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2021 Dearfield Conference

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2021 Dearfield Conference Program
9:15 AM-12:15 PM
Saturday, May 22nd 2021

Originating Virtual Conference Location: Greeley, Colorado,

Introduction to the Conference Format: This year's conference, the seventh since 2012, features only *on-line Zoom* participation and presentations with moderators and Zoom broadcast operators working from Greeley, Colorado. This year's Dearfield Conference is sponsored by the Dearfield Preservation Committee and the University of Northern Colorado. Presentations described in the following program includes individual topical sessions and on-line Zoom moderator introductions and concludes with a Zoom panel and Q&A session. Comments and questions by attendees are requested to be submitted through the Zoom chat function and will be read to participants by a conference moderator. Conference session panelists will answer and respond to questions and comments live on Zoom throughout the concluding session. Other session presentation listed in the program will be either be pre-recorded video-audio or Zoom live narrated PowerPoints. Non-PowerPoint presentation sessions will be delivered live on Zoom broadcast.

Two days prior to the conference, on May 20th (Thursday), the conference's Zoom link is being sent to members of a "registered" email address list assembled from previous Dearfield Project participants and addresses submitted to the conference organizers over the past month following on-line announcements of the conference on several historic preservation venues.

On the morning of May 22nd, the conference Zoom link will open up to attendees and presenters *at 9 AM*. The conference will *start promptly at 9:15 AM*, and, following the schedule provided below, will continue until 12:10 PM when the conference will be signed off Zoom.

Bob Brunswig, George Junne, Jay Trask, and Bill Garcia, 2021 Dearfield Conference co-chairs.

Dearfield Conference Program

9:15-9:20 AM (5 minutes) Welcome and Introduction to the Conference

Welcome: Dr. Bob Brunswig (Dearfield Committee member and UNC Emeritus Professor).

1: 9:20-9:35 AM (15 minutes) Recent Developments at the Black American West Museum & Heritage Center and its Stewardship of the Dearfield Historic Townsite.

Presenters: Daphne Rice-Allen (Black American West Museum Board Chair) and Dr. Denise Leadon (Black American West Museum Board Co-Chair)

Presentation Description: Short summary by the Black American West Museum board of the history of its involvement and growing ownership of the Dearfield townsite and, specifically, the core of its National Register Historic Preservation District (est. 1995). There will be a brief outline of museum plans and aspirations for Dearfield preservation, including its central role in

the recent Dearfield Preservation Partnership's evolving, long-term strategic plan. A brief summary of 2021 museum founding anniversary events and on-going collaborative ventures for displays at the Denver Art Museum and the Denver Railroad Museum will also be presented.

2: 9:35-9:45 AM (10 minutes) The Role and Recent Activities of the Dearfield Committee in the Townsite's On-going Preservation

Presenters: Dearfield Committee members, Bill Garcia and Dr. George Junne (Dearfield Committee members)

Presentation Description: Dearfield Committee members will present a brief statement on its "historic" role in preserving Dearfield through promotion and administration of its on-going and evolving Strategic Plan to coordinate and implement its long-term preservation, research, and public outreach programs.

3: 9:45-9:55 AM (10 minutes) A Remembrance of Peggy Ford-Waldo, Dearfield Committee Member and Greeley-Weld County Historian Extraordinaire

Presenters: Dearfield Committee Members.

Presentation Description: With the passing of long-time Dearfield Committee member Peggy Ford-Waldo in late April, we lost both a close friend and an unparalleled authority on Dearfield, the city of Greeley, and Weld County history. She will be deeply missed. Dearfield Committee members describe their memories of Peggy and her involvement and personal and professional contributions to Dearfield projects and events through the years.

4: 9:55-10:10 AM (15 minutes) Origins of, and Update on, the Dearfield Preservation Strategic Plan

Presenter: Dr. Bob Brunswig (Dearfield Committee and the University of Northern Colorado)

