Panel: “America As a Work in Progress”

Sara Jackson

Title: “A Dinner Party is Not a Revolution: The Founders, The Agendas, and the Compromise of 1790”

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jeffrey Malanson

Paper written for: History A303: United States from 1780 to 1840 (Spring 2014)

Sara Jackson will receive her A.A. in History, as well as a Certificate in International Studies, at the end of the current semester. She will continue her studies at IPFW with the support of the Withers Scholarship; Sara plans to pursue a B.A. in English with concentrations in Language and Writing and minors in French and Medieval Studies. Her continuing research interests include the implications of the use of space within the academic Writing Center, the anti-monarchical propaganda of both the French and Russian revolutions, the importance of the differing Federalist and republican ideologies within the early American republic, and the artistic and linguistic evidence of cultural synthesis found within the Bayeux Tapestry. This is Sara’s second year participating in this conference, and she has also presented on various topics at the IPFW Student Research & Creative Endeavor Poster Symposium, the Indiana University Undergraduate Research Conference, and the East Central Writing Centers Association Conference. Her paper, “’Gens Anglorum’ & ‘Normanitas’: The Bayeux Tapestry and the Effects of the Norman Conquest on Language and the Arts” was published in the fall of 2013 in Primary Source, the Indiana University Undergraduate Journal of History. A member of the Honors Program at IPFW, this summer will be Sara's third spent in Europe, working at the Cannes Film Festival and exploring Paris as far as her meager budget will allow.

Abstract

It has long been acknowledged that the so-called Dinner Table Bargain, or Compromise of 1790, is, perhaps, the greatest successful negotiation in American political history. While the majority of scholars agree on the basics of the encounter – which is based upon the admittedly biased and after-the-fact account of Thomas Jefferson – there are aspects to the event that remain unexplored, primarily due to a lack of alternative primary sources. This paper considers the major players within the scope of the bargain, including Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison, as well as those intimately concerned with the debates surrounding both the residency and assumption issues; specifically, the research focuses on the individual goals of each participant and how the eventual bargain realized those objectives.

Looking at the personal papers of the founders, scholarship on the establishment of the District of Columbia, records surrounding the question of the assumption of state debts as part of Hamilton’s financial plans, and biographical accounts of each of these forefathers has afforded the opportunity to better understand the motivations of each of the statesmen. Yet, another important factor is how each undertook to accomplish their aims; this proves especially relevant when discussing the facts of the compromise and making inferences about the aspects of the event that remain unknown. I argue that the historically accepted narrative of the bargain has been significantly oversimplified in terms of the involvement of third parties, and that a true appreciation of the magnitude of the compromise requires a closer examination via the lenses of
partisan and national sentiment.

Bibliographical Note

In beginning this paper, historiographies that focused on the early American republic were instrumental in identifying several additional relevant secondary sources in addition to a limited number of primary sources. The holdings within the Indiana University library system yielded much of what was required in the way of the personal papers of those involved in the Compromise of 1790, especially those composed and exchanged within the months preceding and following the evening in question, in June of that year. Further, the examination of sketches and full biographies of the statesmen involved in the compromise allowed for the inclusion of information that has proven instrumental in clearly understanding the aims of each man with respect to these larger policy issues. Articles and books that review the compromise are relatively plentiful, but several key sources also focus on either the residency debate or the question of assumption; these were especially helpful in establishing a clearer context of supporters and opponents to each piece of legislation, as well as providing a narrower - and thereby more in-depth - emphasis. A great debt is owed especially to the William & Mary Quarterly, within whose volumes were found several articles which specifically address the dinner table bargain in detail, and to Joseph J. Ellis’ Founding Brothers, which features the account of the compromise that initially piqued interest in this research.
Madison Prall

Title: Discovering the Relationship between Sex and Progressivism in the Quest for Women’s Sexual and Emotional Agency
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Christine Erickson
Paper written for: History H217: Writing of History (Fall 2013)

Madison Prall, currently a senior at IPFW completing a double major in history as well as English and Linguistics with a concentration in literature, has studied many facets of history in her college career. She began her exploration in historical inquiry for two summers as a historic interpreter at the Kirtland Temple, a national historic monument, where she completed a self-guided research project on women’s fashion in the 1830s-1840s. Her accomplishments include the 2005 Theresa Carpenter writing scholarship at Graceland University and her presentation of a project on romance novels as models of acceptable romantic relationships at the 2014 Poster Symposium at IPFW. Ms. Prall studied abroad in London where she researched medieval history and modern British literature. She plans to return to IPFW this summer to study Latin.

