

APPLICATION FORM, 2003-2004

PART A: Student Application

SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY GRANST FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Student Name: Johanna Ogden
Student ID Number: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
Major: Liberal Arts
Email address: [REDACTED]
Academic Standing: Junior presently, senior by winter term
Faculty Sponsor for Project: Dr. Katrine Barber
Title of Project: WWII Conscientious Objectors at Waldport,
Oregon

I wish to receive academic credit for the project and will arrange to be enrolled in 401, 402, or 406.

Have you been the recipient of this award before? NO.

Project Description: Simply put, this project team (consisting of myself, a graduate student, and Professor Barber) will be producing a book based on oral histories for the U.S. Forest Service of conscientious objectors housed in Waldport, Oregon during WWII. This project is a collaborative project on multiple levels: PSU with the U.S. Forest Service; a PSU professor and students; and trained (or in-training) historians with numerous, and essential, community volunteers. As a student intensely interested in public history and publication, this is a dream project. Given both the size of the project (in the form of the many interviews) and the layers of collaboration, we have and are attempting to approach and solve problems in new ways while developing and providing responsible historical work and frameworks throughout these levels of partnership.

As the end result, objectives, significance and methodology are, hopefully, adequately described in the other sections of this application, I will focus more on my particular role and interests here.

I performed much initial background research on the general subject of conscientious objection, beginning with WWI and including the issue of the legacy of draft resistance in WWII and its implications for the wars which followed. This research included the

location and survey of many and varied publications from around the country, and included more usual library sources, along with church archives and the utilization of rare books searches. Extensive reference materials were produced for the use of other project participants, along with the project team's own reference.

The Achilles heel for most oral historians is the conversion of the oral tract into a more accessible written form, and this was a somewhat daunting task given the number of interviews involved. I have certainly transcribed my share of interviews. More importantly, however, I assisted in tapping into and motivating new resources for this task, including legal secretaries from my workplace and general community volunteers, unattached to either PSU or the Forest Service. Additionally, a number of Forest Service volunteers who helped produce the interviews were reenlisted and assisted with transcription and administrative tasks (such as providing tape and written copies of interviews to the subjects themselves). Besides allowing us to produce a very large volume of work in a short amount of time and thus expanding the workable base of material for the project (i.e., being able to actually use all of the interviews done), we engaged more people into historical work and found a great deal of enthusiasm for it. We have also begun to approach community organizations involved in war and peace issues in an effort to further expand both the support for and assistance in this project.

In contemplating the book, our team has had much discussion on the relation of form and content and what best serves the presentation of the material. We surveyed a variety of books based on oral histories and discussed the relative merits of and variety in how material is handled. We have begun to discuss and catalogue themes within these interviews and what that means for their presentation in book form. This process has produced two significant outcomes: it has underscored the importance of completing the prefaced compilation of interviews for the Forest Service as a critical baseline of work; and, engendered a plan for the production of a second, more thematically based book on the subject utilizing the first publication as a solid research tool.

My school schedule has been such that I have been able to contribute considerable time to this project and thus now provide some continuity to it. I believe my continued intensive involvement will only enhance the training I can receive in seeing this project from (almost) beginning to end. I am grateful for the opportunity of this creative grant. The travel and research costs will be considerable in the coming months, on top of an already costly tuition. Further, I think the creative activity grant is an acknowledgement of an important aspect of PSU – a large, urban campus with a correspondingly diverse and probably atypical student body. I am a late-in-life returning undergraduate student who has had an abiding lifetime interest in people's life stories, alternative communities and lives, and to giving voice to those traditionally unheard. For a nontraditional student, this project, and Dr. Barber, have been critical in continuing to engage and hone my interests in an academic setting and to hopefully making a contribution to the broader community.

Objectives of Project: Compiling 64 oral history accounts of the experiences of conscientious objectors during WWII assigned to the Waldport Civilian Public Service (CPS) camp into book format.


Methodology: (Include broad timeline) Work on this project began in the Spring of 2003. Forest Service representatives, leading a team of volunteers, conducted over 50 interviews of participants from around the country who were assigned to the Waldport CPS camp. During this same period, Professor Barber and I began doing background research on conscientious objectors and the creation and administration of the Civilian Public Service program nationally during WWII. Students in a summer Capstone course taught by Professor Barber conducted further interviews that have been incorporated into this project. The Fall has been primarily focused on the tasks of transcription and editing of these many, valuable interviews, enlisting numerous volunteers from both PSU and the larger community to do so. This has also enabled the project team to better catalogue the content of and themes within these interviews. Winter term is expected to be a completion of the large transcription and editing tasks. It will also focus on further research in the University of Oregon Special Collections on the subject, along with the National Archives in Seattle and Waldport newspapers and museums in order to prepare more particular background on the Waldport camp needed for publication. Late Winter and Spring 2004 will be focused on the production of an appropriate contextual introduction for the interviews, along with providing needed explanatory footnotes for the oral history transcripts themselves. Coordination and approval of a final format for publication will be done with the U.S. Forest Service.

Overall, I am receiving broad and concrete training in how to properly and ethically manage oral histories and the people who contribute their stories, along with training in the proper background and preparation of the same for responsible publication. My contributions to the project include conducting background research, transcribing and organizing interviews, editing interviews, and organizing volunteer transcriptionists. In the next two terms I will also conduct extensive archival research and contribute to the writing of introductory materials and, eventually, a full manuscript.


