The Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project was founded in 2007. Through clinical courses, research, civil rights advocacy, legal services, and community engagement, associated scholars and students examine the relationship between race-based miscarriages of justice in US history and current pressing racial and criminal justice issues. CRRJ investigates cold cases of racial homicide and supports communities seeking to unearth information about past racial violence and to engage in dialogue aimed at reconciliation. In 2017, CRRJ researched scores of cases in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina. It continued to build the CRRJ-Nobles Archive of racial homicides from 1930-1970 in the eleven states of the former Confederacy. It pursued reparative programs in many cases on its docket, assisting communities in their efforts to generate civic dialogue by renaming streets in honor of the victims, placing markers at the sites, holding “truth meetings,” and engaging artists. CRRJ collaborated with public schools, libraries and museums across the South to develop educational programming. In collaboration with Alabama organizations, including The Elmore Bolling Foundation, CRRJ also launched a series of symposia titled Resurrecting Their Alabama Stories. Events in Tuskegee in June and in Birmingham in October provided the opportunity to gather testimony and related material objects on racial violence murders in the Northern and Middle Districts of the state.
Robert Barton—Sheffield, AL (May 14, 1931)

A man named Clifton Barton wrote to the NAACP asking for help on a case. He reported that Robert Barton, 53, was shot on his farm “in cold blood” and that the alleged assailant, a white man, was being held in jail. Available sources indicate that the accused perpetrator was released from custody as Clifton Barton feared. There is no indication of further legal proceedings. CRRJ located and interviewed Barton’s granddaughter, Pearlean Sangster, who conveyed her understanding that Barton was a farmer and had been shot while plowing his field by a man who had hid behind a tree. CRRJ’s investigation is ongoing.

Woodrow Allen Bush—Anniston, AL (August 23, 1936)

In mid-August of 1936, a mob of white men were searching for a black man who had allegedly attempted to kidnap a white baby. The mob eventually came upon the home of Art Bush who, fearing for his life, shot at them in self-defense. He hit three members of the mob and one of them, Pat Hicks, died from his wounds a few days thereafter. Local law enforcement authorities arrested Bush and he was held in jail on the charge of murder. Less than two weeks later, the brother of the deceased mob member, Ozzie Hicks, killed Art Bush’s son, Woodrow Allen Bush, in an apparent act of vengeance. Art Bush was prosecuted for the murder of Pat Hicks, but ultimately acquitted. Notwithstanding his acquittal, Art Bush was forced out of town under threats of death. Ozzie Hicks also stood trial for the murder of Woodrow Allen Bush, but was found not guilty by an all-white jury. Art Bush’s granddaughter, Pamela Pierce, who lives in Anniston, told CRRJ that her grandfather was targeted because the owner of the plantation where he worked had put him in charge of a crew of white and black sharecroppers. In recent years, a descendant of the Hicks family reached out to the Bush family to apologize for the harm that her forebears had cause them. CRRJ continues to work with the family to further these initial inroads toward restorative justice.

Edward Craig—Bessemer, AL (April 1, 1949)

Edward “Ed” Craig, 60-years-old, was shot by Bessemer Police Officer John P. Helton on April 1, 1949, while standing on the porch of his white neighbor’s home. Officer Quinton H. Barnes was also present at the time of the shooting. According to the officers, Craig was holding a shotgun and he refused to drop it pursuant to their orders to do so. According to a Department of Justice file, the shooting was witnessed by Craig’s next-door neighbor, Emmett Ray, a 23-year-old white college student. Ray contacted the FBI and initially reported that the Bessemer officers’ account of events was false and that no warnings were issued before they commenced firing. Mere hours later though, Ray rescinded his statement and asked that the “writer tear up any notes he may have made.” The Craig file was subsequently marked “closed.” Just three days later, Officers Helton and Barnes were implicated in the killing of another African American man, Hayes Kinney.

Hayes Kinney—Bessemer, AL (April 4, 1949)

Hayes Kinney, 44, was picked up at his home by Bessemer Police Officers John P. Helton and Quinton H. Barnes in the early morning hours of April 4, 1949. Reportedly, Kinney had been identified by a white couple as the possible perpetrator of a shooting incident at their home. Though neither saw the purported assailant, the couple reported to the authorities that Kinney was likely the culprit because he had been upset with them the day prior. After arresting Kinney, the officers claimed that he struck Officer Barnes in an attempt to escape. They further asserted that upon arrival, Kinney attacked the officers two more times and as a result, they were forced to physically subdue Kinney. After being placed in a cell for some time, Kinney was permitted to see a nurse at the jail, who, as revealed by her notes, remarked to herself, “what happened to this man?” To her surprise, Kinney, who appeared unconscious, responded, “The police beat me.” A few minutes after, he went into profound shock and died.

Kinney’s autopsy report reveals that he suffered extensive injuries including collapsed lungs and a massive hemorrhage in his scalp. A federal investigation ensued culminating in a report by Special Agent Charles L. Carroll, but it appears that there was no finding of a civil rights violation. Bessemer Police Chief Lacey Alexander reported that a “thorough investigation of the matter” indicated that the officers “did not exceed normal force necessary to effect victim’s incarceration.” Though Officers Helton and Barnes were involved in the killing of another African American, Edward Craig, just three days prior, there is no indication that the officers were investigated for a pattern or practice of police brutality.
McKinley Fox—Glendon, Al (April 26, 1937)

Fox’s badly mutilated body was found near the Southern Railway right of way near Glendon, Alabama on April 26, 1937. The details surrounding Fox’s death are unfortunately quite sparse at this juncture. The only information uncovered thus far stems from a file in the archives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In particular, therein was a document from J. L. LeFlore, Director of the NAACP Mobile Branch, stating that the investigation into Fox’s death was stopped because members of the African American community were unwilling to give statements to the NAACP. Though the full details were not forthcoming, LeFlore did learn that white men of Walker Springs, Alabama, were reported to have made threats against Fox because he used profanity and reprimanded other blacks for being fearful of the local whites.

John Newton Robinson—Emelle, AL (July 4, 1930)

Reverend John Newton Robinson, 60, was killed in July of 1930 in an incident that has come to be known as the “Emelle Riots.” On the afternoon of July 4, Robinson’s brother, Tom, and his two sons got into a dispute with a local store owner, Clarence Boyd, over an alleged failure to pay for a car battery that cost $3.50. The dispute became physical and escalated when Boyd’s uncle, Grover, pulled out a shotgun and shot at Tom. One of Tom’s sons shot back and killed Boyd. Two white residents purportedly believed that an African American man named Esau was the shooter and apprehended him. At the direction of the local sheriff, the men tied Esau to a post in the town square. His release was ordered after it came to light that he was the wrong man, but the white mob shot and killed him anyway. His body was tied up by the side of the road and remained there until around noon the following day.

