



# UNIVERSITY COMMISSION ON HISTORY, RACE, AND A WAY FORWARD

October 6, 2020

12:00-1:30PM

*Virtual Meeting – HRWF YouTube Channel*

# Agenda

OCTOBER 6, 2020. FULL COMMISSION MEETING

## **I. Enslaving Benefactors, Exploited Bodies, Erased Lives: The Barbee Cemetery**

*A discussion on the history of the Barbee Cemetery*

## **II. The Critical Oral History Approach**

*A presentation on methodology and community engagement*

## **III. A Conversation with the Clark Family**

*Local community members and descendants of the Strayhorn Family share their experiences and legacy with the Commission.*

# Enslaving Benefactors, Exploited Bodies, Erased Lives: The Barbee Cemetery



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

# **Enslaving Benefactors, Exploited Bodies, Erased Lives: The Barbee Cemetery**



**University Commission on  
History, Race, and a Way Forward**

**Professor Brandon Bayne**

**10.6.20**

# Rizzo Center and DuBose Mansion



# Celebrating Christopher and William Barbee, “Early University Benefactors”



With the opening of the Rizzo Conference Center at Meadowmont, the Kenan-Flagler Business School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill unveiled the ideal executive education center. The latest developments in conference technology have been brought together in one setting – a perfect blending of innovation in a pastoral setting conducive to reflection and thought.

However, to truly understand the significance of the Rizzo Center requires an historical perspective. The attractive grounds and historic home that are the focal point of this state-of-the-art facility have a story to tell – a story older than the United States’ fight for independence, a narrative that both parallels and enables the history of Chapel Hill and its University.

This is a story that transcends the centuries, from the unsettled virgin wilderness that was once part of England’s empire...to an American backcountry plantation...to the gracious twentieth-century country home known as Meadowmont.



## Early University Benefactors

In 1753, William Barbee of Middlesex County, Virginia, received the first of two land grants in what is now the Chapel Hill-Durham area of North Carolina. This grant, received from the Earl of Granville, encompassed 585 acres and included the land that now houses the Rizzo Conference Center. The second grant, received in 1757, grew William Barbee’s holdings to more than 900 acres. Although William Barbee died in 1758, shortly after arriving in North Carolina, he was important to the settling of the area, serving as commissioner of roads and member of the grand jury.

