

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Program Director: Dr. Paul Ortiz
Technology Coordinator: Deborah Hendrix



241 Pugh Hall
PO Box 115215
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-392-7168
352-846-1983 Fax

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) was founded by Dr. Samuel Proctor at the University of Florida in 1967. Its original projects were collections centered around Florida history with the purpose of preserving eyewitness accounts of economic, social, political, religious and intellectual life in Florida and the South. In the 45 years since its inception, SPOHP has collected over 5,000 interviews in its archives.

Transcribed interviews are available through SPOHP for use by research scholars, students, journalists, and other interested groups. Material is frequently used for theses, dissertations, articles, books, documentaries, museum displays, and a variety of other public uses. As standard oral history practice dictates, SPOHP recommends that researchers refer to both the transcript and audio of an interview when conducting their work. A selection of interviews are available online here through the UF Digital Collections and the UF Smathers Library system.

Oral history interview transcripts available on the UF Digital Collections may be in draft or final format. SPOHP transcribers create interview transcripts by listening to the original oral history interview recording and typing a verbatim document of it. The transcript is written with careful attention to reflect original grammar and word choice of each interviewee; subjective or editorial changes are not made to their speech. The draft transcript can also later undergo a later final edit to ensure accuracy in spelling and format. Interviewees can also provide their own spelling corrections. SPOHP transcribers refer to the Merriam-Webster's dictionary, Chicago Manual of Style, and program-specific transcribing style guide, accessible at SPOHP's website.

For more information about SPOHP, visit <http://oral.history.ufl.edu> or call the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program office at 352-392-7168.

-October 2013

MFP-065

Interviewee: Amanda Noll and Josh Moore

Interviewer: Josh Moore and Amanda Noll

Date of Interview: September 24, 2010

M: This is Josh Moore interviewing Amanda Noll on our trip to Mississippi. The date is September 24. All right, Amanda. What has your favorite part of the trip been so far?

N: I'd have to say my favorite part of the trip is getting to know Margaret Block a little bit more. I've been here three times, and the past two years, we haven't had the opportunity to spend as much time with Ms. Block. It's been a real treat, not only getting her broad stories about the movement, but just her views on current events and little tidbits she has for us. They're always quite amusing. I'd have to say that's probably my highlight of the trip so far.

M: How did you get into the program here, doing this?

N: Well, my dad works at the University of Florida with Dr. Ortiz, and suggested that I would go on the trip for the first year. After that, me and Dr. Ortiz have stayed in contact, and I really enjoyed what the program was doing with working with history and the community. I think it's an important aspect of academics that often gets forgotten, so that's how I got started and why I kind of continued.

M: And you go to FSU, correct?

N: Yes, I do.

M: Florida State University.

N: Yes.

M: What do you think of the trip thus far? How has it affected you personally or academically? What have you learned?

N: Well, since I've been to the Delta—this is my third trip—I wouldn't say it's taught me new aspects, it's just kind of built upon previous things that I've seen about the movement and about the community and how the community supported the movement. It wasn't just outside forces into Mississippi. It's really a local community process. But I enjoyed adding to that, talking to members of the union this morning—union with the catfish organizations, and they represent other supermarkets and things like that. So, that's a kind of continuation of the freedoms that people fought for and how they've used their community action programs to continue helping the community and workers and disenfranchised people in general. So, I'd like to see the continuation.

M: Would you do anything different if you could? Could you change something about the trip?

N: No, not that I could say. It's a good mix of letting the students experience the culture of the Delta and do some of the touristy, site-seeing things, but then do some academic work and talk to the locals and figure out their perspective and learn from them, as well. So, I think it's a good mix of research and kind of finding your own learning experiences, as well.

M: Gotcha. That's all. [Laughter]

N: Do you want to just turn around and I'll interview you?

M: I guess we can do that.

N: Okay, well, this is Amanda Noll. Now I'm going to be interviewing Josh—

M: Moore.

N: Moore. All right. So, Josh, how did you get involved with the program?

M: I took a class with Dr. Ortiz the previous summer, so, summer of 2010 in Summer A. I took a class, the oral history seminar he teaches and, just to get credit, just 'cause I needed something to have a GPA booster, I took the class and just really liked the project. Mr. Ortiz invited me on as an intern for Summer B, so I was an intern with him for Summer B, and liked it so much that I came back for the fall. So, pretty much embedded in Pugh Hall.

N: What drew you to oral history? Why do you think it's important?

M: It's a living history. It's not back where you can go back and you have to listen or you have to read another person's interpretation of what happened, because there's always going to be some form of bias where it's somebody's opinion. There's not many books out there where it's just exact fact. It's all based on bias; everybody has their own opinion. But, with this, you actually get the opinions and the feelings of how people actually lived a certain event. You can't go back to, like, the Civil War. There's so much controversy over that. But, during the civil rights movement in the Delta, we can go talk to Ms. Margaret Block. We can go to different people that have worked on the civil rights movement, even nowadays with the World War II aspect. Even as those people are dying

off, you still get to talk to them and find out their true experience instead of what just the history books tell you. So, that's what I like about it.

N: What do you think you've learned so far on the trip? Did you have any previous knowledge of the civil rights movement in this area?

M: I really didn't. I mean, I've done some work back at the home with the Alachua County African American Historical Program through Pugh Hall, but I really didn't have much knowledge of the movement more than you would have at a high school or middle school. But, coming up here, it's definitely an eye-opener with the amount of the poverty level and how there's actually still segregation in schools, basically, and how there's still people that are violent towards African American people and people that are helping them with the movement and stuff like that. So, that's definitely an eye-opener. It's Third World America, as they would put it.

N: And what do you think has been the most eye-opening experience or thing that you've seen since we've been here?

M: It's not what I've seen, it's what I've been told by Ms. Block. Like we would sit outside and talk, and she would go over how she would still, to this day, she still carries a firearm going into—Tuscaloosa [Tallahatchie]?

N: Tuscaloosa.

M: Tuscaloosa, I got it this time, County. In certain parts of the county. So, that's definitely an eye-opener, where somebody of color has to carry a firearm in order just to protect themselves in doing a day-to-day job, where we could go to the grocery store and not worry about getting shot at just

because of a certain thing. So, that's definitely one of the things I've learned.

N: What do you think is the most important part of this research trip?

M: I think the most important part of this is, it needs to get out to schools because, when we came here, that's our main goal, is to get these interviews that we have with the people that we're interviewing this week to the schools, so the schools can actually see exactly what's going on. Because the more time goes on, the less and less knowledge there is of the civil rights movement in the history textbooks. So, I believe that this helps actually show people that, wow, stuff did actually go on, and wow, it actually affects people still, and we need to do something about it. So, it helps motivate everybody.

N: I'm kind of running out of questions as well. [Laughter]

M: All right, I think we should—

N: Should we wrap it up?

[End of interview]

Transcribed by: Diana Dombrowski, April 2014

Audit-edited by: Sarah Blanc, April 2014

Final edited by: Sarah Blanc, April 2014