Meanwhile, a mob of white men continued to search for Tom and his sons. Approximately 50 men gathered at the house of John Newton Robinson as they suspected that he might be hiding his brother and nephews. Reverend Newton, holding his shotgun, refused to let them in and held them at bay while members of his family escaped through the rear door. An unidentified member of the mob fired, shooting and killing Reverend Newton. After his death, the sheriff led the mob in burning down his house. The search for members of the Robinson family continued throughout the night. The mob raided the homes of African-American residents and stopped any cars with African-American passengers. When one driver refused to stop, the mob opened fired and killed a passenger in the vehicle named Corinne Dial. Neither the sheriff nor any members of the groups which killed Esau or John Newton Robinson were ever brought to trial. However, Tom Robinson was convicted for his role in the death of Clarence Boyd and served a ten-year sentence.

Norris Dendy—Clinton, SC (July 4, 1933)

Only July 4, 1933, 33-year-old Norris Dendy, a prosperous wood dealer, was abducted from a jail cell in Clinton, South Carolina and lynched by a mob. Earlier that day, Dendy was driving community residents to Lake Murray for an Independence Day picnic celebration. A white man, Marvin Lollis, who had been hired by another white man named Pack Pitts to take his truck and help drive people to the lake. Reportedly, Dendy and Lollis got into a verbal argument about whose truck was faster. The engagement escalated, and Dendy was alleged to have struck Lollis. Recognizing that the incident meant trouble, Dendy fled the scene, but was subsequently arrested for speeding in nearby Goldville and jailed. Some reports indicate that proper protocol required that he bought to Laurens, the county seat, but he was brought back to Clinton. That night, a mob pulled him from the jail and his badly beaten body was discovered the next morning.

Governor Blackwood sent two detectives, Richardson and Newman, to investigate the case and they concluded that “Dendy was murdered, not lynched.” Dendy’s family was not satisfied, and they continued to push for justice with some assistance from the NAACP. Ultimately, Solicitor Homer S. Blackwell sought murder indictments for 5 white men: Marvin Lollis, P.M. Puitss, Hubert Pitts, Roy Pitts, and J. Pitts Ray, but the grand jury declined to indict.

Dendy’s father, J.E.Y. Dendy, pursued a civil lawsuit against the South Carolina anti-lynching statute that authorized exemplary damages to the legal representative of a lynching victim against the county in which the lynching took place. The South Carolina statute provided for civil damages of “at least $2,000” in cases of a proven lynching on the basis that the county was liable for the lynching. The Laurens County Board Commissioners unanimously voted to deny a proposed settlement in the amount of $2,000. Reports indicate that the family was looking to take the matter to court, but no records have been found to verify whether further litigation was commenced and if so, the results thereof.
Robert Johnson—Florence, SC (October 31, 1953)

On Saturday, October 31, 1953, 27-year-old Robert Johnson was shot in Florence, South Carolina by Patrolman Hubert L. Scott of the Florence Police Department. The patrolman claimed that when he attempted to arrest Johnson on a drunk and disorderly charge, Johnson pulled a knife and attacked him. Purportedly fearing for his life, Scott shot Johnson who died of his injuries shortly thereafter at McLeod Infirmary. Witnesses testified to a ‘scuffle’ before the shooting. Their testimony also confirmed that an open switch blade was found near the victim’s body immediately after the shooting. However, none of the witnesses reported seeing the knife in the victim’s hand during the altercation.

Coroner Joe Clarke convened a coroner’s jury and an inquest was held on November 2, 1953. A cut in Patrolman Scott’s uniform was cited as evidence of the victim’s use of the knife during the arrest and the coroner’s jury returned a verdict of justifiable homicide committed in self-defense. A grand jury returned a no bill on January 4, 1954. At the request of the City Attorney for Florence, Wylie Caldwell, the grand jury convened again on January 5, 1954 and returned a true bill on the charge of murder. The case was presented in the Court of General Sessions on January 5, 1954 with only one witness: Florence Police Department Chief Julian A. Price. Judge Steve C. Griffith directed a verdict of not guilty.

Rudolph “Dock” Rogers—Pender County, SC (August 28, 1933)

Rudolph “Dock” Rogers was a 45-year-old farmer who lived in the Willard section of Pender County, North Carolina, just north of the city of Burgaw. On the morning of August 27, 1933, Rogers allegedly got into a dispute with a white man named Tom Piner, a known bootlegger, over a whisky deal. In a purported act of retaliation, Piner claimed that Rogers had shot at his residence while his wife was home. A police warrant was promptly issued for Rogers and a mob, consisting of both private citizens as well as law enforcement officials, set out to capture Rogers who had barricaded himself inside his house. Shots were exchanged, and the mob responded by setting Rogers’s house on fire. As he attempted to escape the blaze, Rogers was shot and apprehended. Sheriff J. T. Brown was driving Rogers to Burgaw, when he claims that a flat tire forced him to stop his vehicle. While he was immobile, the mob seized Rogers and riddled his body with bullets. Once source described the scene as “a young army shooting the man to pieces.”

On August 28, 1933, the local Justice of the Peace, who was believed to be a member of the mob that killed Rogers, conducted a coroner’s inquest that concluded that Rogers was killed by the hands of an “unknown person or persons.” The case caught the attention of Governor John Ehringhaus’ office and an ensuing probe was launched under the supervision of Solicitor Woodus Kellum from Wilmington. Over 50 witnesses were heard by Kellum and Magistrate E. H. Cranmer, but no perpetrators were identified and no charges were ever brought.

Bennie Thompson—Ninety-Six, SC (October 8, 1933)

Bennie Thompson, 38, worked as farmer and lived with his wife, Ada Thompson, and their three children. On October 8, 1933, Thompson’s badly beaten body was found off the side of a highway in Ninety Six, South Carolina. Following an investigation, Burley Leppard, a cotton textile worker, was identified as a suspect and placed under arrest on October 9. Leppard confessed to the murder and identified three accomplices: Morris, Mayes and Webb. According to Leppard, the four got into a fight with Thompson and Thompson pulled a knife on them. Thompson was subsequently arrested for pulling a gun on the men after they chased him for some time. After the arrest, Leppard...
stated that they went to the jail and asked Police Chief Calvin Rush to let them have Thompson. According to Leppard, Chief Rush told them to wait until dark to come back and they would find the jail door unlocked. Leppard said they came back once the sun set, and the jail door was wide open and the lock was hanging in the door cell. Leppard and the four men proceeded to beat Thompson, drag him out of the cell and into Leppard’s car. The men drove Thompson a mile and half down the road, where they beat him and left him to die.

