

CoLA Faculty Research Proposal

Noeleen McIlvenna

Project Narrative.

My second book, tentatively entitled *Free Georgia!*, is an examination of the Trustee period in Georgia, 1730-1750. A Wright State Professional Development Grant allowed me to start my investigation five years ago with archival trips to the UK and Georgia. I had to set aside this research at times to focus on completion of my first book, *A Very Mutinous People: The Struggle for North Carolina, 1660-1713* (UNC Press, 2009), but have spent the last two years immersed in eighteenth-century Georgia. Now I need to return to the archives for a more focused search of the documents.

Traditionally, the historical narrative explains that Georgia's founders, English philanthropists known as the Trustees, banned slavery and that the white settlers, led by a group of "Malcontents," protested, claiming successfully that a prosperous economy in the region necessitated slavery. I argue, however, that the Malcontents constituted a decided minority of white settlers in Georgia and furthermore that their insistence on slavery grew at least in part from their futile attempts to control the poorer but non-deferential whites in the colony.

Southern history is most often viewed through the lens of race. But when we consider pre-slavery Georgia, it will be instructive to think about class structures as English people of the time understood them. The debtors and other worthy poor selected as recipients of the Trustees' largesse were supposed to know their place and be grateful for the opportunity to work hard in the southern heat. Unfortunately for those who planned to occupy the role of the Georgia gentry, the expansionist-minded South Carolina grandees and some immigrants with planter aspirations, church services on Savannah Sundays were led in turn by two of the most dangerous men in the

eighteenth-century British Empire, John Wesley and George Whitefield. These pastors brought what historians have termed the 'death of deference' to Georgia. Before the rest of the mainland colonies got swept up in the Great Awakening, often considered the first stage of the American Revolution because of its promulgation of the quintessentially American notion of social equality, Georgians felt the impact of their radical theology.

The first three chapters, covering the years 1720-1740 are complete. The next three chapters will examine the 1740s. The Malcontents grew more furious as time passed and their efforts to be allowed slaves were frustrated. Unable to delude the workers of Georgia into supporting their cause, they hired a representative to campaign in the mother country. Meanwhile, the settlers often spent more time hunting their food than growing or earning it by the sweat of their brow. As English gentlemen would see it, this constituted living above their station. Throughout the 1740s, the planters' lobbyist in London would use this flagrant disregard for the rules of class hierarchy to persuade the Trustees to abandon the Georgia experiment and allow them to introduce a more controllable slave labor force.

I have some primary material to allow me to work on the fourth chapter during the coming months. But I must visit the archives to collect data essential to complete the manuscript. I particularly need to revisit the Trustee records in Britain's National Archives, and I would also examine the large collection of Colonial Records in the CO 5 series of records. Friends in the region have offered free accommodations, making the trip possible.

The other archive is in Charleston, South Carolina, site of the expansionistic planters who played a crucial role in, and would benefit most from, the Malcontents' attempts to introduce slavery. I also need to gather information on South Carolina's Purrysburg settlement, as a comparative. There slavery was completely legal, but settlers struggled even more than the first

Georgians. The planter elite kept the colony's wealth confined to themselves. I plan to research in the South Carolina Historical Society's collections in Charleston in December 2011, during the break between Fall and Winter quarters and then travel overseas as soon as the school year finishes in June 2012. The research will be finished by your deadline of June 30.

I hope to secure a sabbatical during my eighth year here at Wright State, the school year beginning Fall 2012. Having collected the data, I will be prepared to concentrate on writing alone, so that I might have a complete draft by May 2013. Should I not receive a sabbatical, my membership in the Center for Teaching and Learning's Faculty Writing Group and Boot Camps over the last three years reflects my devotion and discipline to the task. The full manuscript would take longer, but there is no possibility it will not be completed.

