



and National Public Radio, newspapers including the *New York Times*, and a three-day multi-part series in the *Austin American-Statesman*. I oversaw a redesign of the Web site and created a public program for the highly successful exhibition at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum *From Gutenberg to Gone With The Wind: Treasures from the Ransom Center Public Program* (Spring 2002).

1993-1998 Director, The Frank C. Erwin Jr. History Project, Austin, Texas.

Developed and supervised every aspect of this history project on the life of Frank Erwin, controversial chairman of The University of Texas Board of Regents (1966-1971) and Democratic Party leader. The project created for the first time a large archive of materials and oral interviews, which will result in a scholarly biography. My role as director included visualizing the scope of the project; hiring and supervising a staff of nine, including archivists, transcribers, researchers, and narrative consultants; controlling an annual budget of over \$100,000; creating a master list of oral history interviews; conducting and editing those interviews; and producing chapter background material from which the biography will be written. The project interviewed close to 200 individuals, among them Erwin's friends and colleagues--many powerful state and national figures--in addition to radical students who vocally opposed him. I conducted over 100 of these interviews, which included Lady Bird Johnson, Ralph Yarborough, Barbara Jordan, George Christian, Ann Richards, Frances Farenthold, and John Silber.

1989-1992 Research Associate, The Oral History Program, The Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas.

Involved with three oral history projects at the Center: The University of Texas Oral History Project, The John Henry Faulk Oral History Project, and The Pennzoil-Texaco Oral History Project. Conducted all the research, edited the transcribed interview transcripts, conducted interviews, and was in charge of organization of the tapes and transcripts for the various projects.

## **Oral History Projects and Interviews**

2021 Tom Crawford

I conducted a series of oral history interviews (20 hours) with Tom Crawford, former financial services executive, who has held major positions with Allstate, CNA, Crawford and Company, Prudential, Southern Heritage Insurance Company, and consulting firm Crawford Corporate Coaching.

2020 Craig County Poor Farm Oral History Project

The Craig County Poor Farm is located in Craig County, Virginia. It is now represented by a parcel of 145 acres, and occupies both sides of Sinking Creek, a tributary of the New River, and is owned by Tracy Roberts Frist and former U.S. Senator William H. Frist. The farm, established in 1892, consists of historic contributing domestic and agricultural buildings including a superintendent's house, a poorhouse cottage, a stone cellar, a granary/corncrib, and barns and other buildings. On the hill above the farm complex is the County Farm Cemetery. It began operating as a "Poor Farm" for poor and incapacitated individuals in the early 1890s and existed as such to the early 1920s when it was sold to a family for a private residence. I interviewed four individuals who lived on the farm at various times:



Nannie Berger Hairston (1921-2017) was a community leader who lived in Christiansburg, Virginia. Born in 1921 to a father who worked in the coalfields of West Virginia, she moved to Virginia in 1953 with her husband John. The Hairstons quickly established themselves as leaders in the local community. Ms. Hairston has held numerous positions, including treasurer, in the local branch of the NAACP. For a term of six years, she served on the board of the Virginia State Conference NAACP. The Nannie Berger Hairston Oral History Project was initiated by the Montgomery-Floyd-Regional Library (MFRL) and begun in the summer of 2015. The project is being funded in part by the MFRL Friends of the Library, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, and the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. Twenty hours of audio interviews have been recorded in this life review, which focuses on all aspects of Ms. Hairston's long life, with particular attention on the years of her work in community building and civil rights from the 1950s through the 1980s.

2012-2014      Project Director, Oral Historian, and Writer, "Cotton to Silk: Oral Histories of African American Workers on the Norfolk & Western Railroad," Roanoke, Virginia.

Hired by the Historical Society of Western Virginia to conduct approximately 25 oral histories with African American railroad workers, edit the interview transcripts, supervise the project that includes transcription company and three academic consultants. The final products include a publication, online exhibit, and updating a current exhibit at The Virginia Museum of Transportation. The project won a \$5,000 Open Grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities in the spring of 2013.

2011-2012                      History Associates, Inc., The University of Virginia Oral History Project, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Contracted with History Associates, Inc. to conduct oral history interviews with four recently retired U.Va. administrators: John T. Casteen III, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Leonard W. Sandridge, Jr., and Gordon Burriss. Conducted interviews, edited those interviews, and wrote biographical and interview synopsis.

2010                              Life history interview with Kerry G. Merritt, Austin, Texas. Conducted interview, edited, and produced publication.

