



Connections

CLAW Statement on the Emanuel Massacre

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The June 17th mass-murder at Mother Emanuel left us in shock and tears. The subsequent response at the prayer vigils at Morris Brown AME, at the TD Arena, and elsewhere, and the resumption of services at Emanuel, has shown a more defiant joy than any of us could have imagined. We are not an integrated city, but we are one city, sharing in grief and outrage, and asserting a common desire for love and unity to overcome this latest manifestation of hatred and division that, though centuries old, still lingers. Is it right to be proud of this city on such an occasion? Maybe it really is.

In a blog-post on the Emanuel AME Massacre and Charleston's response, Julia Eichelberger writes, "It's starting to seem possible that we could begin to accord our grief its proper weight. Grief could spur us to make things better, to undertake the much more confusing, much more uncertain work of justice and fairness, of a social infrastructure worthy of the name 'community.' We're succeeding, in this moment, at expressing our wish for that, and that is a start." Using Eichelberger's beautifully eloquent words as a starting point I want to set out some of my own thoughts as the director of the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World (CLAW) program.

For the past 20 years or so the CLAW program has been exploring the nature of our city's shared history and the radically uneven ways in which different groups have experienced the "same" events. I'd like to think we have been working in the same spirit and to the same end as set out in Eichelberger's words above: undertaking that confusing and complicated work that leads to justice and fairness,

and a social infrastructure worthy of the name "community." This is why on a recent Facebook post I wrote that our work begins *again*.

Less than three months ago, but still days before our most recent end of innocence and complacency, historian Stephanie Yuhl, whose *A Golden Haze of Memory: The Making of Historic Charleston*, takes Charleston to task for glossing over its history, gave the final presentation at the CLAW-sponsored Southern Association of Women's Historians conference. Although she still remains critical of Charleston's history and its white elite's narcissistic self-representation, she clearly also still loves this place, and her love is encouraged by the strides the city has made in the last few years to present a more comprehensive and inclusive story. In conversation after the presentation, Stephanie was light-hearted and upbeat. No less harsh on past failures she told us that she thought "Charleston's going to be all right." It was heartening and validating to hear her say so.

Four days later Dylann Roof vented his violent hatred in the basement of Emanuel AME, taking the lives of nine—*nine*—of our fellow citizens, including one of this community's finest spiritual and political leaders.

I do not claim Clementa Pinckney as a personal friend, but we had worked together on a number of CLAW programs. At the end of 2012 he had allowed us to promote Emanuel AME as the go-to church for the "Watch Night" service on the eve of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation's coming into effect on January 1st 1863. He had twice allowed me to apply to the BBC to have the producers of their weekly television show "Songs of Praise" come to Charleston. Most recently he had stepped in at the very last minute to

give the homily at our memorial service on Hampton Park in honor of all of the dead of the Civil War. You can see that thoughtful, wise and generous address on YouTube, and read an account of it by Yale University historian David Blight in *The Atlantic*. Immediately after the memorial service, Pinckney had had to go to another event at 4pm., before ending the day at the Nat Fuller's Feast reenactment that brought together an eclectic array of community leaders—literally breaking bread at the same table (and partaking of a fabulous feast, too!). For Chef Kevin Mitchell's account of that event, "Letter to Nat Fuller," please check out the Jubilee Project blog-site and for context on the original feast in 1865, explore the Lowcountry Digital History Initiative (LDHI) online exhibition (you can find links to these sites on the CLAW web-site at claw.cofc.edu).

All of this is to show not just what a terrible terrible loss we have suffered as a community as a result of the murder of Reverend Pinckney and his eight parishioners, but also to show how intentionally the CLAW program has been working toward Eichelberger's social infrastructure worthy of the name of community. But where do we go from here, and how do we continue? The CLAW program is absolutely committed to facilitating further self-scrutiny as a means to effecting structural change. Please join us in rededicating ourselves to our fundamental mission as educators in inculcating the wisdom that is itself liberty. For all.