My editor at University of North Carolina Press, Chuck Grench, has expressed interest in publishing *Free Georgia!* The significance of my work lies beyond Georgia, for it nuances the monolithic southern historical trajectory of white over black. The book also provides a broader context for the development of revolutionary ideology in the American colonies. Traditionally, the Revolution's Patriots in the South have been identified as the planter class, but my work would trace how notions of equality in Georgia came from below, just as Woody Holton's important book *Forced Founders* showed that Virginia's gentlemen planters did not concede the equality of others without pressure. A review of *Mutinous People* in our profession's leading journal, the *Journal of American History*, "highly recommended" it and praised my ability to "teas[e] information out of diverse and scattered sources and to "integrate [a] little known society into a wider Atlantic World." These skills will be employed again and now joined with the wisdom gleaned from the writing of the first book to produce what I hope will become the standard foundation narrative of Georgia.

CoLA Research Fund Application

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Budget:

Travel to Charleston SC, December 2011:

Flight: Delta Airlines, Dayton to Charleston SC return	\$300
Hotel: 6 nights @150 each:	\$900
Per Diem: 7 days @ \$45:	\$315
Miscellaneous (bus travel, printing etc.):	\$100
<u>Total for Charleston trip: \$1615</u>	

Travel to London UK, June 13-25, 2012:

Flight: Delta Airlines, Dayton to London return:	\$1350
Per Diem: 13 days @ \$116:	\$1508
Miscellaneous (bus travel from airport, daily to archives):	\$200
<u>Total for UK trip: \$3058</u>	

Budget total: \$4673

Proposal Approval

Department Chair

Carol M. Heringer

Noeleen McIlvenna

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EDUCATION

2004 Ph.D. Duke University, Dissertation: *'Olivers Days Come Again': North Carolina, 1660-1713*. Advisor: Peter H. Wood.

1996 M.A. in American history, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

1986 B.A. (Honors) History with Education, University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2010- Associate Professor, Department of History, Wright State University, Dayton, OH.

2010- Director, Social Science Education Program, College of Liberal Arts, WSU

2010-11 Co-PI, "The Wright Intervention" Grant, Middle Childhood Intervention Specialist Program, \$100,000

2005—10 Assistant Professor, Departments of History and Teacher Education, Wright State University, Dayton, OH

2004-2005 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Guilford College, Greensboro NC

2004-2005 Lecturer, Department of History, Duke University

SCHOLARSHIP

Publications:

2011 In press, "Carolinas: Shaping of a Slave Society", chapter in colonial textbook *Converging Worlds*, ed. Louise Breen, Routledge Press.

2009 *A Very Mutinous People: The Struggle for North Carolina, 1660-1713*. University of North Carolina Press.

2007 "Escape Through the Great Dismal Swamp": Article for *Tar Heel Junior Historian*.

Book Reviews:

2006 Review, "This Remote Part of the World." *Kentucky Historical Society Register*.

2003 Review, "Land Reform and Working-Class Experience in Britain and the United States, 1800-1862." *Law and History Review*

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2009 Excellence in Teaching Writing Award, WAC Program, Wright State University.

2007-08 Outstanding Faculty Member, Phi Alpha Theta, Wright State University.

2006-07 Professional Development Grant, for "Free Georgia!" Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Wright State University.

2002 Duke University Graduate School Research Travel Grant.

2002 Duke University Graduate School Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship.

1999 Center for International Studies Graduate Travel Award.

1999 Chester P. Middlesworth Prize, Perkins Library, Duke University.

1999-2003 Graduate Fellowship, Department of History, Duke University.

1998-99 FLAS Fellowship, Duke University.

1996 Phi Kappa Phi.

1995-96 Graduate Assistantship, Department of History, University of Tennessee.

1985 Northern Ireland Business and Professional Women's Travel Scholarship.

1984 Thompson Memorial History Prize, University of Ulster, Coleraine.

CONFERENCE PAPERS:

"Faculty Writing Camps on \$1 a Day." WAC Conference, Bloomington IN, May 2010

"A Very Mutinous People" Book Panel, Ohio Academy of History Annual meeting, Columbus OH, February 2010.

