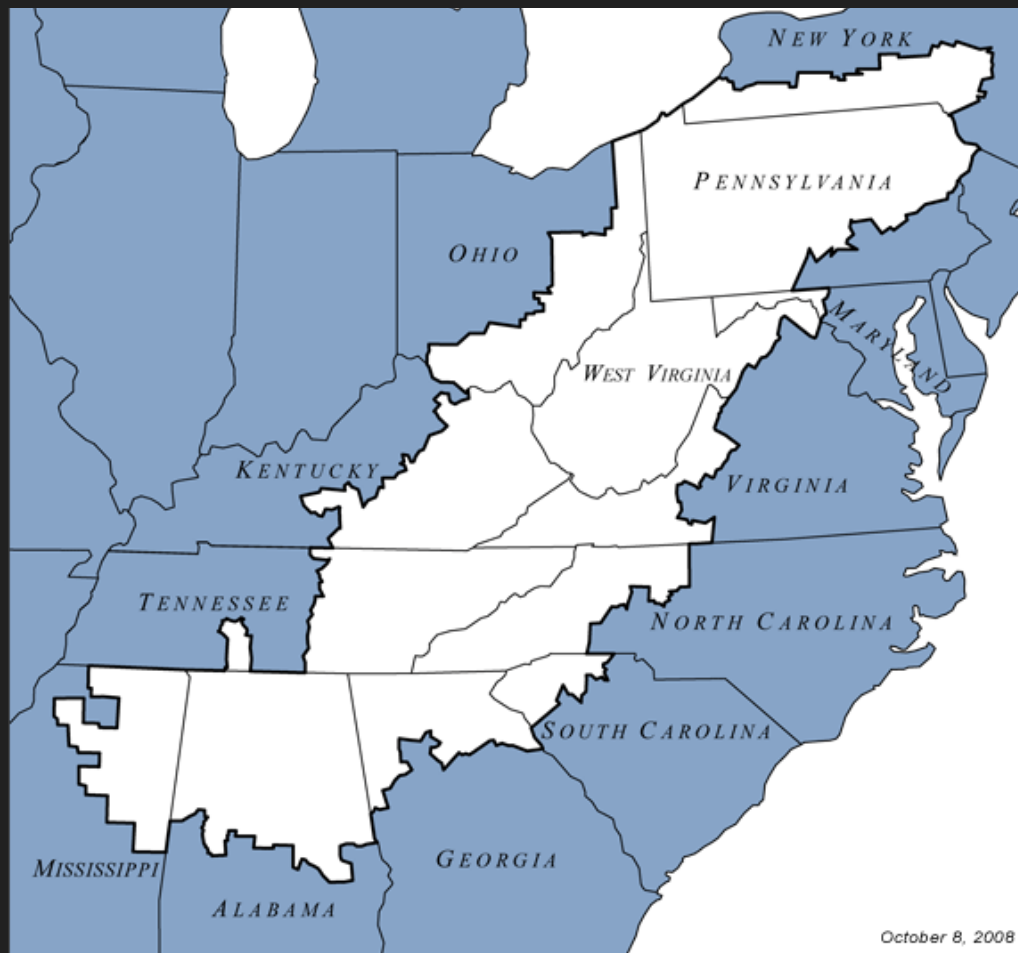


AFFRILACHIA

- To view this PDF as a projectable presentation, save the file, click “View” in the top menu bar of the file, and select “Full Screen Mode”
- For an editable version of the PPT or to request the accompanying lesson plan, email Carolina K-12 at CarolinaK12@unc.edu with the title of the PowerPoint in the subject line.

APPALACHIA



October 8, 2008

AFFRILACHIA

Affrilachia

Define *Affrilachia*. Where does the term come from?

[Walker looked up Appalachia in] Webster's Dictionary and, to his dismay, [discovered] a definition that mentioned "white residents from the mountains." The artist wasn't white, but he was from Kentucky... Didn't his work matter too? Wasn't he, like his white peers, creating in the great shadow of the mountains? This definition of Appalachian would not suffice, and Walker was moved to a moment of clarity. He would create his own word that described people of African descent from the Appalachian region: Affrilachian.

It was the stereotype of an all white and poor Appalachia that the word **Affrilachian** would fight. A 13-state expanse reaching as far north as New York and, ironically, including Finney's Southern birthplace, the Appalachian region is more than Kentucky, more than rural, and more than one ethnicity can define. The word **Affrilachian** would stand as a reminder of the diversity of the region. Don't call it reactionary, call it revolutionary.

Carolina Chocolate Drops

“The Durham, North Carolina-based trio would travel every Thursday night to the home of old-time fiddler and songster Joe Thompson to learn tunes, listen to stories and, most importantly, to jam. Joe was in his 80s, a black fiddler with a short bowing style that he inherited from generations of family musicians. Now he was passing those same lessons onto a new generation. When the three students decided to form a band, they didn’t have big plans. It was mostly a tribute to Joe, a chance to bring his music back out of the house again and into dancehalls and public places.”



