

Research Committee Meeting Minutes

Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission

Date: Monday, April 19th, 2021

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30pm

Location: Virtual meeting (Google Meet)

Present: Stevenson, Armenti, Haley, Oland-Squires, Lawrence Roberts, Leeann Irwin, Maya Davis

1. March meeting minutes reviewed and approved

2. MCHC Oral History - Armenti discussed oral history available on the MCHC website: McKeldon-Jackson Oral History Collection (Theodore McKeldon; Lillie Carroll Jackson) – collection has about 90 oral histories. MCHC has a digital collections portal on the website. Oral history of Clarence Mitchell, Jr. (played clip from the collection). These recordings are publicly accessible. In the case of Mitchell, interviews can be linked to information about George Armwood and Matthew Williams. An interview with Parren Mitchell refers to the trauma of lynching (not from directly being there but for the effect of hearing about it). Armenti encouraged those present to check out the collection.

3. Article about Allegany county lynching – Armenti discussed link to an article from Allegany County alleging KKK members being present at Allegany county lynching
Davis – mentioned similarity to “White Capping” – a group similar to the Klan (early terms for Klan or Klan related groups)

Armenti - mentioning the Klan – especially without corroborative evidence – can work to minimize the role that everyday residents had in the incident. Emboldens notions that it was done by outsiders
Appears that the author made assumptions rather than had direct evidence to claim Klan involvement

Haley – vetting information was also important in the Legacy of Slavery Project. Once on the State website it attains an official status.

Armenti – if there are still questions about information sent our way – especially if it is claiming new information, it will be important to vet - we do not want to highlight something where there may be inaccuracies.

Haley- from journalism – always have two sources and then build from there. If a particular article does not mention any specific individuals – we hold on to it but do not immediately put it on our website.

4. New case - Armenti — Bria Warren mentioned an article about Asbury Green in Queen Anne’s county that referenced an earlier lynching of John Fields.

Davis – We may need to develop a new shell for this – not currently profiled on the site.

Armenti – may be difficult to find documentation. There are two newspaper reports (one seems to have simply reported the same info as the other. Asked about death records in Queen Anne’s County as a possible resource.

Davis- usually not much in terms of death records prior to 1865, and then usually only recording white residents.

Armenti – AS the Fields case appears to have occurred, it will be great to have at least a third source

5. Coalitions - Armenti noted Queen Anne’s may be one of the 5 counties that do not have MLMP coalitions – Calvert, Queen Anne’s, Caroline, Worcester, (no coalition), Howard (has an active group that is independent from MLMP). Importance of creating linkages in these communities.

6. Process & Guidelines for Volunteers – Armenti noted recent discussion with potential volunteer. Discussion of ways to engage volunteers. Additionally, volunteers to be informed about local coalitions and contacts for potential volunteering on the local level.