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2022 Dearfield Conference

5-21-2022

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Bob Brunswig

George Junne

Jay Trask

Bill Garcia

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2022 Dearfield Conference Program
9:00 AM-2:55 PM
Saturday, May 21st, 2022

Hybrid In-Person & Virtual Conference Location: Greeley, Colorado,

The Dearfield Conference Format

This year's conference, the eighth since 2012, features a combination of in-person attendance and on-site presentations as well as *on-line Zoom* participation and presentations. The 2022 Dearfield Conference is co-sponsored by the Dearfield Preservation Committee and the University of Northern Colorado. It is requested that those planning on attending the conference in person send an RSVP email to conference co-chair Dr. Robert Brunswig (robert.brunswig@unco.edu) no later than May 20th so that provision can be made for providing conference room light snacks. In-person attendees are encouraged to take lunch at local restaurants (see the list provided at the end of this program) or bring a bag lunch. UNC's University Center food venues are closed on Saturdays during summer sessions. The conference lunch break is scheduled for 75 minutes.

Our conference program content, described below, includes special (plenary) sessions as well as individual topical presentations. For on-line attendees, it should be noted that comments and questions can be submitted through the Zoom chat function. Based on available time, conference presenters will respond to questions and comments on Zoom during the sessions. It should also be noted that some session presentations listed in the program will be in pre-recorded video/audio or Zoom live narrated PowerPoint formats. Non-PowerPoint or video-inclusive presentations will be delivered live on Zoom broadcasts or directly from the UNC conference room.

This conference program and its Zoom link was sent to on-line presenters and members of a "registered" email address list assembled from previous Dearfield Project participants, the Dearfield Brieflets contact database, and addresses submitted to conference organizers over past months following announcements of the conference in several historic preservation venues.

The conference's on-line Zoom link opens for log-in at 8:45 AM and the conference will *start promptly at 9:00 AM*. The first part of the conference continues *until 9:40 AM when we pause for a short 10-minute break and resumes at 9:55 PM, continuing to 11:50 AM, after which there will be a lunch break until 12:50 PM. The afternoon segment starts at 12:50 PM and continues through to 2:55 PM when the conference ends and signs off Zoom.*

Special Conference Notice: This year's conference, as was done last year, will be recorded on Zoom and made available on an on-line platform. Everyone listed in the Dearfield contact database will be emailed information for accessing the recorded conference within the next two weeks.

Dearfield Conference Program

2022 Dearfield Conference Co-Chairs: Bob Brunswig, George Junne, Jay Trask, and Bill Garcia

1. 9:00-9:05 AM (5 minutes): Welcome to the 2022 Dearfield Conference
UNC President Andy Feinstein.

2. 9:05-9:15 AM (10 minutes) Introduction to the Greeley Dearfield Preservation Committee
and its Role in the Dearfield Dream Project

Presenters: Dearfield Committee members Bill Garcia and Brad Mueller.

3. 9:15-9:30 AM (15 minutes) Covid Pandemic-Period Rehabilitation and Exhibit Renewal at
the Black American West Museum & Heritage Center, its Re-Opening,
and Thoughts on the Museum's Long-term Stewardship of the Dearfield
Historic Townsite.

Presentation Description: The Black American West Museum board chair and vice-chair describe how the museum has been able to take advantage of devastating conditions of the Covid Pandemic to revitalize the museum's physical integrity and completely rehabilitate and reorganize its interior space and exhibits after two years of being closed to the public. They also address recent museum and Dearfield preservation partners initiatives to grow ownership of the Dearfield townsite and National Register Historic Preservation District into a rapidly expanding future of site and historic legacy preservation programs, possibly resulting in designation of the site as a National Historic Site in several years.

Introduced by Dr. George Junne.

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

4. 9:30-9:40 AM (10 minutes) Progress toward Designation of Dearfield as a National Historic Site: Context and Update from U.S. Congressmen Ken Buck and Joe Neguse

Session Description: Initial legislation for requesting a National Park Service Study leading to eventual designation of Dearfield as a National Historic was introduced in January 2022. Congressmen Ken Buck and Joe Neguse provided background and their personal views on the importance and process of making Dearfield a National Historic Site under the National Park Service.

Introduction by Dr. Bob Brunswig

First Presenter: U.S. Congressman Ken Buck

Second Presenter: U.S. Congressman Joe Neguse

5: Short Break-9:40-9:55 AM (15 minutes)

6: 9:55 AM-11:15 PM (80 minutes) Plenary Session: Exploring the Past, Present, and Future of Dearfield Documentary Films, Videos, and Podcasts and Evaluating their Contributions to the Town and Colony's Legacy in African-American History

Session Description: Dearfield has a long history of documentary films, videos, and podcasts. In this plenary session, four Dearfield documentary producers present clips and brief background histories of their works and, if time allows, will be followed by comments and audience Q&A on the past, present, and future of documentary productions about the Dearfield phenomenon and their contribution to preservation of the Dearfield African-American Legacy to Colorado and the Nation.

