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

**Meeting Agenda and Final Approved Minutes**

Virtual Meeting – streamed on HRWF YouTube Channel

## Tuesday, October 6, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00-12:10PM</td>
<td><strong>Call to Order</strong></td>
<td>Jim Leloudis &amp; Pat Parker, Co-Chairs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Welcome</td>
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<td>• Roll Call</td>
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<td>• Approval of Minutes, September 10 Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:10-12:35PM</td>
<td><strong>“Enslaving Benefactors, Exploited Bodies, Erased Lives: The Barbee Cemetery.”</strong></td>
<td>Brandon Bayne, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies, College of Arts &amp; Sciences</td>
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<td>A presentation on methodology and community engagement.</td>
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<td>12:55-1:15PM</td>
<td><strong>A Conversation with the Clark Family</strong></td>
<td>Dolores Clark, Carrboro Community Member</td>
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<td>Local community members and descendants of the Strayhorn Family share their experiences and legacy with the Commission.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15-1:30PM</td>
<td><strong>Next Steps</strong></td>
<td>Lorie Clark, Founder &amp; Executive Director, Hannah Ruth Foundation, and Daughter of Dolores Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30PM</td>
<td><strong>Adjourn</strong></td>
<td>Conversation Led by Danita Mason-Hogans, Led by Co-Chairs</td>
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Commission on History, Race, and A Way Forward (October 6, 2020)
Approved Minutes

Present: Commission Members: Jim Leloudis, Patricia Parker, Larry Chavis, Nicholas Graham, Ronald Harris, Amy Locklear-Hertel, Kenneth Janken, Joseph Jordan, Seth Kotch, Josmell Perez, Ariana Avila, Danita Horton, Graham Watkins, Danita Mason-Hogans, Giselle Corbie Smith

I. Welcome and Introduction

Commission Co-Chair Jim Leloudis welcomed Commission members to the meeting and completed the roll call. Leloudis also welcomed guests Brandon Bayne, Lorie Clark, and Dolores Clark. Minutes of the September 10th meeting were approved.

II. Presentation from Professor Brandon Bayne

Co-Chair Patricia Parker re-introduced the idea of narrative change as a focus of the Commission’s work. Co-Chair Leloudis discussed the Barbee Family Cemetery and introduced the first presenter, Brandon Bayne, UNC Department of Religious Studies Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Bayne began by talking about the Rizzo Center and DuBose House and his experience going there. He explained the connection between the Barbee and Kenan families and notes the land which the Barbee family donated to the University. Further, Bayne identified the known number of enslaved people held by the Barbee family. He discussed how fugitive slave ads and slave records could be used as a method to recover stories of enslaved people. Bayne further discussed the importance of nomenclature in changing the terminology from plantation to labor camp. He discussed the signage at the cemetery, the marked family graves that exist, and the unmarked graves that are likely of enslaved people who worked on the Barbee labor camp. Bayne also discussed the story of Harriet Barbee who was likely an enslaved woman at the Barbee labor camp.

Co-Chair Leloudis opened the floor for questions for Bayne. Discussion arose regarding land acknowledgements, the current status of the collaboration with Kenan Flagler regarding the cemetery, changing the narrative and nomenclature related to enslaved peoples and labor camps, and other cemeteries that exist within the Chapel Hill community in which enslaved people might have been buried.

III. Presentation from Commission member, Danita Mason-Hogans and Conversation with members of the Clark Family.

Co-Chair Parker introduced Danita Mason-Hogans who presented on The Critical Oral History Approach. She discussed the history of SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) and how their activism served as a framework for current political movements. She listed the components of and timeline for the critical oral history approach. Using this, she presented a sample agenda for a conference discussing this approach.
After discussion regarding current justice movements and the importance of capturing narratives, Danita Mason-Hogans introduces Dolores and Lorie Clark, Chapel-Hill community members and descendants of Harriet Barbee. Lorie discussed her family lineage, the land that they owned, and various connections of her ancestors to this community and the University, including her uncles who did brick mason work on UNC’s campus. Dolores talked about the family home which has been in her family since the late 1850s, her family’s efforts to preserve their land, and her personal involvement and contributions in the local community.

Mason-Hogans opened the floor for questions and discussion which revolved around the Hannah Ruth Foundation, working towards national registry placement for their family house, and other homes in the community that should be preserved.

