NOTE 3/11/20 – Conference Canceled due to Coronavirus Concerns

PRELIMINARY OUTLINE (2/5/20)

Disclaimers
- Topic very personal – June 2019 – deaths of RBD & RCW – initial thought for this presentation – Tribute to two key influences – on my professional / personal lives
  o PPT slide #1 – bulletins of memorial services for RCW & RBD and photos from senior years of each
- Decision to place their stories in broader contexts
  o Institutional – Berea / WWC
  o Chronological – c. 1950s – 1990s
    ▪ With particular emphasis on the tumultuous middle years of this era
  o Regional – Appalachia & “Appalachian Awakening”
- ? of subjectivity – YES ... BUT: acknowledgment thereof ... leave to audience to judge

I. KICKER – MTB participation in April 24-26, 1970 annual meeting of Council of Southern Mountains
- PPT Slide #2 – with photos of Cover of April 1970 & June 1970 editions of ML&W
- PPT Slide #3, Loyal Jones, Shelviegh Thompson, WWC contingent (need to relocate from Apps All photos) ... photos from May & June 1970 editions of ML&W
- MTB commentary
  o Spring 1970 one of several WWC students selected for ¼ hour course – Appalachian Studies
  o Instructor: (Rupert Dunton – questionable credentials)
  o Personal recollections of course – dim – no evidence that instructor had special expertise in field .... book discussions – my contribution: Christy
  o Participation in CSM conference – Lake Junaluska – April 1970
    ▪ What actually happened – brief...BUT... enough detail to make a point
  o Aftermath ... return to WWC ... “normal” routine – emphasize relationship with RCW .... graduated May 1973
    ▪ Occasional conversation with fellow participants in course - ????
    ▪ BUT none that I recall with Ron or other WWC faculty
    ▪ 1973 – 87 – brief – NM – informal /formal educations – PhD
      • MTB as historian of WWC - ?? re. course, conference, etc
    ▪ Coming Home – 1987 – career at WSOK
      • 2nd WWC History – ditto above
    ▪ Death of RCW .. tribute ... this project
      • MTB research in college archives / interview – re. Course, WWC’s intent, its follow-up
Minimal “paper trail”
Largely a mystery ... sufficiently unimportant to be forgotten

BUT ! ....I could / did not!—hence this presentation!

II.  Summer 1988 – as teacher at WSOK – enrolled in 3 week summer course in Appalachian
History at Berea College
  - PPT Slide #4  – photo of MTB with L Jones (need to find - ? in Webb App course notes?
... photo of D Drake ... Wilma D ... participant
  - Initial encounter with L Jones – “connected” with mysterious ... largely forgotten events
from L Junaluska – April 1970
  - Brief conversation ... Loyal... referred me to DDrake – began to piece together what
transpired at that event ... gradually realized that it was “momentuous” -- key event in
difficult birthing of App. Studies

III. Dick Drake ... Berea College and the Appalachian Conversation
  - Berea & Its relationship with Appalachia – BRIEF
    o Rethink this: PPT #5 – collage of photos selected from S. Wilson history: Fee p.8 ;
      integrated student group 1887 p 37; Frost p, 74
    o Fee & his legacy – “all mankind is one”
    o Frost and His complicated Legacy -- Day Law ... practical $ need ... discovery of
      “contemporary ancestors” – Shannon Wilson’s summary p. 101
    o William Hutchins & evolution toward 4 yr college – S Wilson history p. 125 --
      quote with photo – reflecting recognition of “complexities of mtn life”
      ▪ Note interesting parallels with WWC in 1950s
      ▪ Ditto ? of reintegration in Francis Hutchins era – 1940s/50s – admission
        of 1st black student in 1950 – increased after 1954 Brown decision
    o Berea, J C Campbell, & Council of Southern Mtn Workers
      ▪ Draw from S Wilson History ... and scholarship of D. Drake
        • Increased Berea role – PPT Slide: Perley Ayres, youthful Loyal
          Jones – other photos? (Wilson history?)
        • Administrations of Willis Weatherford (1967-84) – emphasis on
          Appalachia 1984-1994
    o Arrival of Dick Drake 1955 – Berea centennial
      ▪ PPT #6 – Dick Drake collage – select from photos shared by John Drake –
        cover of text Mountaineers & Americans ....photo from S. Wilson history
        of Berea (and Dick Marching in Montgomery - 1965
      ▪ Bkgrd – brief – emphasize social gospel inheritance .... Scholarly interest
        in altruism .... M.A. from U of Chicago
      ▪ Brief stint a Piedmont College – dismissal
      ▪ Ph.D. Emory .... dissertation – examined AMA work among Freedmen
      ▪ 1955 – took position at Berea – itself a product of work of AMA
• Other concerns – e.g. civil rights ... concern & support for civil rights – photo in S. Wilson history

  o Drake & App Studies at Berea
    ▪ Draw from “As I Recall My Role in Berea’s Appalachian Commitment” (shared by John Drake with MTB– undated but clearly post-retirement)
    ▪ Supplement with other pieces in Drake File
  • 1955 – Retirement
    • cooperation with Perley Ayres, L. Jones, etc
    • involvement with CSM
      ▪ contributions to emerging field
    • support for activism in region
    • Survey Course – evolving text
    • Era & influence of WilliS Weatherford – increased attention to Appalachia
  • Summer Workshops
    ▪ 1988 Ties with MTB
    ▪ support for MTB “Regional as Universal” scholarship ... bore imprint of JWM

