

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

YSU Faculty

O.H. 2173

Dr. Frederick J. Blue

Interviewed

by

Sam DiRocco II

on

February 17, 2004

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P: This is an interview with Dr. Frederick J. Blue for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on YSU Faculty, by Sam DiRocco II, at Dr. Blue's office in Debartolo Hall, on February 17, 2004. This project was funded by the Ford Foundation.

D: Dr. Blue if we could start with your background maybe where you're originally from. Are you from the Ohio Valley Area?

B: No I was born in Staten Island, part of New York City, and went to high school there at Staten Island.

D: Do you have siblings, brothers or sisters?

B: I have a brother who lives in Northern California.

D: What was Staten Island like when you were a kid? Take me back to a day in little Frederick Blue's life.

B: It's about a hundred and seventy-five thousand people, the least known of the five boroughs of New York City because it's by far the smallest population wise. It's big in terms of area; it's about twenty miles long. Many of the people there including my dad commuted to Manhattan to work riding the famous Staten Island Ferry. He was lucky because he had a nice five-minute walk to his office, but most of the people got off the ferry and then had to ride a subway up to mid-town which was making commuting roughly an hour-and-a-half in each direction.

D: So an early start to the day.

B: Exactly, and late getting home, that kind of stuff.

D: Was your family originally from that area?

B: He was born in Baltimore, but had grown up further west in Idaho, went to college in Iowa, and on to law school and then to New York City right at the peak of the Depression. My mother was born in Louisiana but basically grew up in the Chicago area.

D: Did she go to college, your mom?

B: Yea, she went to New York University and was a teacher of Stenography, which I guess is not taught anymore.

D: So how did they meet? Did they meet when they were...

B: I'm not sure exactly how they met other than on Staten Island.

D: So from Louisiana, and originally from Baltimore, then to Staten Island. So what were some of the things you might have done, I mean, I'm sure the things, well, they may be similar, but the things that I did when I was a kid; games, hobbies, things like that, what did you and your brother do, how did you hang out?

B: Well, it was a suburban area, not a lot of parks nearby, so we played what was called stickball which was right in the street, get out of the way when the cars come, that kind of thing. Nothing extraordinary I don't think other than when you live on Staten Island the big thing of course is to go into the city, Staten Island was in our eyes never considered the city, because it's basically a suburban commuting area for people working in Manhattan. It's closer to Brooklyn, but very few people worked there. Now of course there's a bridge to Brooklyn, but in those days it was another shorter ferry ride.

D: So then did the family than take trips into the city for shopping once in a while, or events?

B: Yea, we went to Radio City and...

D: So you were familiar with some of those areas as a young child?

B: Yea, I was familiar with Manhattan; I don't know...well, I was a Dodger fan so I was familiar with Brooklyn.

D: Did you go to some of the games as a kid?

B: Yea, I remember the first game I went to was in 1945, two days after the Second World War ended, or a day after, and we got there and it was a madhouse. Normally crowds were not large, but the celebration for the war's end obviously.

D: Now did you play any sports as a kid when you started to go up into grade school or junior high?

B: I played a little tennis and ran a little cross-country. That's basically it, nothing...no real ability.

D: So were you book savvy at a young age, did you take to the books?

B: Yea, I was interested in history right from the start, that was mine intention to go to college, that's what I wanted to study.

D: You knew from the very beginning?

B: Pretty much, yea.

D: So, your father was a lawyer?

B: He was an attorney in the Wall Street area.

D: So seeing his success and his college background, did that inspire you to go to college?

B: I think so, although it turned me off to the law because the hours he kept were just so horrendous. He got home late and hardly ever ate supper before seven o'clock, that kind of thing.

D: Did you have when you were a kid a favorite teacher, or a mentor outside of the family? You said you knew that you liked history very young, did you ever have someone who...

B: Yea there were a number of people in high school that I can't think by name that really stand out.

D: Okay so from Staten Island, then from high school you go to school where?

B: I went to college at Yale in New Haven, which was about seventy-five miles. In those days you didn't come home every weekend you stayed put. The first time I got home was Thanksgiving. Ride the New York Central, the New Haven railroad I guess.