Abstract

Despite the political rhetoric of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and the gains in women’s reproductive rights made by the birth control movement and its advocates, limits still remained in place concerning women’s control over their own bodies during the Progressive Era. In researching this topic, it appears that although other scholars have studied and published on these topics separately, the limits on Progressive Era social progress have remained largely undefined. This paper recognizes the Birth Control movement as an important gain towards achieving women’s autonomy over their own bodies, while exploring the limitations these gains had on women’s personal reproduction practices. Some of these limitations, as explored in this paper, include political dogma and propaganda, the advice and demands of family and friends, religion, constraints of social class, popular literature, and medical opinions and advice, all of which influenced women’s personal choices regarding their sexual health habits. Ultimately, women during the Progressive Era, despite an unprecedented level of freedom in public domains, continued to be constrained, in terms of control over their own bodies, by the above influences. To understand this point of view, this paper delineates the political-historical context of the women’s movement from the 1870s to the 1920s, then profiles women’s reproduction rights during this time period, followed by a discussion about ideology behind the birth control movement, advocates for women’s sexual health care, and early sexual health clinics. Although this research focuses on events which took place a century ago, women’s reproduction rights are still a contemporary topic because ideas about personal agency over one’s body and individual choices about controlling sex are still under debate. It was in the Progressive Era, however, that a woman’s right to control her own body as a civil liberty rightfully due to her was defined. Despite this, women were still constrained by the demands of their husbands, the advice of their mothers, the literature and products available to them, their religion, and the disparate points of view of medical professionals. A woman’s body, then, was and continues to be a pluralist symbol, belonging only partially to her and also to her environment. Thus, the rhetoric of the Progressive Era called for women to have agency over themselves, but one which only partially extended to women’s own bodies.
Bibliographic Note

This study made use of a variety of research materials, including early twentieth century periodicals such as the American magazines *Outlook* (1893-1924), *Current Opinion* (1913-1925), and *The North American Review* (1821-1940) which featured articles about contemporary social issues and more specific publications like *Forum Medical Series* (1886-1930) and birth control advocate Margaret Sanger’s *Birth Control Review*. In addition, available issues of the successful magazine *Women’s Home Companion* published from 1900 to the 1930s were studied.

This research also investigated several books and articles written and published during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century about contemporary social and sexual issues, by such authors as Ellis Havelock, British Physician, writer and social reformer who studied human sexuality; Julia Ward Howe, prominent American feminist, abolitionist, women’s suffragist, poet, and social activist; and Margaret Sanger (journal articles as well as books)—American birth control activist and sex educator. Speeches, pamphlets, and other materials published by the National Woman Suffrage Association were also studied.

Finally, biographical works about feminists and sexual health advocates Margaret Sanger and Emma Goldman were incorporated, as well as more general publications on feminism and sexuality in America by such scholars as Nancy Cott, John D’Emilio, and Estelle B. Freedman. Lastly, recent scholarship on the history of reproduction, reproduction rights, and sexuality was also drawn upon in this research.
Alexander Allison

Title: The NAACP and the Dyer Bill: A Campaign to End Lynchings
Faculty Advisor: Dr. David Schuster
Paper written for: History J495: Senior Seminar “America Post Civil War” (Spring 2014)

Alexander Allison enrolled at IPFW in the fall of 2009. Initially interested in comparative literature, Alex quickly realized that his academic interests were better suited for the fields of history and Spanish. Since then, Alex has enjoyed studying a diverse group of historical topics and has made significant strides towards becoming fluent in Spanish. In 2010, Alex studied abroad in Salamanca, Spain. More recently, he spent a semester in Valparaíso, Chile where he studied at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso. In his free time he enjoys reading, and is particularly fond of authors Gabriel García Márquez and Chinua Achebe. Together with Dr. Richard Weiner, Alex is co-authoring an article on Immanuel Wallenstein and his Worlds-System theory for publication in OUP’s forthcoming Encyclopedia of World Poverty. In January of 2015, Alex will move to Barcelona, Spain where he intends to both improve his Spanish and celebrate his youth.

