According to the North Carolina College (NCC) bulletins, the first mention of a "Department of History" at NCC was in the 1930-1931 catalog. At that time the only history professor listed was Dock Jackson Jordan, M.A., Columbia University, who taught at North Carolina College (NCC) from 1918-1939. In 1939, Joseph H. Taylor, Ph.D., University of California (1936), joined the history faculty and taught at NCC till 1963. He also headed up the summer school from 1946-1963. Until the early 1960s, Dr. Taylor, was chairman of the Division of Social Sciences. In that role, he presided over the faculty in history, political science, economics, geography, sociology, and social science.

In 1943, Dr. Taylor wrote to NCC President James E. Shepard and suggested that new courses be added to the “History-Social Science Department,” and signed the letter, “Joseph H. Taylor, Department of History.” Nonetheless, at that time, Dr. Taylor presided over an apparently informal Division of Social Sciences. In May 1953, the Division of Social Sciences was officially established with majors in History, Political Science, Social Science, and Sociology.

At the July 23, 1963 executive committee meeting, five new departments were created in the Division of Social Sciences. They were the Commerce and Economics Department, headed by Dr. Tucker; the Geography Department, headed by Dr. Theodore Speigner; the History and Social Sciences Department, headed by Dr. Helen G. Edmonds; the Political Science Department, headed by Dr. Violet Wurfel; and the Sociology Department, headed by Dr. Joseph Himes. This was the official breakup of the division of social science in to five separate departments.

In 1939, in Gaines v. Canada, the US Supreme Court ruled that African American students were entitled to equal access to graduate and professional schools, either at segregated black institutions or, if there were no such programs available, at the all-white state university graduate and professional programs. In order to avoid integrating its white universities, the government of North Carolina authorized NCC (and North Carolina A&T) to establish graduate and law schools, including an M.A. program in history. According to the 1939-40 NCC catalog, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Ch) faculty members Fletcher M. Green, Hugh T. Lefler, Albert Newsome, and William W. Pierson were hired to teach graduate history courses. For the first few years of the graduate program in history, the NCC catalogs indicate that all the graduate history professors were from UNC-Ch. After World War II, UNC-Ch took a diminished role and NCC professors taught the graduate history classes.

Helen G. Edmonds, Ph.D., Ohio State University, joined the history faculty in 1940, later serving as department chair and dean of the graduate school, and John Hope Franklin, Ph.D., Harvard University, taught at NCC from 1943-1947. After Dr. Franklin left for Howard University, Mr. Caulbert A. Jones, M.A., Columbia, joined the faculty.

Other prominent history faculty at NCC and NCCU include Dr. Earlie Thorpe, department chair, 1962-1972, Dr. David W. Bishop, Dr. Beverly W. Jones, Dr. Lydia Lindsey, Dr. Lolita Brockington, Dr. James Brewer, Dr. Arnold Taylor, Dr. Percy E. Murray, chair, 1979-1991, Dr. George Reid, Mr. Caulbert A. Jones, Dr. Sylvia Jacobs, Dr. Freddie Parker, and Dr. Carlton Wilson. The last six served as department chair.

In 1962-63, there were seven full-time graduate history students enrolled at NCC. Two M.A. students graduated in spring 1963. One M.A. student graduated in June 1963. Graduate assistants in 1962-63 were Mr. W. Sherman Jackson, Ms. Josephine Kyles, Mr. Jesse T. Moore, and Mr. Oscar Williams, Jr.

A thriving undergraduate history program established a chapter of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society in 1953-54. In the following year, 1954-55, the undergraduate program also established a chapter of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in the Social Sciences.

Guided by visionary department chairs and professors, the history department continued to grow. In fall 1962, there were 46 undergraduate history majors and 40 majors in spring 1963, ten of whom graduated in May.

Despite their heavy teaching load of 15 hours per week during the 1950’s and early 1960’s NCC history faculty were active in scholarly and professional activities.