• Retirement – 2019
  • “always the scholar”
  • writings ... making sense of history he experienced
  • 2001 A History of Appalachia
  • A generous senior scholar
    ▪ Involvement in annual conferences
  • Support for / friendship with MTB
    ▪ Response to Appalachians All ... letter in response

• Drake’s influence – preceded by MTB /UNM – influence of FMS .... That preceded by influence of WWC / Ron W
• TRANSITION TO WWC & RON WILSON

• IV. Asheville Farm School & Its Legacies for WWC (.... And MTB)
  • Brief Historical Overview
    ▪ PPT #7 – AFS Collage
    ▪ 1894 – 1920s – origins / “mission”
      ▪ Good years
      ▪ Bad Years
      ▪ Status 1925
    ▪ 1925 – visit of HSR ... message to Board of Home Missions
- PPT #8 – AFS 1925-50 Collage – HSR (several photos) …. Work, etc. … Art Bannerman / Henry J …photo from ML&W – C of SMW (HSR & AMB) … girls „, „ sign for WWC Jr. College & Associated Schools
  - HSR’s imprint & legacy
  - 1950s crises – CHANGE – in App region … education … PCUSA / B of NM
    - PPT #9 – photos of HWJ/AMB …. International students – c. 1950 – 70
      - ?s re. costs – for WWJC – no endowment – contrast with Berea
      - ?s re. mission – segregation ??
        - WWC integration – Alma Shippey
        - Benefits to schools traditional Mtn students from exposure to “others”
      - BUT AMB / HWJ – very much aware that survival would require greater adjustment – Two-Fold vision gradually evolved / emerged
        - 4 Year Liberal Arts College – with distinctive legacy from AFS/HSR
          - Academics … work … service
        - Bringing the World to WWC
          - HWJ – practical / devious response – explain – KEY: Presbyterian mission $
          - MTB testimony … equally important ….talented faculty … including ….

V. Ronald C. Wilson – 1961-93 – response to an evolving / distinctive college
  - PPT #10 - RCW collage – photos as youth … U of C baseball player …. With Pat …. With Robin & Kell ….elderly or photo with McD crowd (?) With MTB & Sam D -- MTB note: contact Pat & Kell re. this
    - Background – family (father Eastern KY – outmigrant to Cincinnati – Obermiller premise)
      - Education – U of C … seminary … Georgetown (Par!)
      - Teaching stint
      - MA at U of SD
      - ? of PhD – (? Loyalty oath? – apocryphal?)
      - WWJr College – 1961
    - At WWC 1961 – 1993
      - Response to Jensen/Bannerman 4 Year Plan – doubts / personal threat
        - ? of PhD – Ron’s resistance … alternative plans
          - response from B&J – summer courses
          - stayed at WWC – MTB 1969 beneficiary
      - Response to International students – very positive – RCW as humanist / globalist
        - ??? – concern re. WW’s traditional App commitment ??
          - little evidence of concern – MORE LATER
Most evident in World History course – first MTB encounter with Ron
- Broader changes in history profession - ? of World History / Western Civ
- Ron’s response – McNeil text
  - MTB assessment – confusing at first ... BUT in hindsight very positive – particularly appropriate
- Ron’s other course / interests – MTB took most of them!
  - Broad eclectic – ancient History ... History of England .... Cold War
  - Most notable – Western Political Thought – repeated ? re. truth – with small t or capital T
  - Great Books
- Response to WWC evolution – from mission school led by Eisenhower Republicans to very liberal Liberal Arts college
  - MTB / RCW conversations
  - 2011 History Seminar interview

Most RELEVANT to this presentation – Ron’s response to arrival of Appalachian Studies
- PPT #11 – WWC/App Studies Collage – photos of David Holt, Sam Scoville, et al, Joan Moser, Swannanoa Gathering ... Jeff Keith
- Ron’s Response – NOT involved ... BUT Not opposed
  - ??? – MTB many conversations .. BUT none about this! – reading between the lines – 2 Premises
    - possible legacy from father – not romanticize poverty – Ron as realist
    - Ron’s Big Picture / Humanist / Globalist visions – truth with small t or capital T
      - Kell’s comment “(Dad) was NOT a tribalist”

- Retirement – 1993 Dr’s diagnosis
  - 1993 – 2019 – draw from interviews with Pat, Kell, McD’s group
    - broad / eclectic interests – math / calculus
    - religion – read Bible in its entirety ... conversations with McD’s group

- WWC & Appalachia today
  - Jeff Keith --- Ron’s globalist approach
  - Reforms of Lynn Morton

VI. WRAP-UP
- Two men’s legacies on MTB – final paragraph from Appalachians All ...
- Insights into “Misleading Dichotomies” that have marked field of App Studies ... in all cases dichotomies are harmful / enfeebling – legacies of RBW & RCW – suggest many appropriate notches in between
Faith-inspired reformers/liberals vs. secular liberals
Academics vs. Activists
Nostalgia crowd vs. Realists
“Provincial Appalachianists” vs. Global Appalachianist