An initial bill of indictment against Chief Rush was withdrawn and he subsequently resigned from his position shortly after the killing. Despite his confession, Leppard was ultimately acquitted after a jury deliberated for just ten minutes. Directed verdicts were entered in the cases of Morris, Mayes, and Webb, on the grounds that the state had failed to introduce sufficient evidence to connect the three individuals with the death of Thompson.

Thompson’s widow, Ada Thompson, also brought a civil suit under South Carolina’s anti-lynching statute. The county’s attorney told the newspaper the suit would revolve around a question of fact as to whether Thompson’s death was caused by “lynching” or by “murder.” Four years after the complaint was filed, on March 3, 1937, the $2,000 damage suit against Greenwood County was dismissed in civil court by Judge G. Dewey Oxner because plaintiff’s attorneys were not present.

**Stafford Dames—Miami, FL (July 27, 1937)**

On July 27, 1937, a 19-year-old printer’s apprentice named Stafford G. Dames Jr. was walking to his home in Miami, Florida when he was shot and killed by officers of the Miami Police Department. The law enforcement agents claimed that they had been pursuing an African American suspect who allegedly committed a break-in at a church several blocks north of where Dames was killed. A coroner’s jury consisting of six white men ultimately found that the officers were justified in shooting Dames.

Dames’ father, Stafford G. Dames Sr., an immigrant from the Bahamas, had significant resources and called for further investigation into the case. The national offices of the NAACP and ACLU collaborated to send a private investigator to Miami to interview neighbors, friends, and prominent citizens of Miami. The investigator, Frank McCallister, was also involved in the Workers’ Defense League and helped to gain the support of labor groups in the campaign for justice. The community also came together to support Dames’ family and push for greater NAACP involvement in the area.

In October, the Dade County grand jury convened to investigate several cases in the area. Dames’ case was one of these matters, but the grand jury returned a no bill on charges against the officers in November. Though the prospect of filing a civil suit surfaced as a topic in both correspondence and media coverage, there is no evidence that one was ever filed. The national offices of the NAACP and ACLU collaborated to send a private investigator to Miami to interview neighbors and friends of Dames, and prominent citizens of the city.

**Albert Hall—Plant City, FL (December 25, 1946)**

Albert Hall was arrested on the afternoon of Christmas Day, 1946 in Plant City, Florida. Authorities claimed that the underlying charge stemmed from intoxication. That evening, Hall’s wife and daughter were notified by phone that Hall had committed suicide by hanging himself. By the time Hall’s family was contacted, the police had already brought Hall’s body to a funeral home. When Mrs. Hall demanded an autopsy on her husband’s body, she was informed that the Medical Examiner had gone on vacation.

In February 1947, James L. McDonald informed Mrs. Hall that he had been in jail when Hall was brought in. According to McDonald, Hall was already dead upon arrival and his remains were dragged into a cell by two officers. McDonald left town shortly after relaying this information. An employee of the Plant City Police Department named Bill Cartmill told Hall’s wife that he knew her husband had been beaten to death by the officers. Cartmill was subsequently forced to leave town under death threats. Mrs. Hall hired two attorneys but was unsuccessful in initiating a civil suit against the officers. In June 1948, Hall’s body was exhumed, but the physican was unable to determine a cause of death. A few months later, the Miami FBI office filed a report on the case. The DOJ closed the case in February 1949, citing an insufficiency of evidence to establish a civil rights violation.
Edward Reeves—Merritt Island, FL (January 17, 1935)

Edward Reeves was a farmer in Brevard County who was said to have owned quite a large grove. Apparently, Reeves had sold a white man named George Holden some greens on credit. Reeves stopped by Holden’s place of employment, a lumber mill in Merrit Island, to collect payment. When Reeves arrived, Holden refused to pay. It was claimed that Reeves was about to strike Holden, prompting another white employee, John L. Conrad, to intervene by striking and killing Reeves with a piece of timber in defense of another.

Conrad was arrested and charged with first degree murder, while Holden was charged as an accomplice to murder. Both Conrad and Holden posted bail. Reeves had been a member of the Brevard County NAACP and the local branch hired an attorney to investigate the case. Since Reeves had been a successful farmer, there was a feeling that whites in the area would be indifferent to his murder. Unfortunately, the investigation was hampered as witnesses were intimidated from testifying and some persons of interest were prompted to move out of state.

Conrad and Holden were never tried for killing Reeves.

John Watkin White—Jacksonville, FL (March 6, 1952)

John W. White, 35, was beaten and killed by unknown members of the Jacksonville Police Department on his way home from school on the evening of March 3, 1952. It is unknown why officers stopped White or whether there had been any exchange thereafter, but White was severely beaten and died from his injuries. The FBI received a complaint about White’s death from his sister, Dahlia Owens, who lived in Chicago at the time. Owens had heard the details of White’s death from their brother, Carter, who lived in Atlanta and had traveled to Florida. Although Owens contacted the FBI in early April 1952, she ultimately requested that there be no investigation into the incident for fear of her family’s safety in Jacksonville. Correspondence between an Assistant Attorney General from Washington and the U.S. District Attorney in Tampa, Florida indicates that the case was closed in May 1952.

CRRJ’s research unearthed NAACP reports indicating that the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, founded in Atlanta in 1919, was spearheading the investigation of the Finch case. The NACCP declined to list Finch’s death as a “lynching,” but noted that the involvement of law enforcement officers might warrant the designation of “legalized lynching.” There is no indication of an investigation by state or federal officials. It appears that the perpetrators were never identified. Conversations with living relatives raised the specter that Finch and Smith may have been in a consensual romantic relationship. Our investigation is ongoing.

Reed Belton—Coffee County, GA (January 16, 1955)

Belton Reed, 28, was born in Florida around 1928 to James and Mattie Reed. Part of a farming family, he had three brothers and two sisters: James, Leroy, Calvin, Dorothy and Ruth Mae.

On January 16, 1955, Belton Reed was shot and beaten while incarcerated in Coffee County Jail.

Thomas Finch—Atlanta, GA (September 10, 1936)

Thomas Finch was 28-years-old at the time of his murder in Atlanta. Finch was employed as an orderly in the white section of the segregated Grady Hospital. On Thursday, September 10, 1936, a white woman named Ozella Smith went to Grady Hospital to be treated for a broken limb. Finch helped direct her to the Emergency Clinic in the hospital. The evening after, Smith filed a complaint with the Atlanta Police Department alleging that Finch had raped her during her stay in the hospital. That same evening, about six vehicles were spotted circling Finch’s home for several hours. At approximately 3:00 am on Saturday, September 12, Finch was abducted by five men, two of whom were in police uniform. Finch was later found near the entrance to Grady Hospital in an unconscious state. He had been badly beaten and shot at least nine times. He succumbed to his injuries about an hour later.