The annual conference of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), the premier professional association focused on African American studies, was held at NCC in October 1961 and again in 1987. The program was planned under the leadership of Dr. Joseph H. Taylor of NCC.
Again, in October 1987, the annual conference of the ASNLH was held in Durham. This program was planned under the leadership of Dr. Sylvia Jacobs of NCCU.

Many NCC and NCCU graduates of the history department have earned the Ph.D. in history and made important contributions as teachers and scholars.

As North Carolina Central University celebrates its 100th Anniversary, the Department of History recognizes and acknowledges those who created and molded this University into a leading regional liberal arts institution. The Department of History has been at the center of this liberal arts tradition for nearly eighty years. Today we build upon the work and legacies of Dr. Joseph Taylor, Dr. James Brewer, Dr. Earlie Thorpe, Mr. Caulbert Jones, Dr. Helen Edmonds, and Dr. David Bishop. These historians believed in the vision of Dr. James E. Shepard. Our current faculty and students are working to carry this vision forward – a vision that encompasses the ideals of “truth and service.”

Through relevant programs and innovative teaching the Department of History will meet the needs of the “new generation” of learners who must be prepared to be leaders in our global society. The faculty, the foundation of the success of our students, is in a position to lead the Department and the University as it embraces future opportunities to improve learning through excellent teaching supported by research. The Department has embraced the University’s Quality Enhancement Plan, Communicating to Succeed and will play a major role in providing the programs and instruction that will enhance students’ communications skills. To be sure, for the Department of History, the next eighty years will not mirror the previous eighty. However, current and future students and faculty will lean upon the legacy of the past as we prepare for tomorrow.

Prepared by Jerry Gershenhorn, Ph.D. with
Contributions from Carlton Wilson, Ph.D.
Sources: NCCU Archives & History Department Records
February 2009

The Helen G. Edmonds Classroom Building
APPENDIX A

Number of history faculty in selected early years:
1939-40: 2 (Jordan, Taylor)
1943-44: 2 (Franklin, Taylor) Edmonds on leave
1945-46: 3 (Franklin, Taylor, Edmonds)
1949-50: 4 same as above
1950-51: 4 same as above
1951-52: 5 (Taylor, Edmonds, Jones, Speigner, Arthur C. Banks)
1953-54: 3 (Edmonds, Jones, Taylor)
1955-56: 3 same as above
1957-58: 3 same as above (Morton Keller listed as history instructor of one class in 1957).
1960-61: 3 same as above (George Nixon listed as social science instructor in 1961).
1961-62: 3 same as above

During the 1950s and early 1960s, faculty taught 15 hours per week.

APPENDIX B

Prominent Faculty:

David Bishop (1921-2004)
Taught at NCCU (1971-1991)
A.B., A.M., Howard University; Ph.D., Catholic University, 1962;

James H. Brewer (1917-1974)
A.B., Virginia State University; M.A., Ph.D., Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1949
Taught at NCCU (1963-1973)
University Press, 1969. Won Mayflower Award in 1970 as the best non-fiction book in North
Carolina.

Lolita Gutierrez Brockington
Taught at NCCU (1991-2001)
*The Leverage of Labor: Managing the Cortez Haciendas in Tehuantepec, 1588-1688.* Durham: Duke

Helen G. Edmonds (1911-1995)
NCCU (1941-1977)
A.B., Morgan State College (1933); A.M. (1938), Ph.D. (1946), Ohio State University
Chair, Department of History, 1963
Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Member, Interim Committee for the Administration of the University
Author of NCCU’s Truth and Service ceremony
Distinguished Professor of History Emerita
Member, NCCU Board of Trustees
Trustee Emerita
O. Max Gardner Award, William Hugh McEniry Award, American Historical Association Award for Scholarly Distinction (1988)
Seconded nomination of Dwight D. Eisenhower for Republican presidential nomination at Republican National Convention in 1956

John Hope Franklin (1915-2009)
Taught at NCC (1943-1947)
A.B., Fisk University, A.M., Ph.D. (1941), Harvard University
Wrote first edition of *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans* (1947), while at NCC. Author of numerous books and articles.
After leaving NCC, Dr. Franklin taught at Howard University, served as chair of Brooklyn University’s Department of History, and taught at the University of Chicago and Duke University

Sylvia Jacobs (1946 - )
Ph.D., Howard University
NCCU faculty member, 1976-present
Chair, Department of History, 1992-1999

Caulbert A. Jones (1910-1977)
A.B., Howard University, 1932; A.M., Columbia University, 1934
Taught at NCC (1947-1976)
Chair, Department of History, Shaw University, 1935-1947
Chair, Division of Social Science, Shaw University, 1948-1947
NCCU’s Undergraduate History Club is named in his honor.

