

Historical Tour Outline

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Theme: Relationships in History

1. Introduction to Tour [*Special Collections Library*]
 - a. Introduce myself
 - i. The theme for this tour will be about relationships in history
 - ii. History has left us with events and numbers to share, but I think the element that really brings light to how human everything that has happened here really was is the nature of relationships between the players. Let's start with a huge player here at UVA:
 - b. Jefferson was born on April 13th, 1743 in Shadwell, Virginia
 - i. Background on the Jefferson Family:
 1. Peter Jefferson- Father; was a cartographer and a surveyor, was known to create the first map of Virginia
 - a. TJ will also be shown to follow in his father's footsteps, when he surveyed the land for the University of Virginia himself
 2. Jane Randolph Jefferson (mother) brought connections from one of the most important families in VA at the time—Robert E. Lee and John Marshall
 - a. Jefferson scoffed at this lineage; distaste in artificial privileges
 - b. Jefferson was much more of a “hold your own” kind of guy, and this can be seen in his dedicated pursuit of knowledge throughout history
 - c. At age 17, TJ entered the College of William and Mary
 - i. Jefferson was said to be an obsessive student, spending 15 hours a day with his books, 3 hours practicing his violin, and the remaining 6 hours eating and sleeping
 - ii. Problems TJ had with W&M:
 1. small school with only 7 faculty members, would go home after session
 2. all except one were Anglican clergymen
 3. Everything took place in one building (Wren Building), and when it burned down, the whole school burned with it—happened 3 times!
 - d. Though he characterized his time at W&M as being filled with some of the “most profound and philosophical discussions” he would have in his entire lifetime, still:
 - i. Out of his troubles with W&M came his vision for the Academical Village
 1. “A University should not be a house, but a village”
 - ii. Maverick Engraving drawn by Peter Maverick in 1822
 1. Was definitive of some relationships, but ambiguous on others:
 - a. Professors and students: closer to each other, but still hierarchy
 - b. But who would be building this school up from the ground? And where would they stay?
 - c. Who would be attending the University? What would they learn?
 - d. We will continue to look at the nature of these important relationships at the next stop.
2. Slavery and UVA [*Garden*]
 - a. Couple of things to recall from the previous stop:
 - i. TJ took after his father and surveyed the land for UVA, but all he did was survey
 - ii. The construction of the University was largely possible due to the hours of back-breaking slave labor
 - iii. There isn't an exact answer for Jefferson's views on slavery
 1. Let us keep in mind, this is the man that in 1776 pens the Declaration of Independence
 - a. Where he claims “all men are created equal....inalienable rights”
 - b. he arrived to the Continental Congress on a carriage mounted on enslaved laborers
 2. In 1781 he published his only book, Notes on the State of Virginia, where he included a section on how the institution of slavery was completely against with the American Revolution stood for