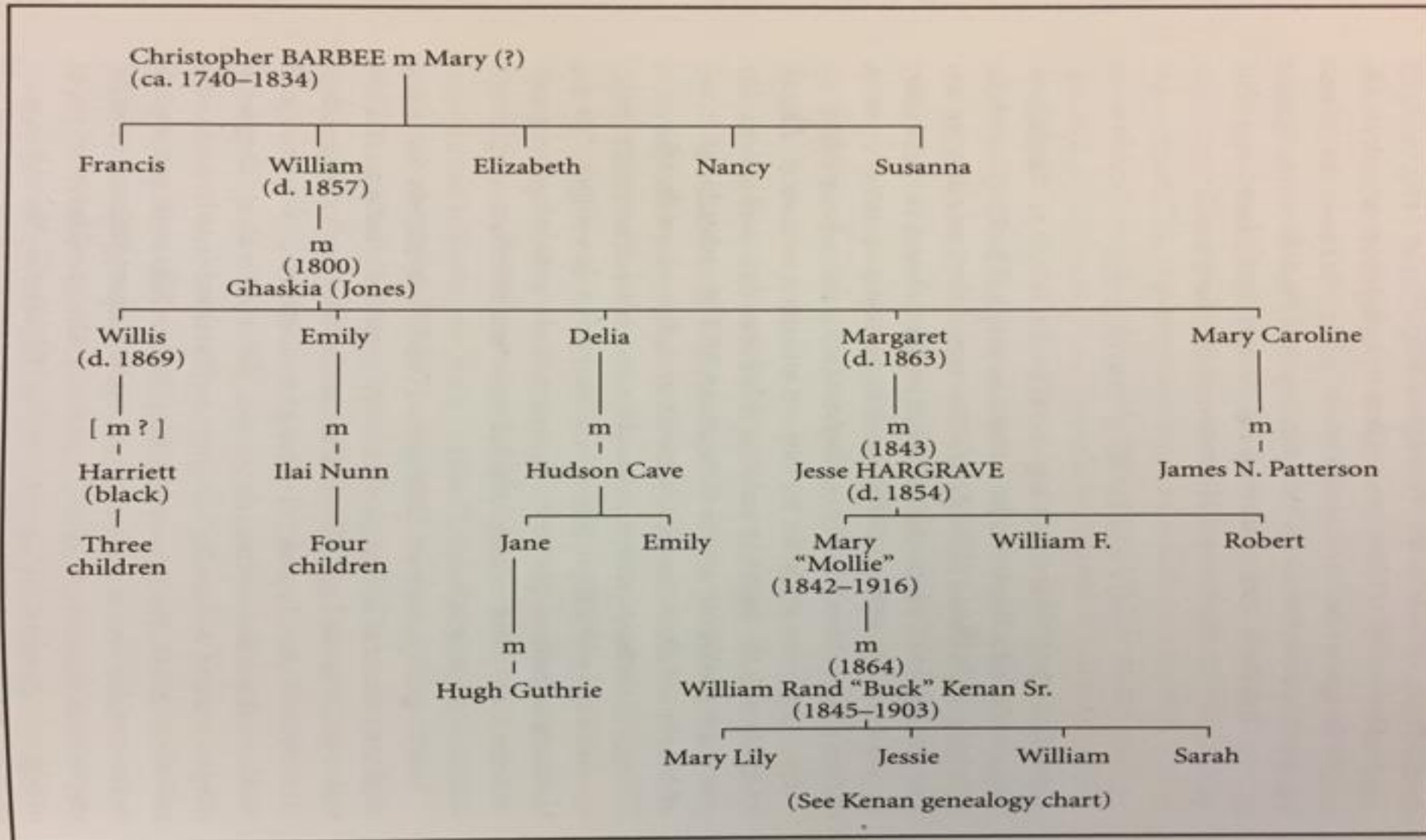
In 1776, one of William Barbee’s eight children received the first of three area land grants. During the years that followed, Christopher Barbee, or “Old Kit” as he was known, continued to add to his landholdings. By 1787, he owned at least 2,145 acres, making him one of the region’s largest landholders. These holdings included the current Rizzo Center property originally owned by his father, which he purchased from siblings who inherited the land upon their father’s death. At the highest elevation of this land, Christopher Barbee built a home and a plantation, which came to be known as “Barbee Mountain”.

In 1789, George Washington took the oath of office as president of the newly independent United States. During that same year, the fledgling North Carolina legislature chartered The University of North Carolina. As the location of the new university was weighed and debated, Christopher Barbee offered a large tract of land near his own plantation as a possible site. On November 8, 1792, he deeded 221 acres to the Trustees, land that today forms the heart of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Christopher “Old Kit” Barbee died in 1832 at the age of 90. Just one year prior to his death, he sold his significant landholdings to his son William, including the tract now housing the Rizzo Center. William Barbee was a member of the first graduating class of The University of North Carolina, served as a University steward and was superintendent of buildings and grounds for the university. Although William acquired the land, it is uncertain whether he actually lived at “Barbee Mountain”. He did establish his own plantation home near Morgan Creek and also kept a home in the Town of Chapel Hill proper. Upon William Barbee’s death, the land was, in turn, acquired by his daughter, Margaret (Barbee) Hargrave. She subsequently willed the land to her son, Robert W. Hargrave. He is the last Barbee descendent to own the land, which he sold in 1873. In the years that followed, the property had several owners and was eventually acquired by Durham Realty and Insurance Company in the early 20th Century.