"Know thy history. Let it horrify you; let it inspire you. Let it show you how the future can look, for nothing in this world has not come around before. These songs are based on slave narratives from the 1800s, African American experiences of the last century, and the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. Voices demanding to be heard, to impart the hard-earned wisdom of a tangled, difficult, complicated history; we just try to open the door and let them through."

~Rhiannon Giddens



What is Oral History?

What to listen for

Details that align and don't align with your expectations of life in Appalachia

Details of how historical events, including segregation and social movements, affected the narrator.

The speaker's tone. Note inferences you can make from *how* the story is told.

Meet Mrs. Geraldine Ray

- Born in Weaverville in 1937
- Spent most of her early life on a farm in Barnardsville raised by her paternal grandparents, especially grandmother who was disabled with rheumatoid arthritis.
- Moved to Weaverville after marrying her husband in 1960 and lives there still today.
- This interview was conducted by her 2nd cousin in 1997
- Here are two clips about her life
 - [On her school aspirations and taking care of others \(2:51\)](#)
 - [On her “calling” and interest in art \(1:08\)](#)

Meet Dr. Thomas Kilgore

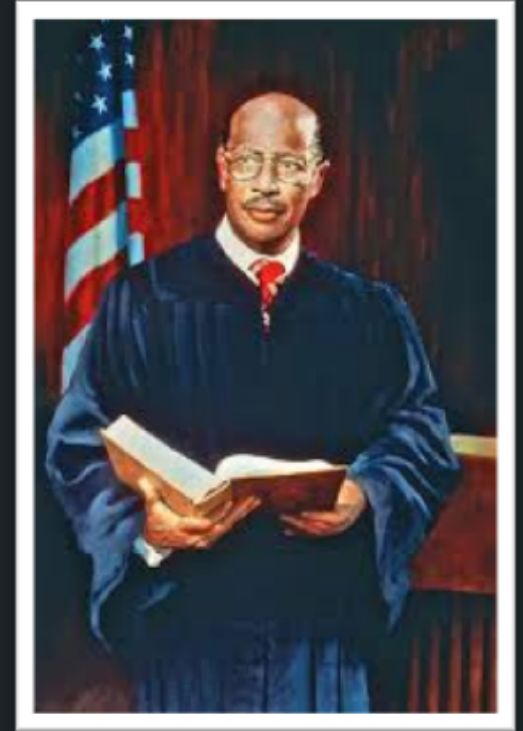
- 1914 - 1998
- Grew up in Brevard, NC
- A leader in the Fellowship of Southern Churchmen
 - organization started in 1934 that worked to desegregate churches in the South and improve relationships across racial lines. Involved 1935-1941
- A leader in Southern Christian Leadership Conference, along with Dr. King
- Pastor in LA from 1963 until his death, worked to build interfaith communities across racial divides
- The interview was conducted by phone in the 1983, In this clip he gives a brief biography of his life (2:28)



*1963 March on Washington -
Dr. Kilgore is center front row.*

Meet Judge Richard Erwin

- **1923 - 2006**
- Grew up on a farm in Marion, NC
- 1951 Graduated from Howard University School of Law
- Practiced law 27 years in Winston Salem
- 1974 & 1976 Served in NC General Assembly
- 1978 Appointed to NC Court of Appeals
- 1992 Appointed by President Carter to Federal Bench
- First NC born African American to be appointed to both NC Court of Appeals and Federal Bench
- [Short clip on his mother's wish \(18 sec.\)](#)



What did we learn?

What details aligned or didn't align with your expectations of life in Appalachia?

How did historical events, including segregation and social movements, affect the narrator?

What is the speaker's tone? What inferences can you make from *how* the story is told?

Purpose of a performance

- Bring history alive for others.
- Takes excerpts from a long interview and recreates them to show important themes and moments in history.
- Pay homage to individuals who shared their stories, thus providing insight to our histories.

Daily Life/Farm Life

Dr. Kilgore

- biography

Mrs. Ray

- Working on farm
- What the family ate
- Typical day at age 12

Mrs. Ray

- Medical care

Judge Erwin

- Growing up on McDowell
County farm

Segregation and Civil Rights Movement

Dr. Kilgore

- Why drawn to the movement

Mrs. Ray

- Race relations & segregation in Asheville
- Segregated schools

Mrs. Ray

- Racism within black community

Dr. Kilgore

- Whites and women's leadership
- Race in Fellowship of Southern Churchmen

Judge Erwin

- Denied the vote
- Entrance into politics

Religion, college, military, etc

Judge Erwin

- College studies
- Working through college

Mrs. Ray

- Church life & traditions

Judge Erwin

- Church involvement

Judge Erwin

- Segregated army WWII

Performance

Expectation of Performers:

Be ready when it's your turn

Hand rubric to teacher, top filled in

Stand to face the front of class, speak clearly and audibly

Expectations of Audience:

Listen respectfully and thoughtfully

Be prepared to answer questions afterwards

Remain quiet except for applause at end

What did we learn? A Performance Critique

What most struck you about the performance? Where there particular words, phrases, moments, etc. that stood out to you? Why?

Why do you think those particular excerpts were chosen?

What did we learn of life in Appalachia from these excerpts/performances?

How do these stories break down stereotypes and/or reinforce them?