

Curriculum Vita

JAMES A. JONES

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CURRENT POSITION: Professor of African History at West Chester University since 1992. Subjects taught: World Civilizations I & II; History of the 20th Century; precolonial, colonial and independent African history (graduate & undergraduate); African history through film; seminars on globalization and the Atlantic World; interpreting history on the World Wide Web, history of Spain.

PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES: To study the impact of industrialization on society, to stimulate awareness of Africa and its relationship to world history, to teach students to think critically and enable them to employ their learning to become active and effective global citizens.

EDUCATION

B.S., Mathematics University of Delaware, 1976
M.A., Modern European History University of Delaware, 1988
Ph.D., African History University of Delaware, 1995
Dissertation: "The Impact of the Dakar-Niger Railroad on the Inhabitants of the Middle Niger Valley"

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Mande Studies Association Chester County Historical Society
Railway & Locomotive Historical Society West Chester Railroad Heritage Association

SELECTED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- "Constructing History with Computers" (chapter) in Dennis A. Trinkle, History in the Electronic Age: Historians and Computers (M. E. Sharpe, Inc., 1998).
- Review of Industrialization and the British Colonial State: West Africa 1939-1951 by L. J. Butler (London & Portland, Oregon: Frank Cass & Co., Ltd., 1997), in *Journal of African History*, vol. 39, no. 1 (1998).
- "Fact and Fiction in God's Bits of Wood" (article) in *Research in African Literatures*, vol. 31, no. 2 (Summer 2000).
- Colonial Labor in the Industrial World: The African Workers of the Chemin de Fer Dakar-Niger (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2002).
- Made in West Chester: The History of Industry in West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1867 to 1945 (West Chester, PA: self-published, 2003).
- "The Dakar-Niger Railroad and the Soudanese Connection to the Atlantic World, 1904-1960" (chapter) in Mande-Manding: Background Reading for Ethnographic Research in the Region South of Bamako, Jan Jansen, ed. (Leiden, Netherlands: Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology, University of Leiden, 2004).
- "Dakar," "Senegal: Colonial Period: Railways and colonization" and "Mali: Colonial Period: Economy, society and religion" (articles) in Kevin Shillington, editor, Encyclopedia of Africa History (London: Fitzroy & Dearborn, 2005).
- Review of Raymond E. Dumett, El Dorado in West Africa: The Gold-Mining Frontier, African Labor, and Colonial Capitalism in the Gold Coast, 1875-1900 (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 1998) in *The Twelfth Annual Journal of The Mining History Association* (2005).
- "Background Information" and "Who's Who of Characters/Glossary of Places" (chapters) in Sundiata, An

Epic of Old Mali by D. T. Niane, translated by G. D. Pickett, revised ed. (Harlow, England: Pearson/Longman African Writers, 2006).

- Railroads of West Chester (West Chester, PA: self-published, 2006).
- "Whose baggage is this? Cultivating commercial and political ties along the railroad from Bamako to Dakar" (article) in *Journal of Mande Studies*, vol. 9 (2007).
- "Ousmane Sembene" (chapter) in Ousmane Sembene Interviews (edited by Annett Busch & Max Annas (Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 2008).
- "Map of Dakar-Niger Railroad" for Great Railroad Maps of the World by Mark Overden (Viking Adult, New York, 2011).
- "The 1947-48 Railway Strike in French West Africa" (chapter) in *Trade Unions in West Africa: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, Craig Phelan, editor (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2011).

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- "The Railroad War Against Samori Toure" at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA, November 13, 1999).
- "Computer Methods of Historical Research" at West Chester University RECAP 2000 Conference (West Chester, PA, May 11, 2000).
- "The Dakar-Niger Railroad and the Soudanese Connection to the Atlantic World, 1904-1960" at the 5th International Conference on Mande Studies (Leiden, Netherlands, June 21, 2002).
- "Colonial Railroads: A New Kind of Crime Scene" at the Social Science History Association annual meeting (St. Louis, Missouri, October 26, 2002).
- "Creating an Internet Archive for French West African History" at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting (Washington DC, December 6, 2002).
- "Modeling Globalization's Impact on Africa" at the University of Pennsylvania African Studies Consortium Workshop (Philadelphia, PA, October 3, 2003).
- "Whose Baggage is This?: Cultivating Commercial and Political Ties Along the Dakar-Bamako Railroad" at the Seventh International Conference on Mande Studies (Lisbon, Portugal, June 25, 2008).
- "ET'd But Not Forgotten" at the Conference on Peace Corps and Africa (Madison, WI, March 26, 2011).