Jesse Jefferson—Butts County, Georgia (June 12, 1948)

Jesse Jefferson was a tenant farmer in his 50s and father of seven in rural Butts County, Georgia. On June 12, 1948, Jefferson and one of his sons were travelling down Highway 16, just outside of Jackson, Georgia, in a wagon. White men in an automobile came behind Jefferson on the highway, wanting him to move over and give them room to pass. A heated exchange of words ensued when Jefferson did not move fast enough for the men in the car. They proceeded to stop and began to throw stones at Jefferson and his son who, in turn, returned fire. After the rock battle ended, Jefferson returned home, gathered his family and went to a neighbor’s house. Shortly thereafter, men in a car drove past the house in which the Jefferson family was hiding and fired into the home. The men shot Jefferson, killing him. One of the white men, A.G. Wilder, approached the house and was shot and injured by one of Jefferson’s sons. Three of the four who killed Jefferson were identified by police: A.G. Wilder, Jerry Thomas, and John Hobbes. The fourth was never identified.

The three known shooters were arrested. Two of them, Wilder and Thomas, were arrested and charged with voluntary manslaughter. Charges against the third, John Hobbs, were ultimately dropped. Two of Jefferson’s sons, H.W. Jefferson and Morris Jefferson, were arrested as well, and charged with assault with intent to murder. Ultimately the Jeffereons as well as Wilder and Thomas were acquitted and released.

Willie Johnson—Brunswick, GA (May 3, 1949)

On the evening of May 3, 1949, 56-year-old Willie Johnson, a Baptist church deacon, was shot and killed in Brunswick, Georgia by officers of the Brunswick Police Department. Earlier that day, Johnson had left his home to go to church. Two hours after his departure, Officers Leonard Clayton Sapp and Woodrow Wilson Woodham stopped Johnson for standing on a corner and “looking suspiciously at a house.” The officers claimed that Johnson pulled a pistol on them so they opened fire and killed him in self-defense.

Johnson’s wife, Minnie Johnson, contacted the local Brunswick chapter of the NAACP and reported that her husband had left home unarmed that evening. Her statement, coupled with Johnson’s standing in the community, fueled the local NAACP’s search for answers. The Brunswick NAACP sent a letter containing the details of Johnson’s shooting to Constance Baker Motley at the NAACP’s legal office in New York. She forwarded the details to the Department of Justice Civil Rights Section and requested an investigation.

The coroner’s inquest performed on May 4, 1949, determined that Johnson died of multiple gunshot wounds inflicted by Officer Woodrow Wilson Woodham, but that the officer had acted in self-defense. A grand jury declined to return indictments of the officers for the murder of Johnson. Because of the circumstances surrounding Johnson’s death, the Department of Justice ultimately concluded that there could be no successful prosecution under federal civil rights statutes and dropped the matter.
Lacy Mitchell—Five Forks, GA (September 27, 1930)

In September 27, 1930, Lacy Mitchell, 53, was murdered by four assailants at his family home in Five Forks, Georgia. Mitchell had testified in pre-trial proceedings against two white men, Henry Price and C V. Moore, who had been accused of raping his cousin, Minnie Lee Thomas. In retaliation, O.E. Allen and Jack Bradley, along with two other unidentified men, hunted Mitchell down in order to flog him. Allen and Bradley were said to have entered Mitchell’s house with their faces painted for concealment, while the other two men waited outside. Claiming they were acting in self-defence in response to Mitchell brandishing a gun in his bedroom, Allen and Bradley shot Mitchell in the stomach with his children in the adjacent room and his wife hiding within earshot. The men then returned to Price’s home, where they washed their bodies and changed clothes. Twenty-four hours passed before Mitchell succumbed to his wounds in a hospital. During that time, Mitchell identified both Allen and Bradley as his attackers.

On October 28, 1930, Price and Moore were found guilty by a jury of rape. The verdict was accompanied by a recommendation for mercy, and the men were sentenced to one year. Two days later, on October 30, Allen and Bradley were found guilty of murder, with the jury recommending mercy and life sentences imposed. The identity of the other two men who accompanied Allen and Bradley is unknown.

Henry Peewee Thomas—Americus, GA (July 14, 1933)

Henry “Pewee” Thomas was a worker on a farm owned by Deputy Sheriff Walter Chappell in Americus, Georgia. On July 13, 1933, Thomas was hired to a white man named B. B. Mills to go on a trip. When they returned from the venture, a dispute ensued over the amount that was due to Thomas for rendering his services. Thomas maintained that he was owed 75 cents, but Mills only paid him 50 cents. Some reports suggest that the matter escalated into a brief physical altercation, but Thomas and Mills ultimately went their separate ways. The next day, on July 14, Thomas was taken from the farm where he worked at gunpoint by McKinley Jordan, Cliff Snider, Dave Mills, and Douglas Mills. The Mills men were relatives of B.B. Mills. Thomas’ dead body was found several hours later on the Mills’ property with a bullet wound to the chest.

Deputy Sheriff Chappell, who owned the plantation where Henry Thomas worked, arrested the four men and on July 25, they were released on $5,000 bond. On November 27, a grand jury returned indictments on the charge of murder for the men who abducted Thomas at gunpoint, while B. B. Mills was indicted on the charge of accessory before the fact due to his alleged role in planning and ordering the murder. After a three-day trial in December 1933, Jordan, Snider, and the Mills brothers were all acquitted. B. B. Mills’ case was subsequently dismissed.

William Mayfield and Grant Bullard—Neon, Kentucky (May 27, 1945)

William Mayfield, 14, and Grant Bullard, 17, were murdered by a group of white men on May 27, 1945 in Neon, Kentucky. Mayfield and Bullard, originally from Miami, Florida, were both employed as hired hands for a traveling carnival. An NAACP file reports that the two teenagers were shot and killed when the group of white men ordered them to dance and they refused to do so. Shortly after the murders, four suspects were arrested and subsequently indicted for the killings: Irvine Collier, John “Dock” Bently, Zack “Junior” Bently, and John Marcum. All four of the accused were released on $1,000 bond each. Both the NAACP and the Kentucky Chapter of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare (SCHW) pushed for a prosecution to commence, but the trial was rescheduled twice. By that time, several months had passed and prosecutors were unable to secure witnesses to testify from the traveling carnival as its members were now in far off states. Local community members who may have had information relating to the murders appeared to be unwilling to testify. In July 1946, Commonwealth Attorney Runyon recommended that charges be dropped against Collier, John Bently, Zack Bently, and Marcum. In 2016, CRRJ interviewed William Mayfield’s family members residing in Miami, who had no knowledge of how Mayfield lost his life. At the time they were told, and believed, that their relative had drowned in a circus-related incident. When CRRJ opened the case, all that was known was that two “unknown Negroes” had been killed in Neon, Kentucky.