"Escaping the Empire: North Carolina and Culpeper's Rebellion." Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture Annual Conference, Salt Lake City UT, June 2009.

"Searching for Culture in the Carolina Backwoods." Popular Culture and American Culture Associations Conference, Albuquerque NM, February 2008.

"Democracy and Education: Liberal Arts and Education Collaborative." National Network for Educational Renewal Conference, Charleston WV, October 2007.

"Crossing Racial Boundaries in North Carolina." Atlantic History Workshop, New York University, NY, February 2007.

"North Carolina Quakers and the Tuscarora War." Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists, Greensboro NC, June 2006.

"The End of the Quaker-Leveller Republic of North Carolina." Northeastern Conference on British Studies, Montreal, Quebec, October 2004.

"An Alliance For Freedom: Cary's Rebellion and the Tuscarora War." Creating Identity and Empire in the Atlantic World, 1492-1888 Conference, Greensboro NC, September 2004.

"Resisting Seth Sothell and the Chowan Clique". Triangle Early American History Society, National Humanities Center, NC, 2003.

"Culpeper's Rebellion." McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, 2003.

SERVICE

University Service:

Faculty Senate, elected, 2009-2011.
Senate presidential Review Board, 2010.
Search Committee, Dean, College of Education, 2009-10.
Search Committee, STEM School Social Studies Teacher, 2008.
Guest lecturer, LA 101, Oct. 14, 2010.
Guest lecturer, ED 270, MCIS Seminar, October 7, 2010.
Presenter at CTL Workshop: WAC II: Training Scholarly Writers, Jan. 27, 2010.
Constitution Day Speaker, Sept. 17, 2009
Presenter at CTL workshop, "Faculty Writing Groups," May 21, 2009

College of Liberal Arts Service:

CoLA representative on Wright Intervention Grant Advisory Council, 2008-10
Participant, WSU Strategic Planning Sessions, May 12 and 19, 2008.
"First Weekend" Presentation, Sept. 6, 2008.

Department of History Service:

P & T Secretariat, Assessment Committee (2010-11); Ad hoc Transition to Semesters Committee and HST 301 sub-committee; Undergraduate Curriculum

Committee (2009-10); Student Relations Committee(2008-09); Evaluation Committee; African Position Search Committee (2007-08); Undergraduate Curriculum Committee; Ad hoc Committee on Bylaws (2006-07).

Host, History Club Movie Night, February 12, 2010.
"Wright From the Start," Sat. Feb. 24, 2007.

Department of Teacher Education Service:

Site Liaison, West Carrollton High School, 2008-10.
Student Intern Supervisor, 2009-11.

Professional Service:

Ohio Academy of History, Standards Committee, 2010-11.

Guest Speaker, Dayton Regional STEM School, "Good Friday Agreement," Jan. 24, 2011.

Guest Lecturer, American University, Washington DC, April 2, 2010.

Greene County Schools *Teaching American History* Grant Lecturer,
"American Revolution," Fall 2008.
"Colonial America," Fall 2009.
"The US Constitution," Fall 2010.

Greene County Schools *Teaching American History* Summer Institute Consultant,
"American Indian History," Summer 2010.

Manuscript referee, "Clearing Swamps, Harvesting Forests: Trees and the Making of a Plantation Landscape in the Carolina Lowcountry, 1670-1785"
Agricultural History, 2006.

Community Service:

Organized "College for a Day," May 27 and 29, 2008. I brought two fifth-grade classes from Title 1 Spring Hill elementary school to campus, each for a day. I raised funds from the office of the VP for Curriculum and Instruction and the Dean of CEHS, arranged for support from Pre-College programs, coordinated with the school teachers and stayed with the children all day.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Organization of American Historians.
Member, Southern History Association.
Member, Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture.