



"From Slavery to Freedom: The African American Experience"
Graduate Association for African American History
The University of Memphis
11th Annual Conference
September 9-11, 2009



Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Session 1

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Rose Theater, Entertainment Lobby

“On the Pulse of Morning”: Labor, Rights, and Resistance

Alyssa D. Warrick, Mississippi State University

“Bathing Jim Crow: African American Workers at Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas”

Sara K. Eskridge, Louisiana State University

“Illegal Breeding Frustration: Massive Resistance and Virginia’s Pupil Placement Board, 1956-1966”

Kevin Boland Johnson, Mississippi State University

“Taking It to the Streets: Garbage Men, the Memphis Crises of 1968, and Problems with Trash Collection”

Session Chair: Michael Lejman, University of Memphis

Commentator: Dr. Sarah Potter, University of Memphis

Session 2

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Rose Theater, Entertainment Lobby

“Lifting as We Climb”: Teachers in the South

Kiron Johnson, New York University

“‘The Southern dream’: Charlotte Forten Grimké and African-American Migration South during the Civil War and Reconstruction”

Christina L. Davis, University of Georgia

“Desegregating Women’s History: Crossover History and Long-term Teachers of Freed People in the South”

Session Chair: Shirletta Kinchen, University of Memphis

Commentator: Dr. Douglas Cupples, University of Memphis

Session 3

5:00 p.m. – 6:10 p.m.

Rose Theater, Entertainment Lobby

“Freedom on My Mind”: Identity in the Black Diaspora

Christopher James Tucker, Virginia Commonwealth University

Amanda Lee Savage, The College of William and Mary

“‘A Most Perplexing Subject’: Race and Community Identity in Virginia, 1820-1861”

Nicolette Wilhide, Vanderbilt University

“Scenas da Escravidão: Abolitionism, Transition and Brazil’s Gazete da Tarde, 1883-1886”

Session Chair: James Conway, University of Memphis

Commentator: Dr. Scott Marler, University of Memphis

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Session 4

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Rose Theater, Entertainment Lobby

“If We Must Die”: African Americans and the Military

Le’Trice Donaldson, University of Memphis

“A Battle for Honor: Lt. Henry Flipper’s Fight to Restore His Manly Honor”

Brittany E. Guardia, Pittsburg State University

“Flyboys: African Americans in the History of Aviation, WWI to the Mid 20th Century”

Stephen E. Arionus, University of Texas at San Antonio

Paper Title: ‘You Drive I’ll Shoot’: Race, Riot, and Resistance in Beaumont, Texas”

Session Chair: Michael Blum, University of Memphis

Commentator: Dr. Aram Goudsouzian, University of Memphis

Session 5

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Rose Theater, Entertainment Lobby

“Not Without Struggle”: Racial Violence and White Supremacy

Leonard J. Lanier, Louisiana State University

“Killing the General: Remembering Reconstruction in Eastern North Carolina”

Jack Lorenzini, University of Memphis

“‘Fallen on Distempered Times’: The Big Creek Lynching of 1894”

Kyle Ainsworth, University of Southern Mississippi

“The Harbinger of White Supremacy: The Clarke Courier, 1869-1877”

Session Chair: Laura Perry, University of Memphis

Commentator: Dr. Janann Sherman, University of Memphis

Lunch

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Rose Theater, Entertainment Lobby

Lunch, Discussion, and Book Signing with Keynote Speaker Dr. Clayborne Carson

Session 6

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Rose Theater, Entertainment Lobby

“Praise Song for the Day”: Race and Modern America

Scotty E. Kirkland, University of South Alabama

“From the Blood of a Guiltless Man: The Murder and Memory of Michael Donald”

Daryl A. Carter, University of Memphis

“President Clinton and Crime: A Democrat Gets Tough on Crime”

David G. Latimore, Duke University

“Barack or Barabbas”

Session Chair: Jeff Harris, University of Memphis

Commentator: Dr. Andre Johnson, University of Memphis

Session 7

2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Rose Theater, Entertainment Lobby

“They Carried Their Freedom Bags”: Women in the Age of Slavery

Brittany E. Guardia, Pittsburg State University

“But By the Grace of God Did They Persevere: The Plight of Slave Women and Their Families in the 18th Century British Caribbean and 19th Century American South”

Kimberly Sambol-Tosco, University of Pennsylvania

“The Dilemma of Black Families and Households: A Reconsideration of the Transition to Freedom among African-Americans in the North before the Civil War”

Session Chair: Meredith Baker, University of Memphis

Commentator: Dr. Beverly Bond, University of Memphis

Keynote Address

4:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Mitchell Hall, Room 200

Dr. Clayborne Carson, Stanford University and Morehouse University

“The Global Significance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”

The Global Significance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Clayborne Carson



- ❖ Keynote address starts at 5:00 p.m., Mitchell Hall, Room 200
- ❖ Dr. Clayborne Carson is Professor of History at Stanford University, Founding Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute, and Distinguished Professor and Executive Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Collection at Morehouse College.
- ❖ He is the author of *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s*, which remains the definitive history of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, one of the most dynamic and innovative civil rights organizations. *In Struggle* won the Organization of American Historians' Frederick Jackson Turner Award.
- ❖ His other publications include *The Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader* (1991); *Malcolm X: The FBI File* (1991); and *African American Lives: The Struggle for Freedom* (2005).
- ❖ Under Dr. Carson's direction, the King Papers Project has produced six volumes of *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.* – a projected fourteen-volume comprehensive edition of King's speeches, sermons, correspondence, publications, and unpublished writings. In addition to these volumes, he has written or co-edited numerous other works based on the papers, including *A Knock at Midnight: Inspiration from the Great Sermons of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.* (1998); *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (1998), compiled from King's autobiographical writings; and *A Call to Conscience: The Landmark Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* (2001).