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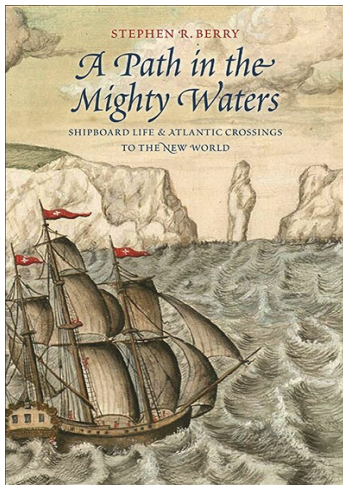
Southern Association of Women's Historians—Conference Report

On the second weekend in June, over three hundred historians descended on the College of Charleston for the Tenth Triennial Conference on Southern Women's History, sponsored by CLAW, The Citadel, the College of Charleston's History Department, and Clemson University. While the theme of the conference was "Remembering/Gendering: Women, Historical Tourism, and Public History," conference sessions covered a wide range of sessions in women's history, from slavery and colonial economies to late-twentieth century feminist organizing. Participants also enjoyed workshops on how to begin a second book project, careers outside academia, collecting LGBT sources for archives, and conducting oral

histories. Many plenary and conference sessions addressed the recent murder of Walter Scott, using history as a way to better understand current problems with racism and justice.

The conference was a great success, due in large part to CLAW's efficient assistance with registration, disbursing payments, and general handling of organizational details. Wells Fargo Lecture Series funds made the conference possible and opened up plenary sessions to the public. Plenary speakers addressed debates over

civil rights and public monuments, how to deal with complex and problematic issues in the histories of childhood, and how slavery, civil rights, and remembrance affect the public history scene in Charleston. Conference attendees hailed from all over the US and the UK, Australia, and France; many reported that the conference was a fitting tribute to thirty years of scholarship produced by members of the SAWH.



Wells Fargo Distinguished Public Lecture by Stephen R. Berry

The first Wells Fargo Distinguished Public Lecture for 2015-16 will be given by **Stephen R. Berry**, an associate professor of history at Simmons College, where he teaches courses in Early American, Atlantic World, and American religious history. Professor Berry's topic will be the role of religion aboard eighteenth-century British sailing vessels

crossing the Atlantic.

Berry's book *A Path in the Mighty Waters: Shipboard Life and Atlantic Crossings* came out from Yale University Press in January of this year. Drawing on an impressive array of archival collections, Berry's vivid and rich account of migrants' experiences reveals the crucial role the Atlantic played in histo-

ry and how it has lingered in American memory as a defining experience.

Dr. Berry's lecture will take place in MYBK 100 at 6pm on Thursday, October 8th. He will lead a faculty seminar on this fascinating material the following day, Friday, October 9th at 3pm in Addlestone 136.

Fall Conference: Association for the Study of the Worldwide African

The CLAW program is pleased to be able to co-sponsor the 8th biennial conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) in **Charleston from November 4th through 7th, 2015**. The conference will address themes central to the CLAW program's mission of circulation/migration and the importance of locality/place in shaping the human experience of Africans and African descendants

around the world. The conference will be taking full advantage of Charleston's location as a key node in the movement of African and African-descended people. Keynote speaker at the conference will be Julie Dash, director of *Daughters of the Dust*, and, most recently, a visiting professor of African-American Studies at the College of Charleston. Using a wide range of methodologies, scholarly panels at the conference will address the racial, gender,

sexual, and class contours of migration and the meaning of place in the production of intellectual formulations, community formation, Pan-Africanism, and identity within Africa and its Diaspora. The conference will also include scientific perspectives, highlighting such issues as the biological impacts of the global movements of African peoples, medicine and healing, and other biological and scientific research on Africa and its diaspora.



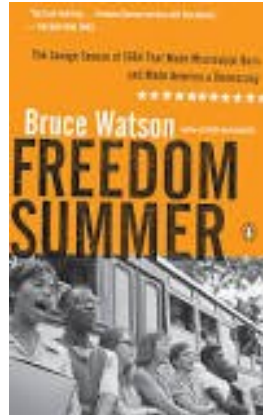
AY 2015-2016

September 2015 Events

On **Tuesday September 8th**, *of 1964 That Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy* by Bruce Watson.

For a complete listing of events at the College of Charleston addressing race relations and the history of the Civil Rights movement see <http://collegereads.cofc.edu/events/index.php>.

We offer the film as a complement to the College Reads book selection, *Freedom Summer: The Savage Season*



Join us on **September 16th** for a “Requiem for Rice” discussion.

Artist Jonathan Green, musician Lee Pringle, and historian/librettist Edda Fields-Black share a panel to talk about a new multi-medium composition *Requiem for Rice* that will have its world premiere at the Gaillard Auditorium in 2017 as part of the Lowcountry Rice Culture Project Biennial Symposium.

School of Mathematics and Science Auditorium, **Calhoun and Coming Street, 6:30pm**. More at Requiem-forRice.com.