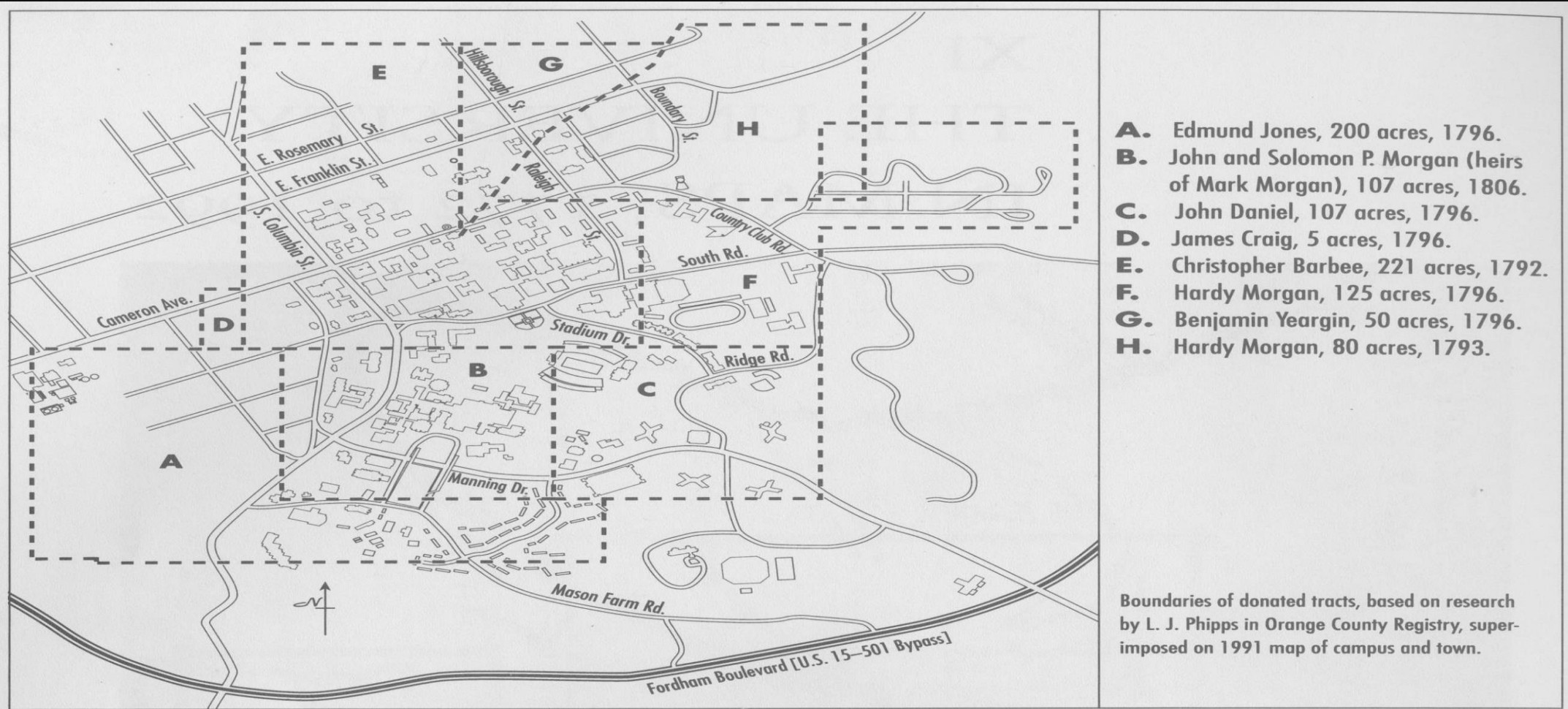


# The Barbee-Kenan Connection



Barbee and Hargrave Families

# The Barbee Donation



“Contiguous Land Donations to the University of North Carolina, 1792-1806.,” *Carolina Story: Virtual Museum of University History*, accessed August 27, 2019, <https://museum.unc.edu/items/show/1331>.





# Christopher “Old Kit” Barbee’s “Old Chapel Tract”

- **Oldest (1792)**
- **Largest (221 Acres)**
  - **Most Central  
(McCorkle Place  
and Polk Place)**



## Ten Dollars Reward.



RAN AWAY from the subscriber on the 11th instant a negro man by the name of **BOB**, of very dark complexion and about forty years old. It is probable said fellow may be lurking about Charles M'Cauley's, as he has a sister there. I will give a reward of Ten Dollars to any one who will apprehend said fellow and deliver him to me, four miles east of Chapel Hill, or secure him so that I can get him again. I will also pay all reasonable expenses.

**Christopher Barbee, Sen.**

July 15th.

87-1w

Christopher Barbee's Ad for a liberated, formerly enslaved man named "Bob"

*Hillsborough Recorder, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1831*

ents doth give grant bargain sell & deliver to the said  
William Barbee the following property to wit, The  
Negro slaves, Bill, London, Melinda & her three child-  
ren, James, Louisa, & Henry also Lucinda with her  
two children Joe & Mary and a Negro boy called John

- **17 Transactions involving Barbees giving and receiving enslaved people in business, land deals, deeds, and wills. *Orange County, NC Slave Records*, September 2019**
- **Example: Hudson M Cave to William Barbee, 25 Jul 1839:**
- **“Doth give grant bargain sell and deliver to the said William Barbee the following property to whit, the Negro slaves Bill, London, Melinda and her thee children James, Louisa & Henry, also Lucinda with her two children Joe & Mary, and a Negro boy called John.,” *ODB*, 28/399**