*****Booksigning begins at 4:45*****

*****Talk followed by a Reception*****

Friday, September 11, 2009

Session 8

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Rose Theater, Entertainment Lobby

“That All May Be Free”: Colonial Slaveries

Armanthia Duncan, University of Memphis

“Rival Geography: How Enslaved Women Resisted Colonial Occupation”

Christina Dickerson, Vanderbilt University

“New France, 1689-1763: A Forgotten Outpost of Black Slavery”

Christian Pinnen, University of Southern Mississippi

“Settling a Slave Frontier: Empires, Westward Expansion, and Slavery in the Natchez District, 1720-1820”

Session Chair: Sheena Harris, University of Memphis

Commentator: Dr. Arwin Smallwood, University of Memphis

Session 9

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Rose Theater, Entertainment Lobby

“I’ll Be Sitting Right There”: Myth, Memory, and the African American Past

Dorothea Walter, University of Wuerzburg

“There’s a way to alter the pain: Exploring an alternative mythology of redemption in Gloria Naylor’s ‘Bailey’s Café’ and ‘Mama Day’”

T. DeWayne Moore, Middle Tennessee State University

“‘When I leave Here, I’m Gon’ Catch That M&O’: Willie Lee Brown and His Legacy”

Jason Jordan, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

“‘A Very Worthy Negro’: Tom Lee and the Politics of Respectability in Jim Crow Memphis”

Session Chair: Le’Trice Donaldson, University of Memphis

Commentator: Dr. Earnestine Jenkins, University of Memphis

Pizza Lunch and Roundtable

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Rose Theater, Entertainment Lobby

Roundtable: Professional Development

A discussion about the practice of history, the graduate school experience, and professional opportunities with two alumnae of the GAAAH Conference

Dr. Deirdre Cooper Owens

Assistant Professor, University of Mississippi

Carter G. Woodson Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Virginia, 2008-2009

Ph.D., Department of History, University of California-Los Angeles, 2008

Dissertation: “‘Courageous Negro Servitors’ and Laboring Irish Bodies: An Examination of Antebellum-Era Modern American Gynecology”



Dr. Cooper Owens



Dr. Mustakeem

Dr. Sowande' Mustakeem

Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in History, Washington University in St. Louis, 2008-2010

Ph.D., Department of History, Michigan State University, 2008

Dissertation: “‘Make Haste & Let Me See You With A Good Cargo of Negroes’: Gender, Health, and Violence in the 18th Century Middle Passage”

Moderator: Dr. Dennis Laumann, University of Memphis

*****Followed by the Presentation of the Memphis State Eight Paper Prize*****

Outing: National Civil Rights Museum

Meet at 2:30 p.m.

Parking Lot, Holiday Inn Hotel, University of Memphis

11th Annual Conference

Graduate Association for African-American History

From Slavery to Freedom: The African American Experience

At the University of Memphis | Rose Theatre

2009 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Session 1 (1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

“ON THE PULSE OF MORNING”: LABOR, RIGHTS, AND RESISTANCE

Alyssa D. Warrick, MS State Univ

“Bathing Jim Crow: African American Workers at Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas”

Sara K. Eskridge, LA State Univ

“Illegal Breeding Frustration: Massive Resistance and Virginia’s Pupil Placement Board, 1956-1966”

Kevin Boland Johnson, MS State Univ

“Taking It to the Streets: Garbage Men, the Memphis Crises of 1968, and Problems with Trash Collection”

*Session Chair: Michael Lejman, Univ of Memphis

**Commentator: Dr. Sarah Potter, Univ of Memphis

Session 2 (3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

“LIFTING AS WE CLIMB”: TEACHERS IN THE SOUTH

Kiron Johnson, NYU

“‘The Southern dream’: Charlotte Forten Grimké and African-American Migration South during the Civil War and Reconstruction”

Christina L. Davis, Univ of GA

“Desegregating Women’s History: Crossover History and Long-term Teachers of Freed People in the South”

*Session Chair: Shirletta Kinchen, Univ of Memphis

**Commentator: Dr. Douglas Cupples, Univ of Memphis

Session 3 (5:00 p.m. – 6:10 p.m.)