Beverly Washington Jones (1948 - )
A.B., M.A., NCCU; Ph.D., UNC-Chapel Hill, 1980.
NCCU (1973-2009)
Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, 2005-2008
Interim Chancellor, 2008
Dean of University College (1999-2004)
Director of Community Service Program (1993-1998)
Director of Saturday Academy, 1997-1999 (academic enrichment program for third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders in six Durham public schools)
She was the first African-American woman to earn a Ph.D. in American history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dock Jackson Jordan
NCC (1918-1941)
B.S., Allen University (1892); B.S. (1925), M.A. (1928), Columbia University
First History professor at NCC
Taught at Morris Brown College, 1893-1904; Principal, Atlanta public school, 1904-1909; President, Kittrell College, 1909-1912; taught at North Carolina A&T College, 1912-1918.
Jordan House was named for him.

J. Ranaldo Lawson
Ph.D., Kent University
NCCU faculty member, 1982-present

Lydia Lindsey
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
NCCU faculty member, 1978-present

Anneliese J. Markus-Kennedy
B.A., Mexico City College; M.A., University of the Americas (Mexico); Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
NCCU (1964 - )
Percy E. Murray  
B.A., M.A., North Carolina Central University; Ph.D., Miami University, Oxford, Ohio  
NCCU, 1979-present  
Chair, Department of History, 1979-1992  
Interim Vice Chancellor, Development  
Dean, Graduate Studies

George S. Nixon (1931-)  
A.B., North Carolina College; A.M., Indiana University  
Taught at NCC (1957-?)

Freddie L. Parker (1953-)  
B.A., M.A., North Carolina Central University; Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
NCCU faculty member, 1978-present  
Chair, Department of History, 1999-2004  
Interim Chair, Department of Modern Foreign Languages, 2008

George W. Reid (1945-)  
Ph.D., Howard University  
NCCU (1974-1990)  
Chair, Department of History, 1974-1978  
Founding Dean, University College, 1986-1990  
President, Kentucky State University, 1998-2002

Arnold H. Taylor  
NCCU (1965- )  
A.B., Virginia Union College, 1951; M.A., Howard University, 1952; Ph.D., Catholic University, 1963  
Taught at Benedict College, Southern University (chair of Division of Social Sciences) before NCC.  
After NCC, he chaired Department of History at Howard University  

Joseph H. Taylor (1898-1982)  
A.B., Michigan State Normal College (1927); A.M., University of Michigan (1930); Ph.D., University of California (1936)  
Taught at NCC (1939-1963)  
Professor of History and Government; Professor of History; Advised Social Science majors;  
While Taylor headed the informal division of social sciences, the NCC Curriculum Committee approved a formal Division of Social Sciences with a major in history, among others, in 1953.  
Under Taylor, increase in courses (notably in African history), majors, faculty; 5 faculty members earned Ph.D.s during Taylor’s tenure; honor societies: Phi Alpha Theta (1953-54) and Pi Gamma Mu (1954-55) set up  
He served as Chairman of Division of Social Sciences, 1939-1963  
Before arriving at NCC, he taught at Lincoln Institute, Alabama State Normal School, Alabama State Teachers College  
Dean, Alabama State Teachers College, 1930-1939  
Taught at Bethune-Cookman, 1970-1976  
Acting VP for Development, Bethune-Cookman, 1978-1979

Earlie E. Thorpe (1924-1989)  
NCCU (1962-1989)  
B.A., M.A., North Carolina College; Ph.D., Ohio State University, 1953  
*Negro Historians in the United States*  
*The Desertion of Man: A Critique of Philosophy of History*  
*The Mind of the Negro: An Intellectual History of Afro-Americans*  
*Eros and Freedom in Southern Life and Thought*  
*The Central Theme of Black History*  
*The Old South: A Psychohistory*
Journal Articles in *Quarterly Review of Higher Education Among Negroes*; *Negro History Bulletin*; *Negro Educational Review*

Department Chair, 1963-1972
NCCU’s Graduate History Club is named in his honor.