2009                              Interviews with Charlene McCombs, and Marsha Shields, Lynda McCombs, and Connie McNab, San Antonio, Texas, for *Big Red: Memoirs of a Texas Entrepreneur and Philanthropist* (2011) by Don E. Carleton, Executive Director of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.

2007                              Life history interview with Joyce Barrett Reasoner, San Marcos, Texas. Conducted interview, edited, and produced publication.

2004-ongoing                      Historian, Spicewood Ranch Oral History Project, Austin, Texas.

Long-term project to document the history of a ranch owned by Christopher M. Harte (former chief executive officer and publisher of the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*) in Spicewood, Texas, through oral history interviews.

1996-2009                      Historian, The University of Texas School of Law Oral History Project.



Developed the overall structure of the program and coordinated the research efforts of a staff of five summer graduate student interns, as well as coordinated with the various entities associated with the oral history project—the oral history executive board, Signal Corporation (contractor), the library research liaison and other center historians. The summer staff began collecting an archive of research materials, completed ten biographical profiles of interview candidates, and began the task of creating a database from which to track the interview candidates by mission, job title, and other pertinent information. Seven interviews were conducted with astronauts, technicians, and engineers who had been involved with the space program. I interviewed astronauts John Glenn and Ed Mitchell. In addition, the summer program produced project guidebooks on research, video technology, and oral history, as well as a project scope and prospectus and a cohesive plan for conducting the NASA oral history project in the future.

## Education

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|-----------|---|
| 1998-2005 | Ph.D. candidate, American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin. ABD   |
| 1984      | M.A., American Studies, The University of Texas at Austin. Master's thesis "Feminism in the Life and Work of Emily Dorothy Scarborough."  |
| 1977      | B.A., High Honors, special honors in Anthropology, The University of Texas at Austin. Elected to the following honor societies: Gamma Phi Alpha (1974), Alpha Lambda Delta (1974), Phi Beta Kappa (1977). Honors thesis "The Traditional Woman's Role in a Small Texas Town." |

## Publications

### Books

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|------|---|
| 2014 | <i>African American Railroad Workers of Roanoke: Oral Histories of the Norfolk &amp; Western</i> , The History Press.   |
| 2006 | Managing editor, <i>Blanton Museum of Art Guide to the Collection</i> . Published by the Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin. Introductory essays by Larry R. Faulkner, President, The University of Texas at Austin, and Jessie Otto Hite, Director, the Blanton Museum of Art. |
| 2004 | Editor and author of foreword, <i>Solomon Islands Sketches, The World War II Drawings of a PT Boat Captain in the South Pacific</i> , Vance W. Torbert, Jr. Printed and bound by Capital Spectrum, Inc., Austin, Texas.   |
| 2004 | Editor, <i>The Trip Back: World War II as Seen from the Belly of a B-17</i> , Kenneth Clarke, F&F Publishing, 1 <sup>st</sup> World Library.  |

### **Exhibition Books and Booklets**

- 2002 Editor, *Ogden Nash: Poems and Drawings*. Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2002 Editor, *John Steinbeck: Centenary Exhibitions*. Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2001 Editor, *Henry Peach Robinson: Victorian Photographer*. Essay by David Coleman, Assistant Curator, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2001 Editor, *From Gutenberg to Gone With the Wide: Treasures from the Ransom Center*. Introductory essays by Thomas F. Staley, Director, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, and Harry J. Middleton, Director, The Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, The University of Texas at Austin. Mitchell A. Wilder Publication Award, Merit (Books and catalogues category), Texas Association of Museums, 2002.
- 2000 Editor, *To Help the World to See: An Eliot Elisofon Retrospective*. Essay by Roy Flukinger, Senior Curator, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 2000 Editor, *Islands of Order: A Decade of Collection*. Essay by Thomas F. Staley, Director, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

### **Brochures, Newsletters, and Museum Magazines**

- 2008 Editor, Blanton Museum of Art *Visitor Map and Brochure*. Mitchell A. Wilder Publication Award, Gold (Brochure category), Texas Association Museums, 2008.
- 2004-2007 Managing editor, *Articulate*. Blanton Museum of Art member magazine. Mitchell A. Wilder Publication Award, Merit (Newsletter/calendars category) Texas Association of Museums, Summer and Fall 2006.
- 2004 Editor, *The New Blanton* brochure, Blanton Museum of Art.
- 2003 Editor and author, *Texas Folklife Newsletter*.
- 1999-2002 Editor, *Ransom News*. Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center newsletter.