“FREEDOM ON MY MIND”: IDENTITY IN THE BLACK DIASPORA

Christopher James Tucker, Virginia Commonwealth University

Amanda Lee Savage, The College of William and Mary

“‘A Most Perplexing Subject’: Race and Community Identity in Virginia, 1820-1861”

Nicolette Wilhide, Vanderbilt Univ

“Scenas da Escravidão: Abolitionism, Transition and Brazil’s *Gazete da Tarde*, 1883-1886”

*Session Chair: James Conway, Univ of Memphis

**Commentator: Dr. Scott Marler, Univ of Memphis

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Session 4 (8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)

“IF WE MUST DIE”: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE MILITARY

Le’Trice Donaldson, Univ of Memphis

“A Battle for Honor: Lt. Henry Flipper’s Fight to Restore His Manly Honor”

Brittany E. Guardia, Pittsburg State Univ

“Flyboys: African Americans in the History of Aviation, WWI to the Mid 20th Century”

Stephen E. Arionus, UT at San Antonio

‘You Drive I’ll Shoot’: Race, Riot, and Resistance in Beaumont, Texas”

*Session Chair: Michael Blum, Univ of Memphis

**Commentator: Dr. Aram Goudsouzian, Univ of Memphis

Session 5 (10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.)

“NOT WITHOUT STRUGGLE”: RACIAL VIOLENCE AND WHITE SUPREMACY

Leonard J. Lanier, LSU

“Killing the General: Remembering Reconstruction in Eastern North Carolina”

Jack Lorenzini, Univ of Memphis

“‘Fallen on Distempered Times’: The Big Creek Lynching of 1894”

Kyle Ainsworth, Univ of So MS

“The Harbinger of White Supremacy: The Clarke Courier, 1869-1877”

*Session Chair: Laura Perry, Univ of Memphis

**Commentator: Dr. Janann Sherman, Univ of Memphis

Lunch (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Lunch, Discussion, and Book Signing with Keynote Speaker,
DR. CLAYBORNE CARSON

Session 6 (1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

“PRAISE SONG FOR THE DAY”: RACE AND MODERN AMERICA

Scotty E. Kirkland, Univ of So AL

“From the Blood of a Guiltless Man: The Murder and Memory of Michael Donald”

Daryl A. Carter, Univ of Memphis

“President Clinton and Crime: A Democrat Gets Tough on Crime”

David G. Latimore, Duke Univ

“Barack or Barabbas”

*Session Chair: Jeff Harris, Univ of Memphis

**Commentator: Dr. Andre Johnson, Univ of Memphis

Session 7 (2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.)

“THEY CARRIED THEIR FREEDOM BAGS”: WOMEN IN THE AGE OF SLAVERY

Brittany E. Guardia, Pittsburg State Univ

“But By the Grace of God Did They Persevere: The Plight of Slave Women and Their Families in the 18th Century British Caribbean and 19th Century American South”

Kimberly Sambol-Tosco, Univ of PA

“The Dilemma of Black Families and Households: A

Reconsideration of the Transition to Freedom among African-Americans in the North before the Civil War”

*Session Chair: Meredith Baker, Univ of Memphis

**Commentator: Dr. Beverly Bond, Univ of Memphis

Keynote Address

(4:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.)

MITCHELL HALL, AUDITORIUM (ROOM 200)

Dr. Clayborne Carson

“The Global Significance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “

Reception following

Friday, September 11, 2009

Session 8 (8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)

“THAT ALL MAY BE FREE”: COLONIAL SLAVERIES

Armanthia Duncan, Univ of Memphis

“Rival Geography: How Enslaved Women Resisted Colonial Occupation”

Christina Dickerson, Vanderbilt Univ

“New France, 1689-1763: A Forgotten Outpost of Black Slavery”

Christian Pinnen, Univ of So MS

“Settling a Slave Frontier: Empires, Westward Expansion, and Slavery in the Natchez District, 1720-1820”

*Session Chair: Sheena Harris, Univ of Memphis

**Commentator: Dr. Arwin Smallwood, Univ of Memphis

Session 9 (10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.)

“I’LL BE SITTING RIGHT THERE”: MYTH, MEMORY, AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PAST

Dorothea Walter, Univ of Wuerzburg

“There’s a way to alter the pain: Exploring an alternative mythology of redemption in Gloria Naylor’s ‘Bailey’s Café’ and ‘Mama Day’”

T. DeWayne Moore, Middle TN State Univ

“‘When I leave Here, I’m Gon’ Catch That M&O’: Willie Lee Brown and His Legacy”

Jason Jordan, Univ of IL at Urbana-Champaign.

“‘A Very Worthy Negro’: Tom Lee and the Politics of Respectability in Jim Crow Memphis”

*Session Chair: Le’Trice Donaldson, Univ of Memphis

**Commentator: Dr. Earnestine Jenkins, Univ of Memphis

PIZZA LUNCH AND ROUNDTABLE (12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

A discussion about the practice of history, the graduate school experience, and professional opportunities with two alumnae of the GAAAH Conference: Dr. Deirdre Cooper Owens and Dr. Sowande’ Mustakeem

***Moderator: Dr. Dennis Laumann, Univ of Memphis

*Awards for 2009 | “Memphis State Eight” Paper Prize

Last Conference event: Meet at 2:30 p.m. in the Parking Lot, Holiday Inn Hotel, University of Memphis, for trip to NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM