

Alison Dorsey Lecture Index

Segment 01

This segment begins with the introduction of Dr. Alison Dorsey. In this segment Dr. Dorsey explains how she got involved with researching Ossabaw Island. Dr. Dorsey then gives an introduction to her main subject of research, Mustapha Shaw. Dr. Dorsey takes up the story of Mustapha Shaw where her article leaves off, sharing recent documents and discoveries with the summer scholars. Dorsey introduces topics of agency, economic understanding, defiance, and skilled labor in the lives of African – American’s on Ossabaw Island just after the Civil War.

Segment 02

In this segment Dr. Dorsey begins to discuss “first freedom” more generally and then specifically with the family of Mustapha Shaw. In particular Dr. Dorsey discusses how the just freed African – Americans in the Lowcountry knew they needed economic security to be truly free and this security could be won through land. Dr. Dorsey also introduces several questions about how freed slaves leaving Ossabaw were able to mass enough wealth to purchase land and gain wealth.

Segment 03

In this segment Dr. Dorsey continues the story of Mustapha Shaw’s family. Dr. Dorsey discusses how the stories of “first freedom” are stories of the American Dream. Dr. Dorsey argues that these amazing stories of success need to be told. Dr. Dorsey then fields some questions from the summer scholars on her lecture to this point. Dr. Dorsey also discusses issues of pedagogy. A topic arising in this segment is the issues of how to make the topic accessible and engaging for students yet appropriate and historically accurate. Dr. Dorsey specifically discusses the movement to teach social history and not just ecological history on Ossabaw Island.

Segment 04

In this segment the summer scholars asked Dr. Dorsey several questions concerning understanding and teaching the social and cultural history of slaves and newly freed slaves in the south. Dr. Dorsey then gives some explanation and discussion on material culture and the history of skilled labor in the African-American community pre and post slavery. Again in this segment the topic moves to pedagogy and how to teach slavery and first freedom to students in the modern classroom.

Segment 05

In this segment Dr. Dorsey speaks to issues of how we teach American History. Dr. Dorsey gives the example of teaching the founding fathers as both heroes of freedom and slave owners. Dr. Dorsey also speaks to why she is interested in cultural history and why she thinks it is important to the story of African – Americans in the Lowcountry. Dr. Dorsey touches on the debate over how much emphasis on cultural history is too much and offers that while it isn’t the whole picture it is needed to complete the picture.

Segment 06

In this segment Dr. Dorsey fields one more question on cultural history before getting back to the story of Mustapha Shaw. Dr. Dorsey shares some of the sources she used to fill out the picture of Mustapha Shaw and his progeny. In this segment the issue of language and the connection between African culture and Gullah – Geechee culture. Dr. Dorsey also introduces the importance of naming in the story of Mustapha Shaw.

Segment 07

Dr. Dorsey continues the discussion on the importance of naming in the story of Mustapha Shaw. Dr. Dorsey continues to discuss how Mustapha Shaw gained wealth and security for his family after the Civil War. Through this discussion, Dr. Dorsey is able to talk more broadly about the economic choices of “first freedom.”

Segment 08

Dr. Dorsey continues to talk about the economic prosperity of Mustapha Shaw and his family. Dr. Dorsey argues that this wealth is not only their success but also makes them a target. Dr. Dorsey then takes the discussion to the 1940s to discuss the loss of land by many in the African- American community in Darien. Dr. Dorsey then explains how there is still a struggle to regain this land that is now a part of the Harris Neck Preserve.

To listen to the video Dr. Dorsey was unable to play use this link:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/01/us/01harris.html>

At the end of the segment Dr. Dorsey begins the story of the Darien Insurrection.

Segment 09

In this segment Dr. Dorsey finishes the discussion of the Darien Insurrection and discusses some of her lingering questions on Mustapha Shaw including finding where he is buried. Dr. Dorsey then discusses the end of Mustapha Shaw’s life.

Segment 10

Dr. Dorsey then fields questions from the summer scholars on topics related to slavery, cultural history, pedagogy and her research. The discussion turns towards the modern-day African- American community and property ownership.

Segment 11

The back and forth discussion continues in this final segment. The discussion continues to focus on modern-day issues related to the African- American community, Gullah- Geechee culture, and pedagogy.