Orange County Slave Records

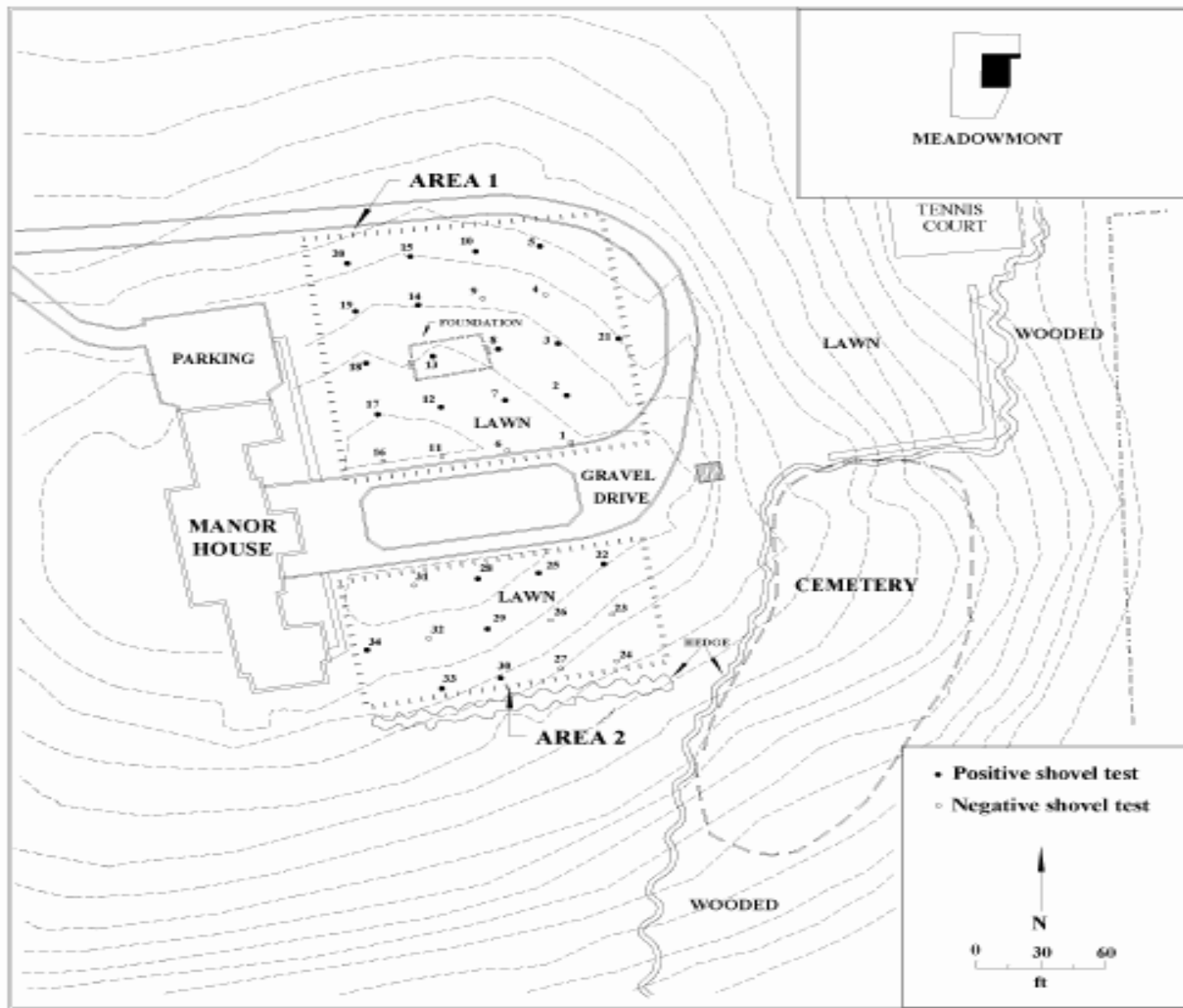


Figure 6. Shovel test locations in Areas 1 and 2 (adapted from boundary/topographic map, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.)