D: Did you apply to other colleges?

B: Yea, I applied to Middlebury and to Harvard, Harvard turned me down.

D: And was your brother older or younger?

B: He was three years older, he went to Princeton, was two years ahead of me in college.

D: And his profession or specialty?

B: He was a geologist in school, but he pursued it as far as a Master's at the University of Utah but did not go beyond that in Geology.

D: So was there a specific reason why you chose Yale, you said Harvard didn't accept, but in those days did you actually go to a college and tour it or view it before hand?

B: Yea.

D: And your major going in was history?

B: Right.

D: Now was it Nineteenth Century American History?

B: No, I don't think I knew that specifically at that point.

D: You just liked history?

B: Yea.

D: So four years then at Yale, and then from there...

B: Two years in the Army. In '58 I was graduated from college, and then two years in the army which included a year-and-a-half in Germany, which was a good deal because I was clerk typist and we worked midnight shifts, so we didn't have to any of the parading and spit-and-polish. It was pre-Berlin Wall, so I was there '58 to '60.

D: So you were there pre-Wall.

B: So I actually got to what was then called East Berlin.

D: How would you compare Yale or the United States, what you were used to at that time, as compared to East Germany, being stationed at the base there?

B: Well, the base was in Heidelberg, which of course is Western Germany, but East Germany was just a visit, that was Russian controlled so just the little bit we saw was very under developed and nothing going it was quiet and just seemed dead, it was amazing. It's hard to believe in terms of what followed very quickly in terms of the wall and all of the fury that followed.

D: Now did you have to do basic training?

B: Basis training was in Fort Dix, New Jersey, which is an hour-and-a-half south of New York City.

D: Okay, so you get your degree, a Bachelor of Arts in History from Yale and then you decided to go to the army. Was there a specific reason for that?

B: Well it was basically the fear element. In those days there was a draft and if you didn't you would get drafted so I thought I'd just get it out of the way.

D: So that was from '58 to '60 you said?

B: Yea. And then I got an early release from the army to go to grad school two months early, then on to Madison to the University of Wisconsin.

D: Now you said you were a typist?

B: Clerk typist, in the Army Headquarters.

D: Was that your mom's background, did some of the stuff she maybe taught you help you out?

B: No...well, she did help me with that, but that was something you picked up in high school if you didn't get it sooner.

D: So then you're discharged two months early from Germany, from the army, then you had the Madison. How was Madison similar or different from, let's say Yale?

B: Well it's of course a school that's many times larger, a huge grad school, I don't know what the student population is, it's probably like somewhere in the twenty thousands, it's no doubt bigger now. A very large graduate program in history, well known and good reputation, but at that point the market started to get glutted so it was already cranking out too many Doctorates. And the programs all got smaller after I left simply because of the shrinking market by the seventies.

D: Now when you were at Yale was there a specific professor there really was a mentor?

B: Well I had named David Cronin, who ended up actually surprisingly in Wisconsin, and he was Twentieth Century, he ended up being a dean at Wisconsin. His son, I can't think of his first name, is quite an historian today in terms of frontier environmental issues, and I'm not sure if he's at Wisconsin or where, he might even be at Yale, one of the two.

D: So you had a little bit of connection.

B: Yea.

D: Were you getting your Doctorate or your Master's at Wisconsin, or both?

B: I got them both. You didn't go right through without the Master's to the Doctorate as some schools do now; you stopped and got the M.A. and then the Doctorate. I always did... I was there four years.

D: What was your Master's Thesis on?

B: It was actually the Free Soil Party in Wisconsin, I worked under Richard Current, who was mainly Civil War and Reconstruction issues, and he pointed me in that direction. He'd written a lot of Wisconsin stuff, and so then that was the M.A. Thesis, and then it was just expanded into the Free Soil Party in the entire North for the dissertation.

D: So when you're at Madison did you live with a group of grad students; did you live on your own, had you met your wife?

B: I lived on my sharing apartments with a couple guys for a couple years and then I met my wife and we were married in '62 after I did two years.

D: She was at Wisconsin in Madison?

B: She was an undergrad at the university. She was from Milwaukee. We actually met at a church, the Presbyterian Church choir, so we got together and were married in '62.

D: So that's in the process of working on your two degrees?

B: Yea, so I still had two more years before getting a job here at Youngstown.

D: What was her area?

B: Her area was occupational therapy, so she finished that there, worked in Madison, and then got work here in Youngstown.

D: So let's turn into that. So you grew up in Staten Island, attend Yale, spend a couple of years in Germany, go to Madison to do your four years of graduate school. How, where, when, how did you end up in Youngstown?

B: It's sort of the situation where I think I had two or three job interviews and the market was already shrinking and I didn't have any publications, very few graduate students had publications in those days, so it was a matter of how hard your dissertation director would go to bat for you in terms of placement. My guy wasn't that...

D: Let's just review. Your dissertation was on the Free Soil and the North?

B: Yea, the history of the party throughout the North. So the jobs that I interviewed for included one at the university of North Dakota, in Fargo, I think it was Fargo, and here, and we chose this one, and coming expecting to stay maybe two or three years, and two or three years became forty.

D: Yea, I've talked to some of the faculty here in the History Department and they all have hinted or said, "We only intended to be here a handful of years," but most of them stayed and thankfully you have because they definitely have had an impact on the university. So what was the interview like when you came here to YSU?

B: It's funny, the Organization of American Historians, although at that point it was still called the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, it changed names right about this point in '64. The convention would be in Cleveland at what was then called Fenn College; it was before Fenn College became Cleveland State, and they had one building at that, a skyscraper, I don't know if they still have it. And so there were three or four up from what was then Youngstown University, still the private school in '64. David Behen, who was Chair of the Department, Al Scardon, he was a southerner from the University of Chicago, and Sid Roberts, and Morris Slavin. I think all four of them were up at Cleveland for that interview, and David Behen had a reputation for being quite a talker, never gives the interviewee much of a chance to say anything, he gave a survey course in U.S. Survey and rarely got past the War of 1812 because he would be able to go on and on. So they apparently heard enough to offer me the job, and so we came here in the fall, August of '64. It was interesting driving here from Madison, we chose to drive all night because pre-air condition days it was very hot, and we heard the radio all night and the race-rioting going on. The time that race riots were in the early sixties; Watts and all of those, and I'm pretty sure that night was the Philadelphia one.

D: So you're driving from Madison, Wisconsin to your first job as a professor, and you're listening to the Philadelphia riots.

B: Right, and we got what was called a town house in Austintown, what's today called Central Park West on Idaho Road, near the present high school, Fitch. And I lived there three years, then I bought a house, still in Austintown, and lived in that house ever since.

D: So did you...did anybody here in the department or in YSU, did they help you with areas to live, or did you kind of have to work on that on your own, or how does that work?

B: Yea, Dave Behen, who was the Chair, took it upon himself, very nice guy, willing to give up most of his day, and took us all over the place; it was out of town that we wanted to look at.

D: Because you had no contacts...

B: No, we knew no one, nobody here.

D: And your wife's family was originally from Milwaukee, so...

B: Yea, they were still there, and my folks were still in Staten Island.

D: So you come to YSU in '64, it's your first job as professor, what was campus like, as compared to today?

B: Campus was extremely small. There was Jones Hall, which I think was then called the main building or main hall, or something like that, because Howard Jones was still president of the university, he retired a year or two after I got here, I guess three years when we went state in '67, that's when he retired. And Elm Street came all the way through to Lincoln, and at both ends of Lincoln there were little funeral homes where today the Engineering building and Beecher Science building is. And some of the buildings were old World War II temporary structures that remained on, some of the classes were over it that what's called Pollack, which became the hotel over across the street from Bliss. The hotel is now closed; you can't see its name. Anyway, that was where we had some of our classes, and the Ward Science Hall was there, Ward Beecher was there, not the planetarium. We met in what is now Tod, we had our offices in what is now Tod Hall, and it was the library.