IV. Concluding

Co-Chairs Parker and Leloudis thanked the presenters and commissioners.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Attachments: Presentation from 10.06.2020 HRWF Commission meeting
UNIVERSITY COMMISSION
ON HISTORY, RACE, AND A WAY FORWARD

October 6, 2020
12:00-1:30PM
Virtual Meeting – HRWF YouTube Channel
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
Enslaving Benefactors, Exploited Bodies, Erased Lives: The Barbee Cemetery

University Commission on History, Race, and a Way Forward

Professor Brandon Bayne

10.6.20
Celebrating Christopher and William Barbee, “Early University Benefactors”

With the opening of the Ritz-Carlton Center at Meadowneuk, 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 historic setting conducive to reflection and thought.

However, to truly understand the significance of the Ritz-Carlton Center on a 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 mirrors the history of Chapel Hill and its University.

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

Early University Benefactors

In 1755, 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. These grants, received from the Earl of Granville, encompassed 585 acres and included the land that would become the Ritz-Carlton Center. The second grant, received in 1773, gave William Barbee’s holdings to more than 900 acres. Although William Barbee died in 1788, shortly after arriving in North Carolina, he was important to the settling of the area, serving as a commissioner of roads and member of the grand jury.

In 1776, one of William Barbee’s eight children received the last of these area land grants. During the years that followed, Christopher Barbee, or “Old Kit” as he was known, continued to add to his landholdings. By 1797, he owned at least 2,145 acres, making him one of the region’s largest landholders. These holdings included the current Ritz-Carlton property originally owned by his father, which he purchased from a stranger who inherited the land upon his father’s death. At the highest elevation of this property, 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 224 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 Ritz-Carlton. 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 of 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) Harpree. She subsequently sold the land to her son, Robert W. Harpree. He is the last Barbee descendant 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

Christopher BARBEE m Mary (?) (ca. 1740–1834)

- Francis
- William (d. 1857)
  - m (1800) Ghaskia (Jones)

- Elizabeth
- Nancy
- Susanna

- Willis (d. 1869)
  - [ m ? ]
  - Harriett (black)
  - Three children

- Emily
  - m
  - Ilai Nunn
  - Four children

- Delia
  - m
  - Hudson Cave

- Margaret (d. 1863)
  - m (1843)
  - Jesse HARGRAVE (d. 1854)

- Mary Caroline
  - m
  - James N. Patterson

Mary “Mollie” (1842–1916)

- m (1864)
  - Hugh Guthrie
  - William Rand “Buck” Kenan Sr. (1845–1903)

- William F.
  - Robert

- Emily
  - m
  - Mary Lily
  - Jessie
  - William
  - Sarah

(See Kenan genealogy chart)

Barbee and Hargrave Families
The Barbee Donation


Boundaries of donated tracts, based on research by L. J. Phipps in Orange County Registry, superimposed on 1991 map of campus and town.
Christopher “Old Kit” Barbee’s “Old Chapel Tract”

- Oldest (1792)
- Largest (221 Acres)
- Most Central (McCorkle Place and Polk Place)
Christopher “Old Kit” Barbee enslaved 21 people in 1820

William Barbee enslaved at least 41 people in 1850

Son Willis enslaved 13 people in 1850 (including a 27 year old woman)
Christopher Barbee’s Ad for a liberated, formerly enslaved man named “Bob”

Hillsborough Recorder, July 25th, 1831
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 wit, 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
Figure 6. Shovel test locations in Areas 1 and 2 (adapted from boundary/topographic map, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.)
Rizzo Center Resort and the Remains
Barbee Cemetery

Barbee Cemetery
C. 1700's-1800's

Contains about 120 graves on hilltop known as
"Barbee Mountain", site of Barbee family
plantation, engraved headstones for William
Barbee, son of "Old Kit", and wife, Gaskey.
William was a member of the House of Commons
in 1719, and a merchant. One of his great-
granddaughters was Mary Lily Kenan Flagler.

Acknowledgment to Vivian Barbee Cox, writer
and Paris Barbee, artist for their contribution
in documenting the history of Meadowmont.
William and Gaskey Barbee
“About 120 Graves”
Unmarked Grave of Enslaved Person on the Barbee Labor Camp/Meadowmont
Unmarked Grave of Enslaved Person on Barbee Labor Camp/Meadowmont
"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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Relationship to Head</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
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<td>56</td>
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<tr>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Farming</td>
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<tr>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
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**1880 Censuses, Orange County, Patterson Township**

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Barbee’s Chapel (est. 1866) and School

Barbee’s Chapel School, ca. 1917
The Critical Oral History Approach
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, Amadieh 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

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 and 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
Dolores Clark
Carrboro Community Member