Spring Conference: Maroonage

In 1575, Sir Francis Drake, while plundering Spanish Panama, collaborated with an eighty-year old kingdom of escaped slaves, "symerons" as he called them, or maroons. Ten years before the Pilgrims, a hundred and fifty English colonists heading for Jamestown sailed into a hurricane and found themselves marooned on the Bermudas, a real-life *Lost* adventure, complete with rival camps, mutinies, murder, and executions.

Whether they're in tales of escaped slaves living in the central mountains of Jamaica, European sailors castaway on desert islands, or even humans on distant planets, maroons have dominated the Atlantic imagination since the earliest encounters between American, African, and European peoples. Apocalyptic novels, films, and TV programs ranging from *Planet of the Apes* to *Battlestar Galactica* indicate the trope is current today. It is, perhaps, the central trope of American identity.

In a two day conference (February 5th and 6th) some twenty scholars will discuss these topics and take a tour of sites of maroonage in the Lowcountry. (See our conferences page for details: <http://claw.cofc.edu/conferences.html>.)

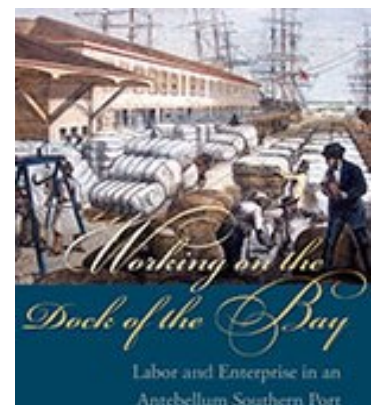
CLAW Program Publications

Spring 2015 saw the publication of the 22nd title in USC Press's Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World series: Michael D. Thompson's 2011 Hines Prize-winning *Working on the Dock of the Bay* explores the history of waterfront labor and laborers—black and white, enslaved and free, native and immigrant—in Charleston, South

Carolina, between the American Revolution and Civil War. Thompson explains how a predominantly enslaved workforce laid the groundwork for the creation of a robust and effectual association of dockworkers, most of whom were black, shortly after emancipation. In revealing these wharf laborers' experiences, Thompson's book

contextualizes the struggles of contemporary southern working people.

Sandy Slater's co-edited volume of essays emerging from the CLAW Program's 2012 conference on gender in the Atlantic World is also nearing completion.



Calendar of Events Fall 2015

September

- 8 Film Screening: "Mississippi: Is This America?"
ECTR 118, 25 St Philip Street, 3pm
- 24 Requiem for Rice panel discussion, featuring artist Jonathan Green,
historian Edda Fields-Black, and musician Lee Pringle
School of Sciences and Mathematics Auditorium, cnr of Coming
Street and Calhoun Street, 6:30pm

October

- 8 Wells Fargo Lecture –Stephen R. Berry "Close Encounters of the
Shipboard Kind." MYBK 100, 6pm
- 9 Faculty Seminar Series–Stephen R. Berry "Religion and the Atlantic
Ocean." Addlestone 136, 3pm

November

- 6/7 ASWAD conference–College of Charleston North Campus

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Hines Prize 2015 Awarded to Dr. Huw David



The Hines Prize 2015 for the best first book relating to any aspect of the Carolina Lowcountry and/or the Atlantic World has been awarded to Dr. Huw David of the Rothermere American Institute at the University of Oxford. The prize, endowed by former College of Charleston dean Dr. Sam Hines in honor of his mother, carries a cash award of \$1,000 and preferential consideration by the University of South Carolina Press for the CLAW Program's book series.

David's manuscript derives from his thesis at Oxford University, for which he used a collective biography of some two dozen "Carolina traders." His study offers new insights into the political economy of Carolina trade with Great Brit-

ain and its impact on Atlantic politics in the era of the American Revolution.

After the Revolution, according to David, Carolinians exercised greater commercial discretion than contemporaries and historians have appreciated. David's work thus challenges contentions of South Carolina's continuing commercial subservience to British trading interests.

Dr. David will give a guest lecture based on the Hines Prize-winning work in April 2016. Details of time, date, and venue are still to be arranged.

In the context of remarkably strong competition, with manuscripts on topics ranging from the Civil War to African and African American watermen,

the Hines Prize committee praised David's manuscript especially for its placing of the Lowcountry squarely at the center of Atlantic World geopolitics in the critical decades before, during, and immediately after American independence.

David works as a Development Officer at the Rothermere American Institute at Oxford University. He has previously published a number of articles in academic journals and he has held visiting fellowships at institutions including the University of South Carolina and the Huntington Library, Los Angeles.

For a list of previous winners of the Hines Prize, please visit the USC book series website at: <http://www.sc.edu/uscpres/claw.html>.