James Hargrove—Baltimore, Maryland (October 18, 1950)

James Hargrove was one of several black shooting victims of Baltimore’s Officer Jerome Glass. CRRJ conducted a comprehensive investigation into Glass’s tenure in the department, where he was allowed to maintain his position despite mounting evidence of his lethal assaults on black men.

On October 17, 1950, Hargrove, 27-years-old, and three
others were at a gambling establishment in Baltimore, Maryland at the 500 block of Oxford Street. There were reports that Hargrove was unruly, prompting a call to local authorities. Police Officer Jerome Glass arrived on the scene and proceeded to chase Hargrove and his associates out of the back of the establishment into an alley. Officer Glass claimed that Hargrove and his associates fired at him, but other accounts indicate that Hargrove was merely fleeing the scene. Nonetheless, Officer Glass opened fired on the men and hit Hargrove in the stomach. The following day, October 18, Hargrove succumbed to his wound and died at Baltimore's Provident Hospital. Following the shooting, Officer Glass was suspended from duty pending an internal investigation and hearing. On October 27, 1950, a disciplinary hearing was held at the Northwestern Police Court, the upshot of which was Officer Glass returned to the job.

Edward Miller—Prince George’s County, MD (August 31, 1952)

Edward Miller lived in Washington, D.C. and worked at the Navy Yard. On the weekend, he would take the streetcars from D.C. into Maryland to find work as a day laborer. On Saturday, August 30, 1952, Miller reportedly fell asleep on a streetcar while en route to Maryland and was roused by the driver, Charles Maness. After Maness woke Miller, words were exchanged and Maness threw Miller off of the streetcar, injuring him. The police were called and Miller was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge and brought to the Fairmont Police Department. He spent the night in jail. The following morning, he was transported to Cheverly Hospital where he died on the operating table. It is believed that Miller was beaten and possibly tortured while in police custody. The wounds that seem to have led to his hospitalization were not consistent with a fall from a streetcar. There were bruises over his whole body and burns on his fingers. The Miller family resolved a civil lawsuit with the streetcar company, Capital Transit Company. The streetcar driver, Maness, was charged with manslaughter, but it does not appear that a prosecution was pursued. No legal action was brought against the police department.

MISSISSIPPI

Claude Otis Johnson—Benoit, MS (April 1, 1953)

On April 1, 1953, Claude Otis Johnson, 34, was shot and killed in Benoit, Mississippi by the local Justice of the Peace. Earlier that evening, Johnson went to meet his wife at the local grocery store. While there, a confrontation between Johnson and the white store owner, John Thomas, ensued over a purported unpaid grocery bill of approximately $37.50. The argument escalated into a minor physical altercation prompting Johnson to leave the store. The store owner, John Thomas, was also one of two Justices of the Peace for the Second District of Bolivar Coun-
ty. He retrieved his gun and pursued Johnson, reportedly over his wife’s protestations. Thomas found Johnson at a café down the street and opened fire, shooting and killing Johnson.

Three days later Thomas was brought before his fellow Justice of the Peace, E.V. Reams, for a preliminary hearing. Reams claimed he could not find any witnesses to the shooting and promptly “exonerated” Thomas, calling the incident “justifiable homicide.”

The case gained notoriety, in part, because of the extensive coverage provided by The Delta Democrat, a regional newspaper. Ultimately, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Mississippi opted to convene a federal grand jury to determine if there was a “civil rights violation.” A leak from these proceedings revealed that the jury was tasked with determining whether John Thomas was acting in his official capacity as a justice of the peace when he killed Johnson. However, ultimately, the jury declined to return the indictments.

Afterward, some six months after the shooting, charges against John Thomas for murder were brought at the state level. The defense argued zealously that Thomas had acted in self-defense and Thomas was acquitted. During this trial, it came to light that Thomas had a history of violence and was similarly found not guilty of shooting a man, under a theory of self-defense when he lived in McComb, Mississippi.

Lee Hirsh—Red Lick, MS (June 12/13, 1933)

Lee Hirsh, 14, was without parents to look after him and had taken up residence with a poor white family of farmers in the vicinity of Red Lick, Mississippi. The home was headed by the father and Hirsh would play with the farmer’s daughter, who would occasionally comb his hair. On or around June 12 or 13 of 1933, Hirsh mentioned to another friend that he believed that the daughter may have liked him and the story got back to the father. In response, the father whipped Hirsh and then gathered a posse of men who arrived in three cars. The men took Hirsh to a nearby forest and beat him. Lee Hirsh’s sister, Corinne Lee Banks, wrote directly to President Franklin Roosevelt for assistance and U.S. Assistant Attorney General Pat Malloy responded by letter dated July 28, 1933. In that communication, Malloy conveyed that the Department of Justice could take no action as there was no indication that a federal criminal law had been violated. Instead, the federal official recommended that Banks enlist the aid of “white friends in the community” to make an appeal to the proper state authorities. It appears the 14-year-old victim may have survived the beating and escaped from Mississippi. CRRJ’s investigation is ongoing.

Willie McSwine—Money, MS (March 16, 1935)

On Saturday, March 16, 1935, McSwine, a husband and father of two, was driving back to his home in Money, Mississippi with a group of friends after visiting Greenwood. As McSwine approached a filling station, a white man named Leon Murphy drove his car directly into the path of McSwine’s vehicle. Despite his efforts, McSwine was unable to avoid the collision. Murphy and his passenger, Bains, got out of their car and approached McSwine. They asked him who owned the car and who was driving. McSwine replied that he was the owner and operator. Murphy then asked why McSwine ran into him to which McSwine replied, “I did not run into you Boss, you ran into me.” Murphy told him to “hush his damn mouth.” Then Bains struck McSwine twice in the face with his fist. Murphy told McSwine to raise both his hands and when he complied, Murphy proceeded to shoot McSwine twice in the chest. McSwine died about a half hour later. McSwine’s five passengers, Alice Whitehead, Rev. H. K. Carter, Leroy Love, Jim King, and Jay Bird, witnessed his death. Despite that, there is no indication that either Murphy or his passenger, Bains, were charged with a crime. CRRJ is investigating the case.

KIMBROUGH SCHOLARS 2017

The Kimbrough Scholars program is a collaborative endeavor between Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) and the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ) at Northeastern School of Law in Boston, MA. The initiative provides eight high school students with an opportunity to be immersed in the social, political, and economic underpinnings of racial oppression in the United States. This foundational knowledge then serves as a basis for the students to undertake investigations of cold case, racially motivated homicides. In this, the program’s fourth year, the Kimbrough Scholars focused on Louisiana cases. Under the supervision of Zittrin Teaching Fellow Melvin Kelley, the students are trained in researching these matters and then visit the location in an effort to procure additional information. The students were tasked with investigating two cases in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana: Royal Brooks Sr. and the matter of Dave Hart and Henry Freeman.
Roy Cyril Brooks, Sr.