D: So Tod Hall was the library and also it was where your offices were.

B: It was where the History Department was and we were just one end of the stacks, and I was in with two people, husband and wife, one was in Natural Science and the other taught Psychology. And there was one telephone down in the Circulation office; they had to come running to get us for a phone call for eight offices, including all of the history faculty.

D: So how big was the faculty then?

B: We had, let's see, three people were hired the same year I came, Les Domonokos and Hugh Earnheart, along with, I think a couple were retiring, so we were probably about eight, eight or nine. The big hiring came in '69, Satre came in '67 or eight, but the biggest number, many of whom are still here were hired in '69; Jenkins, Berger, Friedman, Kulchitsky, Pei Huang, who has since retired.

D: So you were a handful of years before them?

B: Yea, just five years actually, and the department got as large as eighteen in the early seventies, and then it fell back, first to sixteen, and I guess we're thirteen or fourteen now. Of course part of that was enrollment peaked and fell, but the university as a whole it got over 15,000 sometime in the seventies and then fell back.

D: So you're here, its private, kind of had your cubby area or shared space...

B: Yea, I had a desk, period. I don't think any bookcases or anything.

D: And then the transition from private to public is in '67, so is it then at that point that a lot of stuff starts to...

B: A lot of state monies came in, and the Engineering and Science building and Kilcawley I think were the first things built. Then we had our offices moved to actually where the McDonough Museum is now, it was an old motel, Valley Park Motel, or something like that, which they just turned into faculty offices. So there were two people to an office because it was a motel room with bathrooms, so that was convenient in that sense but it was still built as a motel and not designed for permanent offices. But we were there I bet a good ten years, whenever this building has been with us, around '80, maybe earlier, do you have a date?

D: I was thinking mid-seventies, but I could be way off.

B: Yea, somewhere in that period when we came here and of course had this suite right from the beginning.

D: So this has been your spot since whenever we came to the building.

B: Yea, why did I get a window? Because we had a drawing. There were only four offices plus the Chair's office that have windows, so the sixteen or so of us had a drawing and I got lucky.

D: So you said enrollment peaked in the seventies?

B: I believe.

D: And that's when the department was at its largest?

B: Yea, and history at that point was a requirement, so for a short time we actually had the mass lectures over at the Engineering lecture hall, in the late sixties we had a lecture with 200 students, which was not a good situation. Fortunately that didn't last, but then they changed the requirements and history became an option, and of course we lost a lot of students as a result.

D: So what was a typical day for you, let's say, what we talked about when it was private. What was a typical day?

B: Teaching load in those days was even heavier than it is now, that's always been a problem here.

D: Meaning?

B: Fifteen hours a week. We were on semesters interestingly for the first three years as a private school, so we taught five courses, three credits each. And that's heavier than any university you can name today, twelve is heavier than most, which is standard load at Youngstown now.

D: Which is four, right?

B: Four courses. Now we went to quarters because we were told when we joined the state system we had to change to quarters, although not all of the schools did. So we were on quarters from '68 or so, whenever the change was completed, until three or four years ago we switched back to semesters.

D: But the course load was quite heavy for the faculty?

B: Yea, always have been, the union has never seen that as a priority to deal with that. It's been quite good in terms of pay increases, but never has its priority reducing the teaching load, as much as I thought it should.

D: So now, did you ever serve as the Chair of the department?

B: No, I was never Chair but I served as the Graduate Director for the last ten years 'till I retired. That brought a reduced teaching load, and there are other ways to get your teaching load reduced; through research professorships and of course the sabbatical policy here, which is much more liberal than almost any school you can name.

D: Now how does that work, the sabbatical, are they usually set for no more than a semester, or can they sometimes be extended?

B: Usually for here they're a year, although you can do it either way, but it's a year at 100% of your salary. Most schools if it's a year its 50%, if it's a semester it can be 100%, so that's one of things that's very liberal here. They are competitive, so you don't automatically get one, there are always more people applying than receive them, and you're eligible every seven years, that doesn't mean you automatically apply every seven, nor that you'll get one, but you're eligible to apply every seventh year.