Moderator: Dr. George Junne.

Presenters in order:

- 1) donnie betts (Dearfield, the Road Less Traveled, 1995, No Credits Production LLC, Denver).
- 2) Charles Nuckolls (Remnants of a Dream, 2020, Nuckolls Films).
- 3) Noel Black (Lost Highways, Dearfield, 2019, History Colorado).
- 4) Kevin Strong (Dearfield Colony, 2022, CBS Television Channel 4, Denver).

Current Video Links to the Presenters' Full-Length Productions: Remnants of a Dream (2020, Charles Nuckolls), [Remnants of a Dream: The Story of Dearfield Colorado \(charlesnuckolls.com\)](#); Lost Highways (2019, Noel Black), Season 1, Episode 4, History Colorado-[Lost Highways - Season 1 | History Colorado](#); CBS Channel 4 Denver/CPI Endangered Places, Dearfield Colony Segment (2022, Kevin Strong)-[\(74\) Endangered Places 2022 - Dearfield Colony - YouTube](#)

7: 11:15-11:35 PM (20 minutes) New Resources and Recent Expansion of the UNC Michener Library's Dearfield and Paul Stewart Collections

Presentation Description: The University of Northern Colorado's Archives Department created its Dearfield Collection more than decade ago with donated original Oliver T. Jackson personal, legal, and business documents and historic photographs. A second series of Dearfield materials, including oral history cassettes and historic photographs arrived at UNC with the purchase of Paul Stewart (Black American West Museum founder) of African Americans in the West theme historic materials, many directly or indirectly related to Dearfield. Each year, more documents, photographs, and historic artifacts are added to the university's Dearfield History collections. UNC Archivist Jay Trask provides an update on the growing content and public on-line availability of those collections and their expanding importance to Dearfield public and academic scholarship and legacy.

Introduction by Dr. George Junne.

Presenter: Jay Trask, University of Northern Colorado Archives.

8: 11:35-11:50 PM (15 minutes) Putting the Pieces Together: City of Greeley Museums Exhibits and the Need to Create a “Central Hub”

Moderator: Bill Garcia.

Presentation Description: There is no better way to learn something for yourself than to teach it to someone else. In essence, that’s the best part of being the Curator of Exhibits at the City of Greeley Museums. From first visiting Dearfield, to researching its story, to creating two Dearfield-related exhibits for the museums, Holly Berg will discuss her own research journey and share her thoughts on increasing the public’s awareness of the site.

Presenter: Holly Berg, City of Greeley History Museum.

9: Lunch Break-11:50-12:50 PM (75 minutes) Lunch on your own. See restaurants listed at the end of the program.

10: 12:50-2:10 PM (60 minutes) Plenary Session: Dearfield Ancestors and Descendants: Past, Present, and Future Genealogical Research.

Moderator: Holly Berg

Session Description: Both individuals, genealogy groups, and academic researchers have been and are engaged in genealogical studies of African American history and lineages for decades. In this session, three presentations describe past, present, and future-planned Dearfield genealogical research projects, methods, and resources. A concluding fourth presentation connects the Dearfield experience with other late 19th and early 20th Century African American settlements, towns and homesteads throughout the mid-west and western U.S., based on results of the University of Nebraska's recent Black Homesteader Project.

Session Presentations:

A. Dearfield in the City of Greeley History Museum

Presentation Description: The City of Greeley Museums has been accumulating Dearfield and Dearfield Related documents and photos for many years and has one of the most complete collections in the region. Joanna Stull discusses the content and sources of that archival resource and its significant value to researching Dearfield's historic legacy.

Presenter: Joanna Stull (Greeley History Museum)

B. Weld County Genealogical Society's Dearfield Project

Presentation Description: The Weld County Genealogical Society has conducted in-depth research into ancestral and biographic backgrounds of several Dearfield residents, including the founder of the colony and townsite, O.T. Jackson. This presentation details the content and resources represented by the society's research and its public access through its on-line web site.

Presenter: Martha Van Driel (Weld County Genealogical Society)

C. The Black Genealogy Search Group (BGS) Specialized African American Research of the Dearfield Founder and his Wives.

Presentation Description: In the beginning of its 40th anniversary year, the Black Genealogy Search Group of Denver began to conduct an African American genealogical proof standard research project on the founder of Dearfield Colorado, Oliver T. Jackson and both wives. This includes Oliver; his parents, Hezekiah Jackson & Virginia Caroline (Chavons) Jackson; first wife, Sadie R. (Cook) "Sarah" Jackson; her parents, Major Cook & Priscilla (Bramhall) Cook; second wife, Minerva Jane (Matlock) Jackson; her parents, James Matlock and Hannah Jane (Wilson) Matlock. BGS Dearfield Project Committee members Annie S. Mabry and Steve Shepard will discuss the BGS's unique skills and specialized knowledge in researching, validating and documenting these African American families' stories. They will also discuss the preliminary findings and validations of which of these six families that were "free persons of color" and how their backgrounds included a relationship with the Underground Railroad.