Roy Cyril Brooks, Sr. (“Brooks”), a 44 year-old African American man, was shot and killed in Gretna, Louisiana at approximately 3:15 pm on the afternoon of Friday, February 27, 1948 by Gretna Police Officer Alvin Bladsacker. Moments earlier, Brooks had been waiting in a line to take the Westwego bus at the ferry landing, when a woman in front of him realized she had mistakenly boarded the wrong bus. She requested the return of her fare, but the driver refused. Brooks offered her his nickel in order to ride on the fare she just paid, but the driver refused to permit the arrangement. An argument ensued between Brooks and the driver.

Officer Bladsacker, who had been directing traffic in the vicinity, arrived on the scene. The officer claimed that Brooks was intoxicated and that when he attempted to effectuate his removal from the bus, Brooks struck him. However, other sources indicate that Brooks had only been attempting to explain his predicament. Nonetheless, in response, Officer Bladsacker allegedly struck Brooks in the back of his head with his blackjack, removed him from the bus, placed him under arrest, and marched him toward the nearby Gretna jail. While walking to the jail Officer Bladsacker claimed that Brooks attacked him yet again and he shot Brooks twice in the middle of the street. Jefferson Parish Coroner Dr. Charles Gelbke pronounced Brooks dead at 3:55 pm.

Hundreds of witnesses refuted Officer Bladsacker’s version of events and insisted that Brooks was murdered without provocation of any kind. Jefferson Parish District Attorney John E. Fluery and Gretna Police Chief Beauregard Miller were reported as the leaders of an initial investigation. Local advocacy efforts spurred an indictment of the officer on the charge of manslaughter, but the jury only deliberated for seven minutes before acquitting him in the ensuing trial.

Roy Cyril Brooks was a member of Local 309 of the Food, Tobacco, and Agricultural Workers (FTA-CIO). Trade unionists, Gretna neighbors, family members and civil rights supporters from far and wide comprised a 2,000-strong group of mourners at Brooks’ funeral.

Dave Hart and Henry Freeman

On or around October 17, 1935, Hart and Freeman, two men in their early twenties, were arrested in Gretna, Louisiana on charges of rape, assault, and robbery. The two were held in custody at the Jefferson Parish jail in Gretna. On or around November 1, 1935, law enforcement agents from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff’s Department shot and killed Hart and Freeman purportedly in self-defense. Specifically, Sheriff Frank Clancy and his deputies claimed that the pair opened fire on them using a gun that had been smuggled into the jail by one of their wives. A coroner’s jury convened by Jefferson Parish Coroner Dr. M.M. Odom exonerated the officers and District Attorney John E. Fluery likewise concluded that the killings were justified.

FEATURED CASES

Critical race scholars have long pushed back against paradigms that conceptualize race as a mere function of biology. Instead, they have persuasively countered that race is a social construction that was formulated to develop and justify a hierarchy of humanity as informed by the ideology of white supremacy. There is no doubt that race was a centerpiece in the colonial project that culminated in the United States through the enslavement of Africans and the appropriation of Native land. Yet, one would be remiss in failing to
acknowledge that the establishment of gender hierarchies was also central to the logics of colonization and its associated maldistributions of power. While there are certainly parallels between these vehicles of subordination, their relationship does not end there. Indeed, racism and sexism do not function in silos, rather they are complexly interwoven and their interdependent interactions are mutually re-constituting.

Pauli Murray, the trailblazing feminist attorney, was one of the first to begin grappling with the interconnectedness of discrimination based on race and sex. In a 1947 article, she used the term “Jane Crow” to describe the experience of African American women who experienced oppression as a result of both racism and sexism. Writing in the 1980s, Kimberlé Crenshaw developed the framework of “intersectionality” to describe the unique permutations of discrimination impacting individuals with multiple marginalized identities. More recently, Moya Bailey has formulated the term “misogynoir” to describe the intersectional amalgamation of misogyny and anti-black racism that is directed at black women. Most assuredly the failure to fully acknowledge the experience of black women is a manifestation of Misogynoir. Ralph Ellison’s novel, The Invisible Man, provided a window into the social marginalization wrought by racism through an account of the experiences of a Black man. The featured cases below supplement this narrative to give due accord to the manifestations of historical racial violence as they impacted Black women.

CRRJ’s ongoing efforts to document historical racial violence are an extension of the legacy of Ida B. Wells, one of the first to undertake a systematic study of lynching in the United States. Nonetheless, relatively scant attention has been paid to the fact that black women have also been—and continue to be—the victims of state-sanctioned and state-condoned racialized and gendered violence. By failing to grapple with this reality, we miss a critical opportunity to understand the full dimensions of systemic racial and gender violence, which is an essential step if we ever hope to develop effective modes of intervention and disruption.

Our historically rooted work is not only essential in understanding the full harms of Jim and Jane Crow, but in tracing their reverberations across generations. The national epidemic of police brutality against communities of color stands as a key exemplar of an enduring structural implication of historical racial violence. In featuring the cases below, CRRJ demonstrates the alignment of its work with contemporary initiatives that draw attention to the impact of violent policing on the lives of women of color, as reflected in Andrea Ritchie’s book Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color and the #SayHerName Movement.

Lila Mae Dye—Lake City, FL (September 28, 1947)

Lila Mae Dye was born on April 15, 1920 to Alfred and Pauline Stanfold in Watertown, Florida. Dye was the second of their four children. While she was growing up, her father and older brother, Charlie, worked as “box chippers” in turpentine camps—a major industry in North Florida at the time. The working conditions for blacks were typically so brutal that they bore a resemblance to the days of slavery. As “chippers,” their primary responsibility would have entailed making slanted cuts on the trees, generally pines, so that the resin would flow into boxes that had been affixed to the tree. Workers and their families lived in crowded shacks in the forests that were provided by their employers.

At 17, Dye married Earnest Dye and she start-
ed her own family. Dye and her husband had three children: Howard, Ben, and Eartha. When she was just 27, Lillie Mae-Dye was shot and killed at her home in Lake City on the afternoon of September 28, 1947. At the time of her death, Dye was pregnant with her fourth child. W.E. Calley, a White man who owned a local grocery store, was arrested and charged with her murder. Calley claimed he had gone to Dye’s house to collect a grocery bill and a quarrel ensued. In his account, the altercation escalated when Dye attacked him with a knife forcing him to shoot her in self-defense. Officers reportedly found a knife in the yard of Dye’s home, some 25 feet away from her body.