**Carlton Wilson (1956- )**

Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
NCCU faculty member, 1982-present
Chair, Department of History, 2004-present

APPENDIX C

**Notable Graduates**

Dept. Chairs: Donnie Bellamy, Chester Gregory, Gossie Hudson, Percy E. Murray, Melvin Murphy, Freddie Parker, George Reid, Lawrence Thomas, Earlie Thorpe, Betty Verbal, Rubin Weston, Carlton Wilson, Oscar Williams, Jr.

Heads of Black Studies Programs: John Clemons, Lorenzo Davis


Ivan Dixon (1931-2008): Actor, Director, Producer

APPENDIX D

**NCCU students (History and Social Science) who have earned doctorates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armfield, Felix</td>
<td>Ph.D. Michigan State University, 1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bellamy, Donnie</td>
<td>Ph.D. U. of Missouri, Columbia, 1971</td>
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<td>Blackmon, Dexter</td>
<td>Ph.D. Georgia State University</td>
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<td>Blackwell, Joyce</td>
<td>Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1998</td>
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<td>Bryant, Sherwin</td>
<td>Ph.D. Ohio State University, 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bunch-Lyons, Beverly</td>
<td>Ph.D. Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, 1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cummings, Robert J.</td>
<td>Ph.D. University of California at Lost Angeles, 1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davis, Lenwood G.</td>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gershenhorn, Jerry</td>
<td>Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gilmore, Al-Tony</td>
<td>Ph.D. U. of Toledo</td>
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<td>Gregory, Chester D.</td>
<td>Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hammond Perry, Kennetta</td>
<td>Ph.D. Michigan State University, 2007</td>
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<td>Harper, Jim C.</td>
<td>Ph.D. Howard University, 2004</td>
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<td>Harris, Glen</td>
<td>Ph.D. Florida State University, 2003</td>
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<td>Hemmingsway, Theodore</td>
<td>Ph.D. University of South Carolina, 1976</td>
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<td>Hudson, Gossie</td>
<td>Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1970</td>
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<td>Jackson, W. Sherman</td>
<td>Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson, Charles</td>
<td>Ph.D. Howard University, 2004</td>
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<td>Jones, Beverly W.</td>
<td>Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1980</td>
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<td>King, Shannon</td>
<td>Ph.D. Binghamton University, 2006</td>
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<td>Lawson, J. Ranaldo</td>
<td>Ph.D. Kent State University, 1976</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mack, Dwayne</td>
<td>Ph.D. Washington State University, 2002</td>
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<td>Mack, Felecia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mason, Byron</td>
<td>Ph.D. Michigan State University, 2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mizelle, Richard, Jr.</td>
<td>Ph.D. Rutgers University, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moore, Jesse T.</td>
<td>Ph.D. U. of Pennsylvania, 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muhammad, Baiyina</td>
<td>Ph.D. Morgan State University, 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murphy, Melvin</td>
<td>Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murray, Percy E.</td>
<td>Ph.D. Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, 1977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parker, Freddie L.</td>
<td>Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1987</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reid, George W.  Ph.D. Howard University, 1974
Rubio, Phil  Ph.D. Duke University, 2006
Shaw, Stephanie Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1986
Sims-Wood, Janet Ph.D.
Smallwood, Arwin Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1997
Suggs, Henry Lewis Ph.D. University of Virginia, 1976
Thompson, Lawrence Ph.D. U. of Missouri, 1973
Thorpe, Earlie Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1954
Thomas, William H.
Washington, Austin Ph.D U. of Pennsylvania
Weston, Rubin F.  D.S.S. Syracuse University, 1964
Williams, Clarence G. Ph.D. University of Connecticut, 1971
Williams, Henry Ph.D. University of Texas, 1970
Williams, Melvin R. Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University, 1976
Williams, Oscar, Jr. Ph.D Ohio State University, 1969
Windley, Lathan Ph.D. University of Iowa, 1974
Wilson, Carlton E. Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1992
Verbal, Betty  D.A. Carnegie Mellon, 1971

