



Newsletter

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**FALL OHMAR CONFERENCE
Community Focussed Oral History
Gettysburg College
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
November 7, 1998**

Michael Birkner, Chairman of the History Department, and David Hedrick, Special Collections Librarian, have developed a unique program for November 7. In addition to securing the Perdues of the University of Virginia to provide the keynote address, and the inclusion of representatives of the Washington Press Foundation Club to accept the 1998 Pogue Award, ghost story and battlefield tours will be available to attendees.

Why not arrive in Gettysburg Friday night and take a "Ghosts of Gettysburg" tour guided by author Mark Nesbit? If the minimum number of 10 sign up for the tour either Friday or Saturday night, Nesbit will meet with the group after the tour and talk about how he collected the stories. Tours are \$7 per person and begin at 7:30 p.m. A battlefield tour led by licensed guide Gary Adelman will be held on Saturday, November 7, at 2:30 p.m. The cost of the tour will be \$12. Mr. Adelman will get you back to the college in time for the reception.

Program

8:45 Registration and Coffee: **College Union Building**

9:15 Welcome, Judith Knudsen, OHMAR President

9:30 Keynote: "King Lear in Virginia: Oral History and the VA Writers Project" by Nancy J. Martin-Perdue and Charles L. Perdue

11:00 "Moving Beyond the Ivory Tower: College Students and Community Based Oral History" Professor Michael J. Birkner, Gettysburg College, and Professor Kim Lacy Rogers, Dickinson College and students

12:30 Buffet Luncheon, Dining Room

1:00 OHMAR Business Meeting
Election of Officers for 1999
(slate included p. 7)

1:15 Pogue Award Speech
"Women in Journalism Oral History Project"

2:30 Beginning Oral History Workshop:
Joel Gardner, recent past OHMAR newsletter editor, independent oral historian

2:30 Gettysburg Battlefield Tour

4:30 Reception

TO REGISTER:

1. Reserve a room if you will be staying over one or two nights: Suggested motels within several blocks of Gettysburg College:

Gettysburg Hotel (Best Western)
717-337-2000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following is a letter of appreciation from Mrs. Forrest Pogue to past President John S. Schuchman, dated December 8, 1997.

Dear Professor Schuchman:

I am extremely grateful to you and to OHMAR for all the ways in which you have honored the memory of my late husband, Forrest Pogue. Forrest was proud of his connection with OHMAR, and would have been deeply moved, as I am, by the tribute you have paid him. I did so want to be present at the November 1 ceremonies but my age (83) and deafness prevent travel for me.

I remember Sara Collins well and pleasantly and am delighted she won the Pogue Award. Forrest was fond of her and would have been so pleased.

Stan Falk phoned me the minute he came home from the ceremonies, aglow with pride that he had the chance to be a part of the events and full of praise for your handling of the program.

I cannot tell you, Professor Schuchman, how much it means for me to see all the items you sent me. The beautiful Resolution will hang in the Pogue Library on the Murray state campus, and the videotapes (which brought on tears) will go into the Pogue collection there, along with copies of the program and newsletter.

Thank you, with all my heart, for the happiness you and OHMAR have given me.

Sincerely,

Christine Pogue

Upcoming Conference

“Work, Welfare and Poverty in the Small City,” the interdisciplinary 13th conference on the Small City and Regional Community, will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on **October 15-16, 1998**. For more information contact Bob Wolensky at 715-346-2708, or by e-mail (rwolensk@uwsp.edu).

Research Award

The Oral History Association invites applications for three awards to be presented in 1999 that will recognize outstanding work in the field. Awards will be given for a book that uses oral history to advance an important historical interpretation or addresses significant theoretical or methodological issues; for a completed nonprint media project that addresses a significant historical subject or theme and exemplifies excellence in oral history methodology; and to a precollegiate educator who has made outstanding use of oral history in the classroom. In all cases, awards will be given for work published or completed between April 1, 1997, and March 30, 1999.

Awards are honorific and will be announced at the Association's annual meeting, to be held October 6-8, 1999, in Anchorage, Alaska. For **guidelines and submission information** write the Oral History Association, Baylor University, P.O. Box 97234 at Waco, TX 76798-7234. **Deadline April 1, 1999.**

OHMAR Newsletter

The newsletter is published three times a year. Deadlines are January 31, July 31 and November 15. Send submissions to: Delaware Heritage Commission, 820 N. French Street, Wilmington DE 19801. 302-577-5044.

assassinated, I was at that time assigned to the city solicitor's office as a special investigator. And I remember very distinctly as if it were yesterday when we heard the news, Martin Luther King has been assassinated, there was a gloom on everybody's face. And some high police official, I can't even remember the person's name, said "Everybody go home and put on uniforms." Probably it was the chief of police. "Because we have hell to pay."

The chief was Paul Tidwell. I was dressed in civilian clothes as a special investigator. And I went home and changed into my uniform, came back and probably I got home something like eighteen hours later for a little bit of respite.

The first thing that was done to my knowledge was a diversion tactic, was to set some buildings on South Market street afire. So a bunch of policemen started out that way and then things began to happen all over the city. And my first assignment was to take a group of men and go rescue some people that had been chased out of a bank at 6th and Madison that was burning. And some other people in a small manufacture company were surrounded and couldn't get out. And most of these people, I think most of all, were caucasians. And we had to go rescue those people and let them out where they could go home.

.... There were a number of incidents that suggested that the community was angry about several things. And beyond that, retrospectively, I can see different areas of the city as signs of decay, signs of unrest, signs of uneasiness. I would be the first to admit that we as police officers at that time had not been trained to see these subtle but nevertheless obvious signs of despair, disgust, decay.

These men and others were present on April 4 to revisit their involvement in Wilmington in

April of 1968. The audience was filled with persons who have not had the opportunity to their own stories of that day with persons who had similar experiences in other cities at that time. It was as though this event had not been discussed at a public forum in all these 30 years. The mixed-race audience at Hagley expressed thankfulness at the opportunity to share their memories of that time. Perhaps with more frank discussions, it will be possible for us to move forward towards more open discussions of race relations.

Thankfully Wilmington is coming alive with a revitalized riverfront area, a very active business climate, the newly completed Kalmar Nyckel (a replica of the first Swedish ship to reach Delaware), and a greater awareness of what it constitutes to keep a city alive. There is little hope, however, that the persons who fled in the 1960s will ever be back.



(logo of the Kalmar Nyckel)

NEW OFFICERS PROPOSED FOR 1999

President: Elaine Eff, MD. Historical Trust

Vice President: Cindy Swanson

Treasurer: *(To be filled)*

At Large Board Member: Jessica Elfenbein,
University of Baltimore

New Nominating Committee Members:
Anne Ritchie, National Gallery of Art
John S. Schuchman, Gallaudet