D: Now you took those I'm assuming through the years to do some books or publishing?

B: Yea I had three or four over the years since research has always been one of my priorities.

D: Now you talked about the unions and hopefully we can get back to that maybe here in a little bit, but how did the student body change over the years? Was it ethnically or racially diverse when you first came here? Did it change through the years?

B: I think pretty much...certainly there has been an increase in African American numbers, percentage, although even that is still no more than I guess ten or twelve percent, I don't know where that number is. There were very few black faculty when I came, they hired a few, wanted more, but of course they were not easy to find in the competition. But student body had always been heavily commuter. Many of the students working so that the five or six years to complete a degree was just as a common in 1970 as it is in 2004.

D: So the parking in the mornings was always hectic.

B: Yea, parking is...it's a chronic here with this weather. Even before the decks...well, it's just something that automatically you have something to complain about.

D: What about the hiring process of, let's say, a female, or a minority in the department. When were the first times that those happened?

B: Well, we had a woman named Agnes Smith in the department who came, she taught here first part-time, her field was British history, she and Satre shared that area. And she taught until her retirement in the early eighties. But at the same time we had very few other women, I'm trying to think when that could be easily checked if Professor Pallante and York were the first two and came about the same time, Agnes Smith had already retired. There were many...there was a woman who taught Preservation here for a year, and we have had African Americans in the department, we had several who taught African History, we had a guy named Julian Madison who taught U.S. African American. So I think we've had a fare amount of diversity, not as much as perhaps it should be.

D: Was there a big push for, at a certain stage when you were here, not so much the history department but maybe the university as a whole to...

B: The push for African American faculty came in the early 70's when black studies programs were being established; we set up one here headed by Al Bright, still over in the art department. We had here one of the real leaders of the program, getting it started, he was not African American, Donald Capecci, who left in the early 70's, but he and Bright and several others helped get that program started. So I think the push for minority faculty corresponded with that, and as far as women, I think YSU always had a fair number and it's just an increasing percentage to wherever it is today.

D: Was there ever an administration or the president that worked well, or the department liked more so than the others? Were there ever any conflicts between something the department wanted to do, or university policy?

B: I can't think of any major conflicts. Obviously there's disagreements, that's the nature of the game, administrators never want to do exactly what you think is best, and the president at the time when we went state, guy named Albert Pugsley, was here I've forgotten how many years, six or eight years, and it was during his era that the black studies program was established. I'm not sure how he felt about it but he certainly went along with the idea.

D: Now, you mentioned earlier about the peak probably being in the 70's, student enrollment, and then of course decreasing, could you describe a little bit about the mills' impact, or just the whole industry of Youngstown, how it related with the university.

B: The mills of course began to close in the 70's, and I'm not sure how that impacted, we used to think that growing unemployment meant more people going to college because they simply were not able to find work and did that in the meantime until such work developed. So about the time the mills closed, and I have to check the dates, I guess Lordstown had already opened, and that helped to some degree, but steel was never really replaced in this town, it's still an issue, its still high unemployment compared to the rest of the state and the rest of the country.

D: So was Youngstown truly booming and thriving and really alive when you first got here as compared to now or in the eighties?

B: Yea, downtown there were two department stores; one was called Strouss, which then became Kaufman's. McKelveys, which is now a parking deck or a lot, I forget which, and Lustigs was downtown, which was the shoe store, and Stambaugh's and Penny's, and downtown was just alive, you could go down there to eat and shop.

D: So when you came to visit or toured the area it was, you had heard of Youngstown and...

B: Yea, well you didn't always here of it in the best reputation; I had read the article on the bomb city in the *Saturday Evening Post* just before we moved, so there was that too, but the population when we moved her was, I'm guessing, I'd have to check a 1960 census, but probably 140,000, today its around 80,000. It reached as high as 170,000, but it had already begun to decline before we came.

D: Now you said earlier about the University of North Dakota, did they just not offer you the job?

B: Yea the job was offered but I guess North Dakota winters kind of scared us, although we lived in Wisconsin, it wouldn't have been that much worse I guess.