# The Barbee “Plantation”

# Rizzo Center Resort and the Remains



# Barbee Cemetery



# William and Gaskey Barbee





“About  
120 Graves”

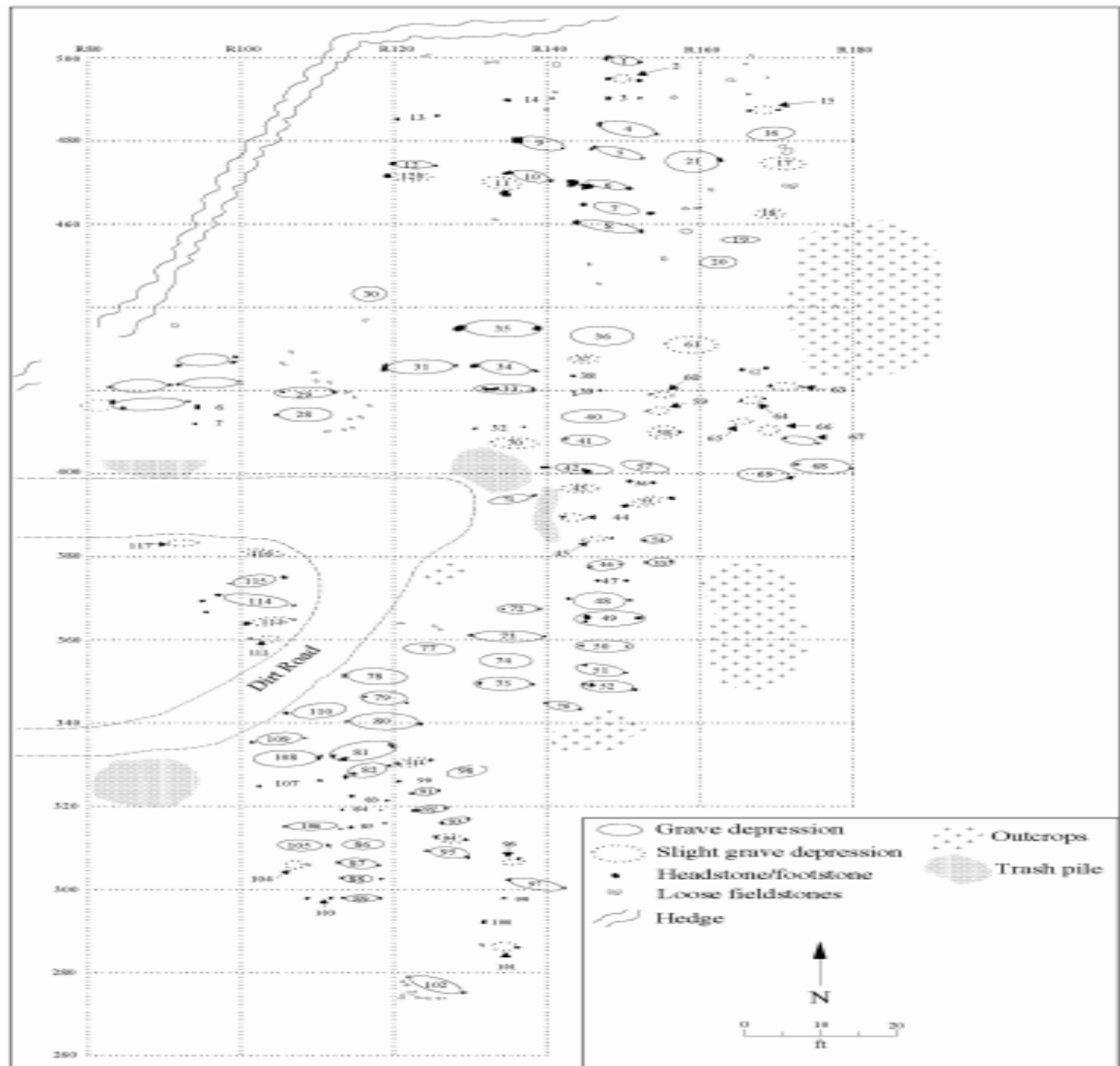


Figure 2. Barbee cemetery.

# Unmarked Grave of Enslaved Person on the Barbee Labor Camp/Meadowmont



# Unmarked Grave of Enslaved Person on Barbee Labor Camp/Meadowmont



SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in *North Carolina*, enumerated by me, on the