APPENDIX E

Department of History - Hall of Fame established October 23, 2008

Faculty:

David W. Bishop (1921-2004)
NCCU (1971-1991)
A.B., A.M., Howard University; Ph.D., Catholic University, 1962

Helen G. Edmonds (1911-1995)
NCCU (1941-1977)
A.B., Morgan State College (1933); A.M. (1938), Ph.D. (1946), Ohio State University
Chair, Department of History, 1962-1963
Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Member, Interim Committee for the Administration of the University
Author of NCCU’s Truth and Service ceremony
Distinguished Professor of History
Member, NCCU Board of Trustees
Trustee Emerita
O. Max Gardner Award, William Hugh McEniry Award, American Historical Association Award for Scholarly Distinction (1988)
Seconded nomination of Dwight D. Eisenhower for Republican presidential nomination at Republican National Convention in 1956
Many of her students earned M.A.s and Ph.D.s

John Hope Franklin (1915-2009)
Taught at NCC (1943-1947)
A.B., Fisk University.; A.M., Ph.D. (1941), Harvard University
Wrote first edition of *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans* (1947), while at NCC. Author of numerous books and articles.
After leaving NCC, Dr. Franklin taught at Howard University, served as chair of Brooklyn University’s Department of History, and taught at the University of Chicago and Duke University.

Caulbert A. Jones (1910-1977)
NCC (1947-1976)
A.B., Howard University, 1932; A.M., Columbia University, 1934
Chair, Department of History, Shaw University, 1935-1947
NCCU’s Undergraduate History Club is named in his honor.
Dock Jackson Jordan  
NCC (1918-1941)  
B.S., Allen University (1892); B.S. (1925), M.A. (1928), Columbia University  
First History professor at NCC  
Taught at Morris Brown College, 1893-1904; Principal, Atlanta public school, 1904-1909; President, Kittrell College, 1909-1912; taught at A&T College, 1912-1918.  
Jordan House was named for him.

Joseph H. Taylor (1898-1982)  
NCC (1939-63)  
A.B., Michigan State Normal College (1927); A.M., University of Michigan (1930); Ph.D., University of California (1936)  
Taught at Lincoln Institute, Alabama State Normal School, Alabama State Teachers College  
Dean, Alabama State Teachers College, 1930-1939  
Taught at Bethune-Cookman, 1970-1976  
Acting VP for Development, Bethune-Cookman, 1978-1979  
Professor of History and Government; Professor of History;  
Advised Social Science majors;  
Division of Social Sciences was an informal division. NCC Curriculum Committee approved a Division of Social Sciences with a major in history, among others, in 1953. Taylor says that he was Thorpe’s graduate advisor.  
Under Taylor, increase in courses, notably in African history, majors, faculty; 5 faculty members earned Ph.D.s during these years while teaching at NCC; honor societies: Phi Alpha Theta (1953-54) and Pi Gamma Mu (1954-55) set up  
Chairman of Division of Social Sciences, 1939-1963

Earlie E. Thorpe  
NCC (1962-1989)  
B.A., M.A., North Carolina College; Ph.D., Ohio State University, 1953  
Negro Historians in the United States  
The Desertion of Man: A Critique of Philosophy of History  
The Mind of the Negro: An Intellectual History of Afro-Americans  
Eros and Freedom in Southern Life and Thought  
The Central Theme of Black History  
The Old South: A Psychohistory  
Journal Articles in Quarterly Review of Higher Education Among Negroes; Negro History Bulletin; Negro Educational Review  
Department Chair, 1963-1972  
NCCU’s Graduate History Club is named in his honor.