Presenters: Annie S. Mabry and Steve Shepard (Black Genealogy Search Group, Dearfield Project, Denver)

D. Title: Making Connections.

Presentation Description: The University of Nebraska Homesteading Project began studying Black homesteaders throughout the Great Plains in collaboration with the National Park Service in 2016. In part this work relies on genealogical research. Richard Edwards, former director, will show how genealogical studies can be connected to the wider story of Black homesteading in the Great Plains.

Presenter: Dr. Richard Edwards (Professor emeritus, University of Nebraska, Lincoln)

11: 2:10-2:25 PM (15 minutes) An Update on Results of the 2021 Archaeological Field Season at the Dearfield Townsite.

Self-introduction: Dr. Bob Brunswig

Presentation Description: The University of Northern has operated five archaeology field seasons at the Dearfield townsite since 2011. Last year's fieldwork by three dozen university students and community volunteers investigated archaeological deposits and historic structural remains at the now-collapsed Grocery Store and 1930s Dance Hall. This presentation by project director Bob Brunswig summarizes discoveries and early interpretations of evidence recovered from last year's field excavations.

Presenter: Dr. Bob Brunswig, University of Northern Colorado

12: 2:25-2:45 PM (20 minutes) An Update and Status Report on the Dearfield Strategic Preservation Plan and Recent Phases of its Implementation in 2021 and 2022.

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. As an “organic” process, the strategic plan 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 and 2021 archaeological studies involved university students and community volunteers, and this year's 2022 field season will take place in June. Since September 2021, a \$498,000 National Park Service African-American Civil Rights grant was awarded to the University of Northern Colorado and is now conducting historic building stabilization and partial restoration of the townsite's historic Jackson House and Filling Station. Legislative efforts are now underway by U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper and U.S. Congressmen Ken Buck and Joe Neguse to facilitate a National Park Service evaluation process leading to eventual national legislation to designate Dearfield as a National Historic Site, a process that will take several years.

Moderator: Bill Garcia

Presenters: Dearfield Committee Members Dr. George Junne, Bill Garcia, Brad Mueller, and Kim Grant.

13: 2:45-2:55 PM (10 minutes) Closing Comments, Upcoming Events, Volunteer Opportunities, and Announcement for a Post-Conference Archaeology Field Program in June

Presenter: Dr. Bob Brunswig

2:55 PM End of Conference

2022 Field Archaeology Field Announcement

The 2022 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 3-4 (Friday-Saturday), June 10-11 (Friday-Saturday), June 17-18 (Friday-Saturday), and June 24, 25, and 26 ((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.

Greeley Restaurants Listing

Ambrosia (Japanese, Asian)
3636 W 10th Street, Greeley
Phone: 970-392-2925

Bravos Philly & Pizza
1635 8th Ave. (east of UNC East Campus)
Phone: 970-353-0068

Chipotle Mexican Grill
807 17th Street (east of UNC East Campus)
Phone: 970-346-8700

Fat Albert's Restaurant
1717 23rd Avenue, Greeley
Phone: 970-356-1999

Georgia Boys BBQ
2473 W 28th Street, Greeley
Phone: 970-451-5654

Lucky Fins (Sea Food)
4848 Centerplace Drive, Greeley
Phone: 970-673-8805
Mad Cow Saloon & Eatery (Downtown)
800 9th Street, Suite A, Greeley
Phone: 970-356-5520

Margie's Java Joint (Salads & Sandwiches)
931 16th Street, Greeley (north of UNC West Campus)
Phone: 970-451-5079

Old Chicago (Italian)
2349 W 29th Street, Greeley
Phone: 970-330-1116

Olive Garden (Italian)
2285 Greeley Mall, NW Corner
Phone: 970-353-3808

Red Lobster (Sea Food)
2885 23rd Ave, Greeley
Phone: 970-330-6200

Right Coast Pizza (Downtown)

811 8th Street, Greeley
Phone: 970-351-

Santeramo's Pizza House & Italian Food
1229 10th Ave., Greeley
Phone: 970-353-4844

Sherpa Grill (South Asian, Downtown Area)
908 8th Street, Greeley
Phone: 970-352-1154

Texas Road House (Steak, Barbeque)
2451 W 28th Street, Greeley
Phone: 970-330-3668

Conference Site Map and Directions