A month after the shooting, the Columbia County Grand Jury indicted Calley. In early November, he was tried for murder in the Columbia County Circuit Court. The prosecution produced two witnesses, Primas Singleton and Sadie Player, whose testimony formed the basis of their case. Both of the State’s witnesses were black and lived just one street over from Dye’s house. Defense attorneys attacked their testimony and produced two witnesses of their own, Amos Harrell and D.H. Wiggins, both white, who claimed that Dye had been armed with a stick and then a knife, and had advanced on Calley at the gate of her yard.

The trial began at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 6 and concluded the next day at 3:30 p.m. The jury deliberated for 30 minutes before returning a verdict of not guilty on a charge of first degree murder. In December, NAACP national membership coordinator Lucille Black wrote a letter referencing the death of “Lillie Mae Dye” to highlight the importance of local branch advocacy. The letter conveyed that efforts to procure justice for Dye were ongoing, but CRRJ has not uncovered any records of further legal proceedings.

Willie Ruth Williams Mosley—Gadsden, AL (April 28, 1951)

Willie Ruth Williams was born on September 15, 1934 to Mr. Harrison Williams and Mrs. Cordie Lee Hollis. She was the oldest of three children followed by sister Mary Lee Mines and younger brother Curtis Moore. Willie Ruth is remembered by her family for her radiance: she was beautiful and a fierce guardian, especially of her younger sister Mary, with whom she was particularly close.

Before she turned 17, Willie Ruth had started her own family. She was married to a local man named Bill Mosely and the couple had a son, Eucalay, and a daughter, Laura Jean. At approximately 9:30 AM on Saturday, April 28, 1951, 17-year-old Willie Ruth Williams Mosley was purportedly involved in a dispute in Gadsden, AL. Whether the underlying incident was sparked by an altercation with Gadsden Police Department officers or they were responding to a call is unclear. What is known is that Officer Floyd Vinyard shot her and she died of those wounds either on scene or in transit to the hospital.

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the following day at a hospital. A number of reports indicate that Ms. Moseley was pregnant with her third child at the time of her death.

The officer claimed he acted in self-defense as Williams approached him in a threatening manner with an ice pick. However, CRRJ successfully connected with the victim’s living relatives who conveyed their understanding that Williams was romantically involved with Officer Vinyard. It is suspected the shooting was an effort to ensure their illicit relationship did not come to light. Moreover, it was strongly suspected that Willie Ruth’s third child had been fathered by Officer Vinyard. The family recounted to CRRJ that Willie Ruth’s mother, Cordie Lee, operated a “juke joint” out of the family home. The operation of this unregistered enterprise would not have been feasible without the tacit consent of local law enforcement authorities. These circumstances are believed to have constituted the backdrop concerning how Willie Ruth and Officer Vinyard became acquainted. No official records make mention of the “juke joint” or a prior relationship between Willie Ruth and Office Vinyard.

The Alabama NAACP got involved and pushed for a prosecution of Office Vinyard, but their advocacy sparked a backlash of fear and intimidation tactics that were directed at Willie Ruth’s family. Most glaringly, Willie Ruth’s husband, Bill Mosley, was purportedly coerced into accepting a bribe of $100 and a car to keep quiet. Concerned for their safety, the bulk of the family migrated North. Despite these challenges, the local NAACP successfully pressured the Department of Justice to initiate an investigation. Ultimately, however, both a local Civil Service Commission and the Department of Justice found that the killing was justified.

Laura Wood—Winston-Salem, NC (February 11, 1930)

On February 11, 1930, Laura Wood, 59, a farmer and mother of four adult children, was found hanging from a tree by a plow chain in Barber, North Carolina. Wood’s body was found about 300 yards from the Wood home in a small wooded section. Neal Wood, husband of Laura Wood, was interviewed following the incident and stated Wood was alright when she left the home earlier in the day. She was due to help with the week’s laundering at a nearby home. When she did not show up and inquiry was made to her whereabouts, Neal returned home to search for her and found she was not home. When a search was made, Wood’s body was “found swinging at the end of a chain suspended from a tree on the bang of a dich.” The house was locked and the key to the house was found on the ground a few feet from the body tied up in a handkerchief.

The International Labor Defense (ILD) was reported as having gotten a hold of the chain used to kill Wood, and the organization mentioned her lynching in its publication, The Labor Defender, and at demonstrations in March 1930 to rally protestors. Both Solomon Harper and Paul R. Beverhouldt, black organizers with the ILD, were either arrested or attacked at protests in which they called attention to Wood’s lynching. When Laura Wood’s lynching was mentioned in The Daily Worker, published by the Communist Party at the time, to
Laura Wood’s Death Certificate.

Chain Used to Hang 65 Year Old Woman, The Pittsburgh Courier, Mar 15, 1930 at 20 (Reports denoted Ms. Woods as 65, however, her death certificates notes that she was 59 when she was killed. Where possible, CRRJ uses information from official government documents to resolve discrepancies).

the effect that the lynching was a result of a “quarrel with the wife of a neighboring white landlord.”

On February 12, 1930, the Salisbury Post reported on Wood’s murder and the investigation done by the coroner’s jury. Sheriff Lyerly and the members of the coroner’s inquest at first viewed the death as a suicide, but after the inquest, the jury rendered a decision that Wood was hung after having been rendered unconscious by some person or persons unknown to the jury. The jury deemed it a homicide because the tree from which her body was suspended was not high enough to clear her feet from the ground, and because one foot was touching the ground. There was no sign of struggle, and no bruises or marks of violence found on the body other than those on the neck, which could have been made by the chain as the weight of the body pulled on it. The newspaper reported that there was no evidence as to how Wood was rendered unconscious and who committed the act. Further investigation was to follow, but no evidence of a criminal trial after the coroner’s inquest was found.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Resurrecting Their Alabama Stories

In 2017 CRRJ’s Resurrecting Their Stories Project brought together students, scholars and community members at two forums in Alabama. The aim of the forums was to collect oral histories and historical material relating to racial violence in Alabama from 1930 to 1970, and to create a public conversation about the stories, materials and their meaning. The oral histories and materials we collected have been integrated into the CRRJ-Nobles Archive and will be made available for historical study by amateur and professional researchers alike and for classroom use.

The RTS Project is a collaboration among three entities: the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project at Northeastern University School of Law, The Elmore Bolling Foundation of Lowndes County, and the Alabama NAACP. The co-sponsors worked closely with local historical societies, museums and other organizations in Tuskegee and Birmingham to include them in the preservation of the sto-
ries and the related objects.