- 3. Yet, his accounts prove his deep-rooted racism; talks about there being biological differences between blacks and whites
 - iv. Let's move away from talking about Jefferson and talk more about enslaved laborers
 - 1. The number of enslaved laborers in Albemarle County outnumbered the amount of whites from when the University cornerstone was laid in 1817 until the end of the Civil War
 - 2. In construction: slaves were involved in the terracing of land and firing/arranging of bricks
 - v. The University was one of the first institutions to own slaves
 - 1. Professors would also bring their own slaves, who would be responsible for some University housekeeping as well
 - vi. In 1825, the University opened to students
 - 1. The first students were not allowed bring slaves
 - 2. Many would keep their slaves in the outskirts of the community and meet with them at the end of the Lawn to retrieve things from them
 - vii. Notable slaves
 - 1. Lewis Commodore was the University bell ringer and opened the library
 - a. Bought for \$580 and served the University for 13 years
 - 2. Henry Martin was born a slave on the day Jefferson died at Monticello, then became a freed man that worked to ring the bell for 53 years
 - viii. We'll talk more about how slavery created tensions between professors and students
3. Architecture, Student/Professor Tensions [*Pavilion 3*]
- a. Slavery created tensions between professors and students
 - i. While many students were Southern White males, used to the institution of slavery, professors were European and not fond of it
 - ii. Gave students too much a sense of Southern "entitlement"
 - 1. Idea of "student self-governance", was unfortunately unchecked
 - 2. October of 1825 masked students threw urine through a window of Pavilion 5 and insulted him by saying "Damn the European Professor!"
 - a. Two professors resigned and the rest threatened to do the same
 - b. Jefferson had to assemble all of the students and ask the perpetrators to turn themselves in: 3 (including Jefferson's own nephew) would be expelled
 - b. Let's reorient ourselves with Academical Village
 - i. Explain pavilions and lawn rooms
 - ii. Each Pavilion is unique in architectural style
 - iii. Raggi Brothers (came from Italy in 1819), story on capitals
 - iv. Point out difference between artisan fired bricks and slave fired bricks
 - v. Jefferson as a Democratic-Republican, in full support of all things being Virginian
 - 1. Virginia pine is still stained mahogany today
4. Civil War [*Lawn Room 19*]
- a. The Civil War is a great example of how connected UVa students were with history at that time and even now
 - i. A few years ago a Civil-war era rifle was uncovered from beneath the floorboards of Lawn Room 19
 - ii. Though the University was (1 of only 2) open during the war, all of the student lawn rooms were converted into hospital quarters for Confederate soldiers and it is said that one Confederate soldier has died in every room!
 - b. What was student opinion on the war?
 - i. One night in 1860 Jefferson Literary and Debate Society voted unanimously that VA should secede should Lincoln be elected president
 - ii. In 1856 Senator Preston Brooks (SC) beats Senator Charles Sumner (Massachusetts, abolitionist) with his cane on the Senate floor—the cane breaks!
 - 1. Jeff Soc sends Brooks a new cane in support of his pro-slavery views.
 - iii. In February 1861, the two housing complexes at the time, Dawson's Row and Carr's Hill, raced in rivalry to be the first group to publicly wave a Confederate flag in the state of Virginia

- c. Union generals arrive at UVa in March 1865
 - i. Generals Sheridan and Custer, threatening to burn down UVa as they had VMI the previous year
 - ii. Ultimately it was John B. Minor with a white handkerchief tied to his walking cane, leading faculty to beg the troops for their mercy
- 5. History of African Americans [*Lawn Room 43 West*]
 - a. It takes almost 100 years after the end of the Civil War for African Americans to be admitted into the University, and even longer for women to be admitted into the largest undergraduate school, the College of Arts and Sciences
 - i. Women with special ties to the University (relatives on faculty and board) attended the graduate schools of Education and Nursing only
 - b. In 1935, is the first African American Alice Jackson-Stuart applies for her Master's in French
 - i. BOV sends her a letter saying they have "good and sufficient reasons" to deny her, stating that the education of colored and whites people was against the policy of the Commonwealth of Virginia
 - ii. In 1936 the state legislature establishes a system to pay African American students who are qualified for UVa but unable to attend because of their race
 - 1. She attends Columbia University on the University of Virginia's dime
 - c. In 1950 the first AA student, Gregory Swanson is admitted to the graduate law school
 - i. officially the beginning of desegregation
 - ii. He drops out just a summer later (1951) because of extreme racial harassment
 - d. After Swanson's admission, Walter Ridley becomes the first black to gain any kind of degree at the University (June 1953, Curry), and the first black to get a PhD from a major Southern university
 - i. In August 1953, Louise Hunter is the second black and first black woman to gain a degree at UVa, also earning a doctorate in education
 - e. 1959: Robert Bland is the first AA to earn an undergraduate degree at UVA in Electrical Engineering
 - i. He referred to most of his time as a "struggle", and said Charlottesville as a whole was more welcoming than most students/professors
 - ii. "Bobby stayed" was the rallying cry for blacks enduring racial harassment at the University into the 1960s
 - iii. Leroy Willis was the first AA student to live on the Lawn, considered a high honor, in 1960
- 6. Present day AA, and History of Women [*End of Lawn somewhere*]
 - a. We've talked about a lot of the "firsts" for African Americans at the University, but how prevalent were efforts after the 60s?
 - i. In 1973, StudCo president Larry Sabato demands that UVA administrators that had membership at the Farmington Country Club (strict segregational policy) would resign
 - 1. President Hereford of the University does this
 - 2. Note the new relationship between professors and students: now students who were once pro-slavery are pro-integration, and professors who were against slavery are now pro-segregation
 - b. Just to touch quickly on the History of Women at the University, women were not admitted into undergraduate schools until 1969
 - i. First years were described by one of the first female students as very rough, with men stomping or speaking over women in classes, constantly questioning why they were there
 - ii. Today, women hold the majority of attendance at UVa (55%)
 - 1. Prominent graduates including Katie Couric & Tina Fey
 - 2. Through organizations like Feminism is For Everyone, women at the University are making their presence known and excelling in what they do
- 7. Conclusion stop [*Facing Cabell Steps*]
 - a. I know there was a lot covered on the tour, so any questions before I make a conclusion?
 - b. I'm sure you've noticed the construction of the Rotunda, which unfortunately will not be reopened to the public until next May
 - i. This is actually the third time that the Rotunda has been closed for reconstruction, the first being after a terrible fire in 1895 that ruined the entire interior