Abstract

Few aspects of American history are as difficult to confront as the phenomenon of lynchings that occurred throughout the United States from the 1880s to the middle of the twentieth century. Generally referred to as “America’s shame,” the practice of lynching and the culture associated with it has often been described as the last skeleton in America’s closet, and not surprisingly it has captured the interest of multiple generations of scholars. Countless works on the subject have been published, and while almost every aspect of America lynchings has been thoroughly explored by scholars interested in the subject one particular feature has received astonishingly little attention: the role that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons (NAACP) played in bringing the brutal practice to an end. Specifically, few scholars have explored in detail the effort that the NAACP put forth in order to secure the passage of the Dyer Bill, a piece of federal legislation that was designed to enable the federal government to effectively combat the practice of lynching. This is not only surprising considering that the campaign the NAACP waged in support of the Dyer Bill was the first national movement organized to confront the horrors of lynching, but also because the energy that the NAACP exerted in order to obtain congressional approval of the bill far exceeded the efforts put forth by Leonidas C. Dyer, the bill’s author and sponsor, and his fellow republican congressman. Furthermore, the NAACP’s campaign in support of the Dyer Bill would later serve as a model for all other NAACP anti-lynching movements, most notably the NAACP campaign in support of the Costigan-Wagner Bill.

The goal of my research is to study the tactics that the NAACP devised in order to promote support for the Dyer Bill amongst both Congress and the American public. Using the NAACP’s administrative records, annual reports, and other materials published by the organization, I intend to demonstrate that the NAACP believed that the best way to secure the passage of federal anti-lynching legislation was by collecting and organizing reliable information on lynchings in order to demonstrate the barbaric nature of the practice, as well as to dispel the myth that lynchings were a tool used to punish and prevent sexual interaction between black men and white women. Specifically, I will focus on the NAACP’s investigations into lynchings
and the publication of the groundbreaking work Thirty Years of Lynching in the United States in addition to other anti-lynching literature, the legal support the organization enlisted in order to demonstrate the constitutionality of the bill, James Weldon Johnson’s lobbying campaign, the NAACP’s attempts to organize political pressure on republican congressman who abandoned the bill, and finally the massive fundraising campaign the NAACP undertook in order to fund their anti-lynching efforts. Despite that the Dyer Bill was ultimately killed in the Senate by a Democratic filibuster, I believe that by thoroughly examining the campaign the NAACP organized on behalf of the Dyer Bill it will become evident that the NAACP was in large part responsible for opening the nation’s eyes to the horrors of lynching.

**Bibliographical Note**

The overwhelming majority of Alex’s research is based off of the NAACP’s annual reports and administrative files. Further evidence was drawn from congressional records and articles published by the *New York Times*. The secondary sources which were consulted relate to both the history of the NAACP and the practice and culture of lynching in the United States.
Lisa Bebout

Title: The Mythology of Ronald Reagan  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. David Schuster  
Paper written for: History J495: Senior Seminar “America Post Civil War” (Spring 2014)

Lisa Bebout is a double major in History and English, graduating in May 2014. She received acceptance to Phi Eta Sigma, a National Honor Society, for her performance as a first year college student. IPFW’s literary journal Confluence published a non-fiction prose story she submitted in its Spring 2014 edition.

Abstract

This paper includes an analysis of the policies of Ronald Reagan and how these policies were implemented or ignored. Ronald Reagan has gained an almost mythological status among conservative Republicans. This paper seeks to discover the factors that have contributed to this status, while also examining elements of Reagan’s presidency that conflict with this status and appear to have been left out of the popular narrative.

Bibliographical Note

In researching President Reagan's enduring popularity, several books provided the context in which Reagan's popularity emerged. Other sources provided an in-depth analysis of Reagan's economic policies, rhetoric, and cultural considerations that fostered Reagan's popularity. Primary sources, most importantly The Presidential Papers of Ronald Reagan, were crucial to an analysis of Reagan's policies and popularity.