### **Website Development**

- 2006 Director, Blanton Museum of Art website redevelopment and redesign. Oversaw a committee of 5 university staff members and team from professional design firm Milkshake Media. Milkshake Media won an ADDY award for the design.
- 2002 Director, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center website redevelopment and redesign. Oversaw a committee of 3 staff members and professional designer Drew Patterson.

## **Awards**

- 2008 Mitchell A. Wilder Publication Award, Texas Association of Museums, Blanton Museum of Art Visitor Map and Brochure (Gold).
- 2007 American Association of Museums Publications Competition Awards: Blanton Museum of Art “Art is Connection” Poster (Honorable Mention) and Blanton Grand Opening Press Kit (Honorable Mention).
- 2007 Mitchell A. Wilder Publication Awards, Texas Association of Museums: Blanton Museum of Art Grand Opening Bookmarks (Gold); Grand Opening Invitations (Silver); Grand Opening Ads (Silver); and School Programs Brochure (Merit)
- 2006 Mitchell A. Wilder Publication Award, Texas Association of Museums, *Articulate*, Blanton Museum of Art member magazine, Summer and Fall 2006, (Merit).
- 2006 Listed as one of the *Austin American-Statesman’s* “Fortunate 500” in the Arts.
- 2006 American Association of Law Librarians, Best Publication, *Harry Reasoner: An Oral History Interview*, Tarlton Law Library, Oral History Series No. 2, Jamail Center for Legal Research, The University of Texas at Austin, 2005.
- 2002 Mitchell A. Wilder Publication Award, Texas Association of Museums, *From Gutenberg to Gone With The Wind: Treasures from the Ransom Center*, (Merit), 2002.

## **Presentations**

- August 24, 2022 Presentation, “African American Railroad Workers of Roanoke: Oral Histories of the Norfolk & Western,” as part of public program for the O. Winston Link Museum’s exhibition: *A New Look at Link: His Life and Legacy*, Roanoke, Virginia.

- May 18, 2022 Presentation (panelist), “African American Railroad Workers of Roanoke,” for webinar: Working, Class: Appalachian Labor and Economy,” part of Usable Past series sponsored by the Heritage Alliance in Jonesborough, Tennessee.
- April 13, 2022 Presentation (panelist), “Appalachian African American Civil Rights,” for webinar: “African American in Appalachia: Black Histories and Memory in Southwest Virginia,” sponsored by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, History Department, Virginia Tech.
- October 2019 Presentation (panelist), “Telling My Own Story: Constructing the Narrative of a Lifelong Listener,” for panel “A Life of Listening,” Oral History Association annual meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- August 2018 Presentation, “The Nannie B. Hairston Oral History Project,” on the occasion of a program honoring Ms. Hairston’s life: “The Life and Legacy of Nan B. Hairston,” Christiansburg Library, Christiansburg, Virginia, August 11, 2019.
- October 2015 Presentation, “Reconstructing Turmoil through Narratives of Power: Frank Erwin and the University of Texas in the 1960s-1970s,” Oral History Association annual meeting, Tampa, Florida.
- March 2015 Author-presenter for session: “African Americans Living and Working in 20<sup>th</sup> c. Virginia,” the Virginia Festival of the Book, Charlottesville, Virginia.
- March 2015 Presentation, “African American Railroad Workers of Roanoke,” Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, Christiansburg, Virginia.
- October 2014 Presentation, “Cotton to Silk: Oral Histories of African American Railroad Workers on the Norfolk & Western Railway,” session, “Grassroots Oral History: Organizations Initiating their own Documentary Projects,” Oral History Association annual meeting, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 2007 Presentation, “The Extremely Grand Opening of the Blanton Museum of Art,” session, “Inside Out: Transforming Places to Create New Identities,” Texas Association of Museums conference.
- 2006 Presentation, Overview of communications strategies for the Blanton’s Grand Opening, Austin Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.
- 2004 Presentation, Veterans History Project, AARP conference, Austin, Texas.
- 2004 Presentation, “Oral History methods and the VHP: A Workshop Leader’s Encounters,” for panel, *In the Trenches: Perspectives on*

*the Veterans History Project*, Oral History Association conference,  
Portland, Oregon.

2004

Presentation, Veteran's History Project, Texas Conference on Aging,  
Corpus Christi, Texas.