- c. After the fire, an architectural firm from NY led by Stanford White came to reconstruct the Rotunda
 - i. When they did so, they also added more classroom space in the form of these three buildings: Rouse, Cabell and Cocke Hall
 - ii. It was controversial among many around this time because the additions took away from Jefferson's vision for the University
 - 1. Convocation: face Rotunda, Graduation/final exercises: walk down the lawn and observe the Blue Ridge Mountains (symbolizing going out into the world and making an impact)
 - 2. What many did not know is that the BOV fully supported this decision in order to cover up the Veneble Lane Community, a free black community organized by Kitty Foster
 - a. derogatorily called "Canada"
 - b. Physical barrier UVA's own BOV put up to accepting peaceful assimilation of African Americans into the University/Charlottesville Community
- d. In 1963 a black student, Wesley Harris, coordinated MLK Jr. speaking on these very Cabell steps
 - i. Over 900 students gathered to hear Dr. King speak, only 1 faculty member came
 - ii. Students start to take a positive spin of "student self-governance", fighting for fairness and inclusion of their peers
 - iii. Contrast this with the way students were literally racing each other at the beginning of the Civil War a little over 100 years ago to display a Confederate flag
- e. It is no understatement to say that in many ways UVA has progressed
 - i. Today, African American students make up about 6.7% of UVA students, and though this is still a very small number, how amazing is it to think these students are literally making history, being the trailblazers for what I hope will one day be a completely diverse place
- f. I'll end with a short story about Jefferson on his last days
 - i. He was bed ridden with sickness and called over his enslaved laborer (the only one who understood him and his needs in these final days) asking if it was the 4th yet.
 - 1. Wants to pass away on July 4th to be remembered with the day of nation's independence
 - 2. Jefferson does indeed die on the 4th of July in 1826, 3 things written on his grave: Writer of the Virginia Statutes of religious freedom, Author of the Declaration of Independence and finally Father of the University of Virginia
 - ii. Just as Jefferson sought to be remembered by fathering this University, which he endearingly called the "hobby of his old age", UVA students today play a large role in their own fate in deciding what they will be remembered for in their time here at the University
 - 1. In light of this past, very difficult year at UVA (with the Hannah Graham case, the Rolling Stone article, and the most recent case of police brutality with a member of my class, Martese Johnson) I can say that I have seen some of the most amazing acts of kindness and community
 - a. Students banding together to stand up for what they believe in just as they had when they came to hear MLK speak
 - 2. What was once a physical barrier between the free black community, Canada, is now a building that by it's a very nature (housing the Department of Music) is capable of bringing out some of the most talented and creative sides of our student body.
 - 3. It is my hope that each and every one of you walk away from this tour understanding the struggle faced by various groups at of University, but also appreciating that students today constantly strive to create a community worth remembering.