, U. S. National History Day:
Supporting Secondary Students Engaged in Historical Research

Comment: Audience

**22. Roundtable: Forced Labor in the South after Slavery: the Longue Durée
(Sponsored by the Southern Labor Studies Association and the Labor and Working Class History Association)**

Chair: Heather Ann Thompson, Temple University

Presenters:

Alex Lichtenstein, Florida International University:
What Made the South Different?

Talitha L. LeFlouria, Florida Atlantic University:
Exploring Black Women's Lives and Labor in Georgia's Convict Lease and Chain Gang Systems

Douglas Blackmon, Author and Journalist, *Wall Street Journal*:
Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black People in America from the Civil War to World War II

Robert Chase, Case Western University:
Slaves of the State Revolt: How a Divided System of Southern Prison Labor Created a Prison-Made Civil Rights Movement

Comment: Heather Ann Thompson, Temple University

Saturday Session 2: 1-3pm

23. Emancipation, Memory, and Commemorative Landscape in the New New South

Chair: Georgette Mayo, Avery Center for African-American History and Culture

Presenters:

James W. Loewen, author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me*

Bernard E. Powers, Jr., College of Charleston

Michael Allen, (Gullah-Geechee Heritage Corridor) National Parks Service

Thomas J. Brown, (Historic Columbia Foundation/Woodrow Wilson Project) University of South Carolina-Columbia

David Blight, (Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance & Abolition) Yale University

Comment: Audience

24. Roundtable: Civil Rights Unionism in the South Carolina Lowcountry

Kerry Taylor, (After Slavery Project) The Citadel Oral History Project

Mary Moultrie, Organizer, Local 1199 (Charleston Public Service Workers), leader of 1969 hospital workers strike

Ken Riley, President, Local 1422, International Longshoremen's Association.

William Saunders, Committee for Better Racial Assurance, leader of 1969 hospital workers strike

Comment: Audience

3.30pm onward:

Tour: McLeod Plantation