Expected Outcomes: Production of a book for the U.S. Forest Service is targeted for June 2004. These will be provided to the interviewees and participants in the Waldport CPS camp. This compilation will also serve as an accessible research tool to historians and others interested in further pursuing this unique story, and will accompany the oral history collection that we have compiled and processed. The interviews will be housed at the Oregon Historical Society's Research Library. Finally, this team hopes that the background work and compilation of interviews for the Forest Service will be preparatory for the production of a more thematic book on the subject for publication by the Oregon Historical Press, which has requested a proposal for a book-length manuscript (to be submitted Winter 2004). All materials derived from this project will be clearly identified as co-authored with myself as one of the authors.

Significance: This is a nearly unknown segment of both national and Oregon history. Many of these men are approaching the end of their lives and a critical component of

their story would have been lost with them had it not been for this venture. Additionally, an important particularity of the Waldport camp was its fine arts component. This drew and encouraged artists from around the country, a number of whom went on as professional artists. It's even lesser-known connection is to the post-WWII San Francisco beat scene, which witnessed an infusion of creative energy from a number of men housed at the Waldport camp. Finally, during the present historical moment of international unrest and war, the unique story of people who rebuffed the so-called "good war," and found an alternative voice is significant and timely. Many of these men went on to be witnesses for peace in the Korean and Viet Nam wars and continue their pacifist activities today.

Student Signature: 

Date: 11/25/03

Faculty Signature: 

Application Form, 2003-2004

Part B: Faculty Application

SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY GRANTS FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Name: Katrine Barber
Rank: Assistant Professor:
Department: History
College/School: Liberal Arts
Title of Project: WWII Conscientious Objectors at Waldport, Oregon

This project uses Human Subjects. Interviews conducted through PSU come under a Human Subjects Review Application submitted and approved last summer (2003).

Start Date: May 2003 End Date: August 2004

1. Describe in specific detail how you plan to mentor and support the student(s) involved in this project and the significance of the project for the student.

I have designed this research and writing project to be collaborative in many ways. I have collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service to identify a set of historical studies that I could contribute to completing, many of the interviews have been conducted by community volunteers, and oral history requires collaboration with those people who are interviewed. It seemed natural and beneficial to extend this model of collaboration to the processing of interviews into an oral history collection usable by other scholars and the writing of historical narratives based upon those interviews. I asked two talented students (Jo Ogden, undergraduate and Eliza Jones, graduate student) if they would be interested in assisting me on this project and both have joined me. While they have been a tremendous help to me from the important details of compiling historical data to the larger issues around conceptualizing a book based upon oral history, I also provide them both with close mentoring. In addition, both will receive credit equal to mine on the materials we publish for the Forest Service and with the Oregon Historical Society Press.

We meet weekly and communicate via email to complete tasks associated with the transcribing and processing of the tapes we have. This winter we have plans to visit three archives together, a time during which I will teach Jo and Eliza how to conduct research at various archives. I anticipate that when we begin the process of sifting through our research and writing, we will need to meet more frequently. I fully expect to generate material that is written collaboratively (there will not be sections written by me exclusively, for example). I have made these expectations clear to both the Forest Service and to the editor at the Oregon Historical Society Press and each has agreed to support this process.

Both Jo Ogden and Eliza Jones will have undertaken a serious research project that has significant outcomes in both the academic community (there is very little historical work on conscientious objectors even during WWII and this oral history collection fills a significant data void) and the larger public community that has been following our efforts (this includes cultural resources managers in the Forest Service, the CO's who have been interviewed by this project and their families, local peace churches, and those active in peace work more broadly). They are seeing first hand the impact that an oral history project of this size can have on academic and non-academic communities and the important ethical issues that are associated with this kind of work. In addition, they are actually working as historians as they participate in professional level research and writing. The greatest public benefit to them will come when they can point to published work that lists them as co-authors.

2. List of briefly describe any of your past or current collaborative research or creative activities that have involved undergraduates.

Over the course of nearly two years, I worked with Jan Dilg, an undergraduate working toward a history degree at PSU, on an oral history project in which we documented the life of a single woman. The culmination of this work was a life history oral interview with Barbara MacKenzie which is archived at the Oregon Historical Society Research Library and the publication of "I Didn't Do Anything Anyone Else Couldn't Have Done": A View of Oregon History through the Ordinary Life of Barbara Mackenzie, *Oregon Historical Quarterly* Volume 103, No. 4, Winter 2002. Jan Dilg and I co-authored the article. In addition, Jan and I both published pieces about the process of collaborative historical research separately in the same journal. These separate pieces were developed out of papers we delivered at the annual Pacific Northwest History Conference in April 2002. Jan Dilg is now a graduate student in History and has been hired by the Oregon Historical Society to work at its press.

BUDGET

Travel

To Seattle – overnight trip to the National Archives

Car rental	23.74x2	47.48
Up grade insurance	18x2	36.00
Gas		20.00
Hotel		120.00
Meals	30x2	60.00

To Eugene – overnight trip to UofO archives

Car rental	23.74x2	47.48
Up grade insurance	18x2	36.00
Gas		20.00
Hotel		120.00
Meals	30x2	60.00

To Waldport, day trip

Car rental		23.74
Gas		20.00

Supplies

Copying costs at archives 100.00

Student Wages

Transcription work 789.30

TOTAL

1500.00

Extramural Funding: The Forest Service has agreed to provide a small stipend (1250.00) to both Jo Ogden and Eliza Jones to compensate them for the time they will contribute to the development of the Forest Service oral history publication.

Faculty Signature: *Kathleen E. Baul*

Date: *25 Nov 03*