SELECTED LOCAL PRESENTATIONS

- Chaired panel discussion on "Who Makes the Rules for Civil Behavior in the Neighborhood" at West Chester University Civility Day (February 22, 2007).
- "History of the Southwest" for (West Chester) Southwest Association of Neighbors (May 10, 2007).
- "Meeting West Chester's History Needs" at Chester County Historical Society (June 4, 2007).
- "African Traditions and Modern Reality" at West Chester's Grove Methodist Church (November 11, 2007).
- "Railroading in West Chester" lecture for the 150th Anniversary of the West Chester Railroad, Chester County Historical Society (November 15, 2008).
- "The U.S. Peace Corps" at the Sanford School, Wilmington, Del. (March 6, 2009).
- "Planning Issues in West Chester" for WCU GEO 214 "Intro to Urban Planning" class (November 5, 2009).
- "Introduction to Transport" at the Cheyney University Summer Transportation Institute (July 26, 2011).
- "Planning and Politics" for WCU GEO 214 "Intro to Urban Planning" class (September 22, 2011).
- "Riggtown - Not Like the Rest of Southeast West Chester" for the WCU Library Seminar Committee (October 31, 2011).
- "Preserving the West Chester Railroad" for the West Chester Downtown Foundation (April 13, 2014).

MAJOR SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- Member, Borough of West Chester Bicentennial Committee (1998-1999).

- Director, Borough of West Chester Public Library (1998-2001).
- Member, WCU Tenure, Promotion & Sabbatical Leave Committee (1999-2000, 2004-2005).
- Member & volunteer recording secretary, WCU Town-Gown Committee (2000-2008).
- Secretary, Borough of West Chester Planning Commission (2001-2003).
- Member, Borough of West Chester Urban Revitalization Task Force (2002).
- Chair, Curriculum Integration Committee of the WCU President's Work Group on Drug, Alcohol & Violence Prevention (2002-2007).
- Member, Borough of West Chester Ad Hoc Liquor License Study Committee (2005).
- Member, Zoning Hearing Board of the Borough of West Chester (2004-2007).
- Pennsylvania State Constable (2004-2007).
- Member, Borough Council of West Chester (2008-2011). Chaired the Planning, Zoning, Business & Industrial Development Committee, and served on the Finance Committee for four years; also served two years each on the Public Works and Parking Committees.
- Member, Borough of West Chester Historic Preservation Plan Steering Committee (2011).
- Member, Transportation Subcommittee of West Chester Borough Leaders United for Emissions Reduction (environmental advisory committee, 2012 to present).
- Member, Borough of West Chester Planning Commission (October 2013 to present).
- Member, Borough of West Chester Historical & Architectural Review Board (December 2013 to present).
- Member, West Chester Regional Planning Commission (January 2013 to present).

AWARDS

- Certificate of Appreciation, Borough of West Chester (September 2000).
- Distinguished Service Award, West Chester University Office of Minority Affairs (April 2001).
- Mayor's Appreciation Award, Borough of West Chester (December 2001).
- Community Award for Excellence, Black Student Union of Henderson High School (February 2004).
- NAACP (West Chester branch) recognition for "service to the community" (November 2005).
- Nominated for the Verizon/West Chester Public Library "Literacy Hero Award" (Spring 2006).
- West Chester Historic Preservation Award for West Chester Borough Historic Preservation Plan (steering committee member, October 2011).
- NAACP (West Chester branch) "Affirming America's Promise" award (November 2011).
- West Chester Downtown Foundation, "Historic Preservation Service Award" (October 2012).
- Human Relations Council of Greater West Chester, "13th Annual Dr. Robert H. Hanna Community Appreciation award" (September 2013).

WEB SITES

- "Riggstown History Homepage" (sources and reports on local history):
<http://courses.wcupa.edu/jones/his480/riggstown.htm>
- "Archives of French West Africa" (sources and reports on the history of francophone West Africa):
<http://courses.wcupa.edu/jones/his311/archives/arcindex.htm>
- Other teaching web sites at <http://courses.wcupa.edu/jones>