The Tuskegee forum, held at the University on June 9-10, 2017, and cosponsored by the National Park Service and Tuskegee University, examined cases from the jurisdiction of the Middle District of the federal district court. It featured a keynote address by Angela Sims Professor of Church & Society, Saint Paul School of Theology and panel discussions. Conferees were treated to a display of Tuskegee’s famed archival collection on lynching.

The Birmingham forum, held at the Birmingham Civil Rights institute on October 20-21, 2017, and supported by a grant from the Alabama State Department of Education and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, examined cases from the jurisdiction of the Northern District of federal district court. Keynoting the forum was Robin D.G. Kelley, Distinguished Professor in US History, UCLA. The Chief of Police of Birmingham described the measures his department is taking to engage with its past history of racial violence, including training programs.

On June 17, 2017, CRRJ sponsored a one-day forum at the Sixth Annual Conference of the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice in Oakland, California. The session explored restorative justice as a paradigm for both rehabilitating collective dignity and delivering justice to the victims of historical gross human rights violations. Panelists situated the movement for historical memory in relation to current initiatives aimed at decarceration, decriminalization and police violence.

(Top) Rose Zoltek-Jick (CRRJ), Melissa Nobles (CRRJ-MIT) at RTS Tuskegee.

(Middle) Ahmed Ward (Birmingham Civil Rights Institute), Kiara Boone (EJI), Kaylie Simon (CRRJ), and Jack Hadley (Hadley Museum) at RTS Tuskegee.

(Bottom) Howard Robinson (University of Alabama), Rhonda Jones (CRRJ), Dana Chandler (Tuskegee) at RTS Tuskegee.
CRRJ IN THE NEWS

On January 3, 2017, The Marshall Project published “Getting away with murder: researching lynching cold cases, law students restore history.” On January 4, the Okayplayer.com published “Boston law school leads project on cold cases of lynching.” On January 5, news@Northeastern published “Bringing justice, and closure, in civil rights cold case.” On January 5, The Washington Post featured Professor Burnham’s comments in a story about an allegedly false report of a lynching, “A reality check on claims of vintage ‘fake news.’” On January 26, The New York Times covered on its front page the apology of local law enforcement in a case brought to light by CRRJ: “Nearly 8 decades later, an apology for a lynching in Georgia.” On January 26, the same event was covered by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: “In a first, Georgia police chief to apologize for 1940 lynching,” and in a follow-up article, “Family reveals years old secret Georgia lynching.” CRRJ’s work on an Oxford, MS lynching was the subject of an article on May 30 in The Oxford Eagle: “Group archiving racially motivated murders.”
LaGrange Police Chief Louis M. Dekmar (Left) apologizes for Historical Racial Violence in the Callaway Case, Prompting New Respect from Troup County NAACP President Ernest Ward (Right)

Our *Resurrecting Their Stories* forum in Tuskegee, AL was covered on June 8 in *The Tuskegee News*: “Symposium on racial violence history in State of Alabama” and on June 15 on WSFA, “Tuskegee hosts conference remembering those fallen to injustice.” Historian Jay Driskell wrote about his work for CRRJ in *The Metropole* on June 26: “Documenting lynching and its influence: The Civil Rights & Restorative Justice Clinic at Northeastern University is doing just that.” And Margaret Burnham wrote an editorial about affirmative action for *WBUR’s Cognoscenti* on August 4: “Sessions feigns concern for Asian-Americans to gut affirmative action.”

**THE CRRJ TEAM GROWS:**

**CRRJ PROJECT DIRECTOR, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

Kaylie Simon, an alumna of CRRJ (2011) and a member of the Board of Advisors, took a sabbatical from her position as Deputy Public Defender for Contra Costa County to shape and execute our restorative justice program. As a law student, Simon designed a model restorative justice project in East Texas to memorialize the life of John Earl Reese, a 16-year-old murdered in 1955. In 2017, Simon fashioned RJ projects in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Mississippi. Prior to her position with the Contra County County Public Defender’s Office, Simon worked with the California Appellate Project, the San Francisco Public Defender’s Office, and the Center for Constitutional Rights. A graduate of UC Santa Cruz and NUSL, Simon is a co-founder of the Contra Costa County Racial Justice Coalition.

**CRRJ RESEARCH ASSOCIATE**

Fraser Birrell Grier, a CRRJ alumnus (2014, Southern University Law Center), holds a Diploma in Professional Legal Practice from the University of Glasgow and a LL.M in International Legal Studies from New York University. As our research associate, Grier works closely with our partners at the Legal Action Center, students, and faculty associated with the Law School’s program on Legal Research and Writing.

**ABOUT US**

Margaret Burnham, **Director**. Rose Zoltek-Jick, **Associate Director**. Melvin Kelley, **Zitrin Teaching Fellow**. Rhonda Jones, **Lead Archivist**. Kaylie Simon, **Project Director, Restorative Justice**. Fraser Birrell Grier, **Research Associate**. Nancy Earsy and Victoria Rothbaum, **Editors**.

**CRRJ at NUSL School of Journalism** Michael Beaudet, Laurel Leff, Dina Kraft; **NULAWLAB** Dan Jackson, Jules Rochielle Sievert; **NU LIBRARIES**: Giordana Mecagni, Sara Sweeney. **CRRJ at MIT** Melissa Nobles, Jay Driskell. **CRRJ at SULC** John Pierre, Angela Bell. **CRRJ at CRLS Kimbrough Scholars** Larry Aaronson, Sally Benbasset, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Poppy Milner, Janet Moses, Diane Tabor, Gail Willet. **Honorary Advisors** Rita Bender, Fania Davis, David J. Dennis, Robert P. Moses, Charles Ogletree, Deborah A. Ramirez, Ruby Sales, Hollis Watkins. **NU Faculty Advisors** Brook K. Baker, Karl E. Klare, Daniel S. Medwed, Michael Meltzer, James Rowan, Emily A. Spieler. **Board of Advisors** Ifetayo Belle, Janeen Blake, Tasmin Din, Geraldine Hines, Bonnie Kanter, Melissa Nobles, Rashida Richardson, James Rowan. **Research Collaborators** Alfred L. Brophy, David Cunningham, Jay Driskell, Daniel T. Kryder, Monica Martinez, Leslie McLemore, Melissa Nobles, Margaret Russell, Geoff Ward, and Nan Woodruff.
We rely on donors like you to continue our work. Donations are used for litigation expenses, field research, and reconciliation and restorative justice projects. With your help, we can continue training tomorrow’s civil rights lawyers, filling in the gaps in US history, and informing our national dialogue about race and criminal justice.

Visit https://crrj.northeastern.edu/donations/ to donate to the Civil Rights & Restorative Justice Project, or send us a check made out to NUSL-CRRJ at:

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