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION.			Fugitive from the State.	Number examined.
		Age.	Sex.	Colour.		
"	1 40	M	B			
"	1 10	M	B			
"	1 8	M	B			
"	1 6	M	B			
"	1 3	M	B			
"	1 1	M	B			
"	1 38	M	B			
"	1 35	M	B			
"	1 30	M	M			
"	1 66	F	B			
"	1 45	F	B			
"	1 30	F	M			
"	1 7	F	B			
"	1 40	F	B			
Stanford Seed	1 35	M	B			
"	1 6	F	B			
Edward Mattatt	1 45	M	B			
"	1 12	M	B			
"	1 10	M	B			
"	1 40	F	B			
"	1 22	F	B			
"	1 17	F	B			
"	1 4	F	B			
"	1 8 1/2	F	B			
Willis Barbee	1 55	M	B			
"	1 48	M	B			
"	1 17	M	B			
"	1 13	M	B			
"	1 9	M	B			
"	1 7	M	B			
"	1 6	M	B			
"	1 2	M	B			
"	1 1	M	B			
"	1 50	M	B			
"	1 50	F	B			
"	1 27	F	B			
"	1 10	M	B			
"	1 4	F	B			

**“To Harriet Barbee and her children Haywood, David, and Silvy one hundred acres of land lying on the south side of Chapel Hill and Raleigh Road....and so as to include my dwelling.”**

**Will of Willis Barbee, 1869**

I Willis Barbee of the county of Orange and State of North Carolina. Being of sound mind and memory but considering the uncertainty of my earthly existence do make and declare this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following

First. That my Executor (hereinafter named) shall provide for my body a decent burial, suitable to the wishes of my relations and friends, and pay all funeral expenses, together with all my just debts, to whomsoever owing, out of the money that may first come into his hands as a part or parcel of my estate

Second. I give and devise to Harriet Barbee and her children Haywood David and Silvy one hundred acres of land lying on the south side of the Chapel Hill and Raleigh road, to be bounded on the north by said road, and so as to include my dwelling and all out-houses, to have and to hold, to her the said Harriet Barbee and her children Haywood David and Silvy in fee-simple forever.

I also give and bequeath to the said Harriet Barbee all the provisions Bacon, Lard, Corn wheat fodder shucks &c now on hand, together with all my farming utensils, also my Wagon and harness also my threshing Machine, and wheat Fan, also my Blacksmith tools, also all my stock to wit Horses, Mules, cattle hogs and sheep, also all of my house-hold and kitchen furniture including my bed, also all the crop which the said Harriet Barbee and her children may raise on any part of all my lands in the year 1869, all of which is to be at the disposal of the said Harriet Barbee and her children forever



# Barbee's Chapel (est. 1866) and School



Barbee's Chapel School, ca. 1917

# The Critical Oral History Approach



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A woman with dark curly hair and glasses, wearing a black top, is looking down at a tablet device on the table.

A woman with glasses and a black and white patterned top is looking towards the center of the table.

A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a striped shirt and a red scarf, is resting her chin on her hand and looking towards the center.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a colorful floral top, is looking towards the center of the table.

A man with a beard, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is resting his chin on his hand and looking towards the center.





# Components of the Critical Oral History Approach

- Principal Participants (6 or 7) – These are people who were principal decision makers or participants in the particular historical event.
- Community Members – These are people who were connected to the historical event or who saw it happen.
- Facilitators: These are people who are knowledgeable about the incident and are skilled at facilitating a group discussion.
- Scholars: These are people who have researched and written about the incident and have extensive knowledge which will help to provide context and missing pieces of the event.
- Youth Participants – 3-5 Young people who will be able to observe and ask questions at the end of each session about the event and its historic significance.

# Components of the Critical Oral History Approach

- **Adjacent Actors:** These are people from places or institutions which may have been adjacently involved with the incident such as the press, police department, hospital etc.
- **Archive:** The principal participants will offer guidance as to what might be important areas to research. This will result in an extensive data base with primary source documents, articles and relevant content for future research.
- **Video and Audio Recorders –** The production of an archival video and transcript will be developed with the assistance of the archive for further documentation and research.
- **Dossier:** The archive will then be sculpted down to a 12-15 page dossier of research to be reviewed for the basis of discussion.
- **Researchers:** Teams ideally consisting of community members, scholars and students to contribute to the research data base and sensory items for the COH sessions.

