Charles G. Sellers
90th Birthday Symposium
Berkeley, CA
September 7, 2013
Photographs by David Iltis
Text by Carolyn Merchant
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Berkeley, California
Charles G. Sellers

- Professor Emeritus.
- University of California, Berkeley, History Department.
- Sponsored by the History Department, UC Berkeley.
Introduction

• Carolyn Merchant.
• University of California, Berkeley.
• Symposium in honor of the academic and political work of Charlie Sellers.
• Held at the Shattuck Hotel, downtown Berkeley, CA.
• Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013.
• Colleagues, former graduate students, and family.
Welcome

Carolyn Merchant Welcoming Guests to the Symposium on Charlie Sellers’s Academic Work

Sean Wilentz preparing to speak
Sean Wilentz is the Sidney and Ruth Lapidus Professor of the American Revolutionary Era at Princeton University. His field of study is U.S. social and political history. He holds a Ph.D. and 2 master’s degrees from Yale University and 2 bachelor's degrees from, one from Columbia University and a second from Balliol College, Oxford University. A major work, *The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln* (2005), received the Bancroft Prize and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.
Robin Einhorn is the Preston Hotchkis Professor in the History of the United States at the University of California, Berkeley. She received her A.B. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. She specializes in U.S. Political Economy, Taxation, and Cities in the nineteenth century. She received a Berkeley campus distinguished Teaching Award in 2011.


Robin Einhorn Speaking on "Jacksonian America and The Market"
Amy Greenberg

Amy Greenberg is a historian of antebellum America (1800-1860) with a particular interest in the politics, culture, and social history of the decades before the Civil War. She has a B.A. from UC Berkeley (1989) and a PhD from Harvard (1995).

She is the author of books on urban society and culture (Cause for Alarm: The Volunteer Fire Department in the Nineteenth-Century City), and on the role that the ideology of manifest destiny played in both foreign affairs and American society and culture at home (Manifest Manhood and the Antebellum American Empire).

Her latest book, A Wicked War: Polk, Clay, Lincoln, and the 1846 Invasion of Mexico (2012) is a narrative history of the U.S.-Mexican War focusing on the opposition to the war and the creation of America's first national antiwar movement.
Stephen Aron

• Stephen Aron is professor of History and Executive Director of the Institute for the Study of the American West at UCLA. He received his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley’s History Department in 1990. His focus is on North American frontiers and the western U.S. and on early education in America.

• His books include *How the West Was Lost: The Transformation of Kentucky from Daniel Boone to Henry Clay* (1996) and *American Confluence: The Missouri Frontier from Borderland to Border State* (2006).
Christopher Sellers's Comment
Christopher Sellers

Christopher Sellers, Charlie Sellers's nephew, is a historian of environment, culture and health with a long-standing interest in the modern United States. He did his undergraduate work at Dartmouth College in Literature and Philosophy. He has an M.D. from the University of North Carolina Medical School and a Ph.D. from Yale in American Studies.

His books include *Crabgrass Crucible: Suburban Nature and Environmentalism in Post-WWII America* (2012) and *Hazards of the Job: From Industrial Disease to Environmental Health Science* (1997).
Charlie Sellers Responds

• University of California, Berkeley.
• History Department.
• Professor Emeritus.
Audience Discussion
Audience
Discussion

Tom Reifer
Reads from
Charlie
Sellers's
*The Market
Revolution*
(1991)

Tom Reifer
and Janet
Biblin
Audience

David Hollinger and Malcolm Burnstein

Evelyn Sellers and Grier Sellers

Anna and Joel Williamson

Gail Weininger and Leon Wofsy
Audience

Waldo Martin and Roger Sharp

Douglas Daniels

Kate and Eric Etheridge

Mark Peterson and Mary Woolsey
Family

Dave Iltis, Photographer

Mark Jones, Videographer

John Iltis, Exhibit

Glee Harris
Charlie Enjoying the Symposium

Ann Boesgaard and Charlie Sellers

Charlie Sellers and Tom Laqueur

Phil, Charlie, and Ed Sellers, Brothers
Family

Steen, Janet, Charlie, Grier, and Evelyn

Steen, Steve, and Ed Sellers
Sellers's Family

Steen Sellers

Janet Sellers

Mark Jones

Grier, Janet, and Steen Sellers

Evelyn Sellers
Sellers's Family

Janet Sellers and Nancy Tomes

Steve, Ed, Phil, and Jeff

Jeff Sellers and Julia Sellers

Ed and Steve Sellers
Saturday Evening
Tributes to Charlie Sellers

Charlie's Political Work, Teaching, Birding, and Family History
Shattuck Hotel, September 7, 2013
Saturday Evening Dinner

- His chief poetry books are the three volumes of his trilogy *Seculum: Coming to Jakarta: A Poem About Terror* (1989), *Listening to the Candle: A Poem on Impulse* (1992), *Mosaic Orpheus* (2009), and *Tilting Point* (2012). In November 2002 he was awarded the Lannan Poetry Award.

- An anti-war speaker during the Vietnam and Gulf Wars, he was a co-founder of the experimental "Strawberry Creek College" in 1972 with Charlie Sellers and Charles Muscatine.
Introducing Eric Etheridge

Eric Etheridge is a native of Mississippi and a graduate of Vanderbilt University (1979). He found mug shots of the arrested 1961 Freedom Riders in the files of the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, and photographed a number of the former Riders whom he was able to track down.


Eric Etheridge

• "The Freedom Riders and the Civil Rights Movement."

Eric Etheridge Speaking on Charlie’s Role as a 1961 Freedom Rider
Charlie Sellers, Freedom Rider, 1961


Mugs with Charlie's Mug Shot, Created by Janet Sellers

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**Charles Sellers**

Born

September 9, 1923, in Charlotte, NC, and grew up there. Served three years in the army during World War II, then graduated Harvard in 1947. Got his Ph.D. in American history at University of North Carolina, in Chapel Hill, in 1950; active locally on racial issues.

Then

History professor, University of California, Berkeley. Active in the local CORE chapter, challenging discrimination in stores and housing, among other targets. Also very involved in the Free Speech Movement, which began in 1964.

Since Then

Taught at Berkeley until he retired in 1990. Is the author of *The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815–46*, and a two-volume biography of James K. Polk, the second of which won the Bancroft Prize. Still lives in Berkeley, and travels frequently with his wife on birding and camping trips.

When I was in high school, I went to an NAACP meeting in a black church, which was packed with three or four hundred people. An imposing gentleman, who was introduced as Bishop Gordon of the AME Zion Church, got up and preached the most powerful sermon I had ever heard.

I was one of only two or three white people in this enormous congregation and I guess this was a “scales falling from my eyes” kind of experience that I never got over. I was in dissent with my society from that time on.
John McFaul

- Professor of History, Emeritus.
- CA State University, Long Beach.
- John McFaul has a Ph.D. from U.C. Berkeley and was in Charlie Sellers's first Ph.D. seminar at UC Berkeley. He taught for many years at Cal State Long Beach. He is the author of *The Politics of Jacksonian Finance* (1963) and the co-author with Frank Gatell of *Jacksonian America, 1815-1840: New Society, Changing Politics* (1970).
- "Transforming the Classroom/Transforming History."
Donald Seriff is the Natural Resources coordinator of the Division of Natural Resources Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He received his B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1984. He received a wildlife conservation award in 2008 from the N.C. chapter of The Wildlife Society. He is the editor of *The Chat*, the quarterly Bulletin of the Carolina Bird Club.

Seriff's tribute to Charlie Sellers as the inspiration for the Mecklenburg Audubon Club, now the Mecklenburg Audubon Society, is entitled, Charles Grier Sellers, Jr., "A Very Inspahrin' Fella."

Janet, Grier, and Steen Sellers

• Janet Sellers is the daughter of Charles Sellers and the inspiration behind the mugs with Charlie’s mug shot on them. She is currently an executive in clothing design at the Walmart headquarters in Bentonville, AR. She and her brothers are speaking on "Our History with Charlie Sellers."

• Charles Grier Sellers, III (Grier), Philadelphia, PA.

• Steen Sellers, Mission Viejo, CA.
Ann Boesgaard

- Ann Boesgaard is the sister-in-law of Charlie Sellers. She is Professor Emerita of Astrophysics at the University of Hawaii.
- She is speaking on how Charlie's work made American History instantly clear to her as a scientist.
- All this was done while sailing on the S.F. Bay.
Evening Celebration

Ben Davis and Joel Williamson

Donald Critchlow and Steve Aron

Mary Woolsey and Mark Peterson
Evening Celebration

Steen Sellers, Aleen Sellers, and Carolyn Merchant

Mark Jones in Charlie Sellers’s Mug Shot T-Shirt

Rusty Keilch

John McFaul, Roger Sharp, and Martin Jay
Birthday Celebration

Charlie and Taree Sellers

Charlie, Glee, Aleen, and Taree Sellers

Charlie and Glee Sellers

Charlie's Cake
The End