Presentation Description: The Dearfield Strategic Preservation Plan is an organic (evolving and periodically refined) action plan with two parallel tracks known as the Dearfield Dream Project: 1) sustained efforts to preserve and eventually restore the site's historic and physical (including archaeological) remains (including buildings) of Historic Dearfield, and 2) conduct long-term historic and archaeological research on the town-site, its sister-community of Chapelton, and its associated farm-colony farms and ranches. The plan originated with a public discussion forum at the 2018 Dearfield Conference (held at UNC) and had been formatted into a formal written document with planned individual action phases by fall 2018. As an "organic" process, the strategic plan regularly undergoes real-time modifications as dictated by circumstances (changes in available resources and circumstances). The plan's phase 2 (Dearfield building stabilization and anti-vandalism modifications), funded by a Colorado State Historical Fund (SHF) grant, will be completed by mid-summer 2021. In June 2020, the Black American Museum acquired 57 additional National Register of Historic Places District interior town lots to protect them from housing development and facilitate continued archaeological and historical research. 2020 archaeological studies, also funded by the SHF, involved university students and community

volunteers, and will take place in June 2021. Finally, a half million dollar National Park Service grant application was submitted for phase historic building stabilization and restoration in January 2021 and word on its funding is expected in late May or early June 2021.

5: 10:10-10:25 PM (15 minutes) Black Homesteaders in the Great Plains and the Black Homesteaders Project

Presenters: Drs Richard Edwards and Mikal Eckstrom (Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska, Lincoln)

Presentation Description: Three years ago, a representative of the University of Nebraska's Black Homesteader Project (Center for Great Plains Studies) attended the 2018 Dearfield Conference and Symposium at UNC in Greeley. Since that time, researchers involved in the University of Nebraska Project have been involved in a growing collaborative relationship with Colorado Dearfield researchers and preservationists, joining the Dearfield Preservation Partnership in mid-2018. This presentation features Lincoln-based Black Homesteader Project researchers, Drs Rich Edwards, and Mikal Eckstrom, who describe the origins, goals, and history of the Nebraska project, outlines its common ground with the Dearfield Dream Project and the Dearfield Preservation Partnership, and describes Dearfield's place in a pending National Endowment for the Humanities grant project and an on-going mapping study of the Dearfield Colony by one of the presenters.

6: 10:25-10:40 AM (15 Minutes) Images of Historic Dearfield

Presenter: Dr. Margaret Picher (Independent Scholar)

Presentation Description: This presentation describes Dr. Picher's early biographical research and interviews with early Dearfield Colony homesteader Charles Rothwell, illustrated with original photos in the 1910s and 1920s of Dearfield life, taken by Mr. Rothwell.

7: 10:40-11:40 AM (60 minutes) Bringing Dearfield to Life through Science and History: Scientific and Historical Research of an early 20th Century African-American Town and Colony

A four-part session by Drs Bob Brunswig, George Junne, James Doerner, and Mr. Jay Trask (UNC Professors of Anthropology, Africana Studies, Geography, and UNC Library Archives).

The African American farming colony of Dearfield was founded in 1910 by Boulder-based businessman, O.T. Jackson, in central Weld County. The colony's farms and two towns, Dearfield and Chapelton, grew and flourished through the mid-1920s until national economic decline and onset of drought conditions led to its nearly complete abandonment by Black farmers and homesteaders by 1930. The past decade has been a period of accelerating historical and archaeological research on the Dearfield town site, with expanding emphasis on integration of historical photo evidence with advanced detection and visual recording technologies, including magnetometry, ground penetrating radar, three-dimensional laser scanning, and aerial drone imaging, the central theme of this session.

8: 11:40-12:10 PM (~30 minutes) Concluding Conference Forum on Advancing the Dearfield Strategic Plan and Dearfield Dream Project

Moderators/Panelists: Dearfield Committee members Bill Garcia, Jackie Hernandez-Barrow, George Junne, and Bob Brunswig with Zoom Q&A and Discussion by virtual attendees.

Session Description: The conference, informed by earlier program sessions, concludes with an open forum on how to proceed in coming years to further advance and enhance the Dearfield Preservation Strategic Plan, first formulated at the 2018 Dearfield Conference and undergone phase 1-2 implementation in the past two and half years.

Announcement for a Post-Conference Archaeology Field Program in June

The 2021 Dearfield Archaeology Field Project is now scheduled for nine days over four weeks in June. This will be the fifth archaeology field program at the Dearfield townsite. Community volunteers, college students, and others are invited to participate as many or as few days they wish. The dates are June 4-5 (Friday-Saturday), June 11-12 (Friday-Saturday), June 18-19 (Friday-Saturday), and June 25, 26, and 27 ((Friday-Saturday-Sunday). Since the first field day will be June 4th, please contact the program field director, Dr. Bob Brunswig, at robert.brunswig@unco.edu, as soon as possible. Detailed information on the program will be emailed as requests for participation are received.