# Critical Oral History Timeline

- Step 1 – Meeting with campus and community partners to develop a plan for collaboration
- Step 2- Select participants for research
- Step 3- Meet with core research participants to develop larger list of participants
- Step 4 - Develop master list of documents and dossier
- Step 5 – Provide small dossier to participants four weeks prior to the COH session
- Step 6 – Execute COH conference
- Step 7 – Edit video and audio recordings and prepare for public-facing archive

# Sample Critical Oral History Agenda

## Participants

- Movement Actors: Rita Bender, Charlie Cobb, Courtland Cox, Dave Dennis, Ed King, Dorie Ladner, Jennifer Lawson, Charles McLaurin, Leslie McLemore, Bob Moses, Janet Moses, Hollis Watkins
- Adjacent Actors: Hodding Carter (journalist), Timothy Jenkins (National Student Association), Curtis Wilke (journalist)
- Facilitators: Emilye Crosby (SUNY-Geneseo), Hasan Jeffries (Ohio State)
- Scholars: Daphne Chamberlain (20th century Mississippi), Geri Augusto (critical oral history methodology)
- Youth respondents: Phil Agnew (Dream Defenders), Rebekah Barber (Moral Mondays), Ajamu Dillahunt-Holloway (BYP 100 and Incite NC), Akanke Mason-Hogans (Rise to Run), Aja Monet (Smoke Signals Studio), Sunny Osment, Courtney Sebring (BYP-100)

## Day 1/ Session 1 (Franklin Humanities Institute, Amadiel Lecture Hall)

### THE NECESSITY FOR THE MFDP: Denial of the Political Franchise Focused on the 1960s

- Problems to Address:
  - The nature of the Mississippi Sharecropper Economy and its declining importance
  - The legal underpinnings reinforcing white supremacy in Mississippi.
  - The methods and processes for disenfranchising the Black community
  - The use of state and non-state violence and the use of economic reprisal and mechanisms to maintain white supremacy
  - Collaboration by the national Democratic Party and Mississippi's state party to ignore and/or support the disenfranchisement of the Black community in Mississippi
  - The Media Narrative, specifically myths of Black apathy and ignorance.
  - Self-abnegations inside the Black Community

12:00-12:30 – Youth respondents reflect on session and ask questions:

12:30-1:30 lunch on site

# Sample Critical Oral History Agenda

## Session 2 – 1:30pm – 5:00pm

### WHAT ACTIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN TO OPPOSE THE IMPACT OF THE MISSISSIPPI SHARECROPPER ECONOMY

- Roots and Formation of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) to provide support for released Freedom Riders
- SNCC, Local NAACP and CORE Begin Voter Registration Activities in Mississippi
- The Adoption of a Strategy to Bring America’s attention on the State of Mississippi that Includes:
  - The Press
  - Federal Justice Department
  - National civil rights organizations
  - Labor unions
  - Others
- The 1963 Freedom Vote Campaign and its Purpose of Combatting the Negative Narrative that the Disenfranchised Black Community Did Not Want to Vote.
- The Introduction of White Volunteers from Stanford University to Assist in the 1963 Freedom Vote and their relationship to Allard Lowenstein.
- The Role of Adjacent Actors in Support of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; expanding efforts to reach out nationally

4:15- 5:00pm: Youth Respondents reflect on session and pose questions

5:00pm DINNER on site

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## DAY 2/ Session 3 – 9:00am to 12:30pm

### THE 1964 MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM SUMMER: The Discussions that Led to the Idea for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Challenge

- The Freedom Summer debates within SNCC/COFO.
- Emergence of the MFDP idea
- Challenging the “regulars” at the 1964 convention.
- Building the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; the work on the ground
- The Legal Arguments that Supported Creation of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
- The National Narrative for the Formation of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
- The Role of Adjacent Actors in Support of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
- The “Establishment” opposition and suspicion of to the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, SNCC, CORE and COFO.

12:00-12:30 Youth respondents reflect on session and ask questions:

12:30 – 1:30 LUNCH on site

# Sample Critical Oral History Agenda

## Session 4 – MFDP MOUNTS A CHALLENGE IN ATLANTIC CITY

- The Organizing for the MFDP Challenge in Mississippi
- Opposition to the MFDP on the convention floor in Atlantic City, media mischaracterizations Actions and expressed commitments by the Adjacent Actors in Support of the MFDP Challenge
  - Liberal Democrats
  - Labor organizations
  - National Council of Churches
  - Legal organizations
  - National civil rights organizations
  - Black politicians
  - Medical organizations
  - Others

5:00pm DINNER

## DAY 3/Session 5– THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHALLENGE AND ITS AFTERMATH

- The Use of Power by the President to Suppress the Support of the Adjacent Actors for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Challenge
- The “compromise” offered
- The Resistance of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to the So-called Compromise Offered in Atlantic City
- Support of the So-called Compromise by adjacent actors
- The Rejection of the So-called Compromise by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Media reaction, the Black political and civil rights establishment, COFO reaction
- The moves to Ensure that SNCC, and the MFDP did not Play an Important Role in Mississippi and the South Going Forward.
- The Decision by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to Support Lyndon Johnson for President Despite the National Democratic Party not to Support the MFDP Challenge
- The Decision of the MFDP Challenge on SNCC’s Decisions to Continue in Mississippi and to Engage in Other Political Organizing. SNCC and the MFDP.

12:30-1:15 – Youth respondents reflect on session ask questions

1:15-1:45 LUNCH on site

1:45-3:00pm Final Session on MFDP Challenge and aftermath (movement veterans and youth)



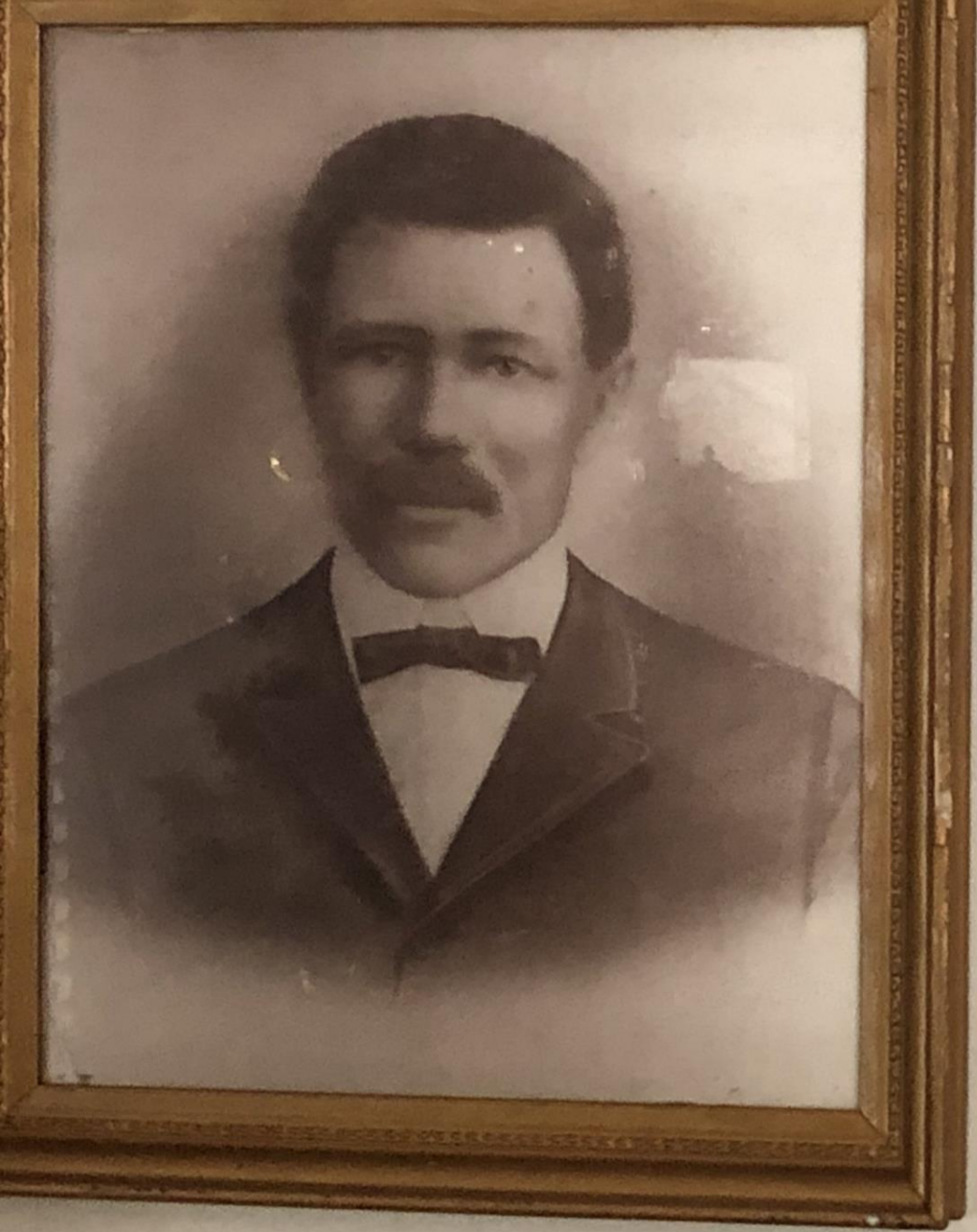




# A Conversation with the Clark Family



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL









# Deloris Clark

*Carrboro Community Member*