D: We talked earlier about your specialty, your field, talk about some of the books or items that you've published, or have been apart of over the years.

B: Well the dissertation as we've said was the Free Soil Party which became a book in the early 70's, 1973, and then shortly after that because one of the key Free Soilers was Salmon Chase, and I knew there was no modern biography of Chase – the last one published was like 1899, so I got into the Chase biography which took quite a while.

D: Is that the one that's out in the case?

B: Probably, yea, that was published by Kent State Press in 1987. And then I did a short biography of Charles Sumner in the mid-90's. And then as kind of a diversion we did the bicentennial history of the city with Jenkins, and Bill Lawson, and Joan Reedy, which came out in '95, just before the bicentennial in '96. So that's, and then right now I've just completed a book that's going to be published by Louisiana State University Press either the end of this year or next year on anti-slavery political leadership.

D: How long, for future students and writers, how long does something like that, I'm sure its different for whatever field you're in or your specialty, but we talked about the sabbaticals, did you take those to spur on the time to develop a book?

B: Yea, you really get...you can get a lot done in a year, you can't get the whole thing done, it's a multi-year process, and its writing and re-writing, and sending it to this publisher and getting rejected, and going to another one and waiting and getting frustrated and finally getting the good news. My dissertation I finished in Wisconsin in '64, that was nine years till it was published by Illinois in '73.

D: Was that expanded at all?

B: Yea, it was totally revised and rewritten and changed quite a bit with some help from people who were here, people who would read it for me or with me.

D: What was the length of your dissertation?

B: Well the book itself was roughly 300 pages.

D: So a nice piece of work that had a lot of time and energy spent into it.

B: Yea.

D: So over the years how has technology changed, how has impacted writing books, or publishing, or getting funds or grants, or things like that?

B: Sure, yea, obviously everything was done on a typewriter, of course by hand, I used to write them out, then typed them. It's a long, slow process, making all your own corrections, getting somebody to type it for you. Computers don't really become a factor until I guess the late 80's or early 90's.

D: But that definitely made life a lot easier?

B: Oh, sure, although I still basically hand write a lot of this stuff the first time. Sometimes I compose it on the computer but once you do it one way it's hard to change.

D: Yea I for some reason too always write things out then I go to type it, I think once you have it formatted. You said earlier that when you first got to Madison, and then when you finished, there were a lot of history faculty being moved out. Was publishing then more difficult early on as compared to once you got established here at YSU?

B: I think it's probably about the same, there's a lot of options and publishers, university and private companies, but I don't know that its any easier or harder today. There are more people competing and its more necessary, even to get that first job, to at least have an article or two. That was helpful then, but it wasn't necessarily as expected as it is now. The Doctoral programs now are longer, I did it basically in four and a half years, now you can't do anything under five or six, talking Master's and Doctorate combined, in terms of today's world in history.

D: You talked earlier...you brought up a couple points about the union. When was that established for the faculty here?

B: The Union came, we were the first school in Ohio...this is of course a union town, I think that had a lot to do with it. Tom Shipka, who is in the Philosophy department, his father was an old union person in steel, and he really spearheaded it here in the late 60's, I can't remember the exact date of unionization, but its late 60's, early 70's, and long before any other state school in Ohio and most other states had moved to unionization, in fact most still haven't. So it's always been a pioneer in that sense, and it's clearly in large part because of the union atmosphere in this town.

D: It was definitely an advantage for the faculty then of course to have that.

B: Yea, in terms of salary, as a private school we were very poorly paid, and heavy teaching loads, and both of those things improved when we went state, but only with the help of the unions. I always maintain that unions are called into being by the employer who refuses to move, or if you had an employer that was moving a little faster you probably wouldn't need them, but that wasn't happening here and would not have happened.

D: You said your second house there in Austintown, that's the house you have. Did you have kids? Did they go to Austintown?

B: Yea, we have two kids, a girl and a boy, both went to Fitch, both went to Bowling Green, the daughter Karen lives in the Seattle area and has two kids, she's physical therapist. Son Eric lives in South Florida, just South of West Palm, they have two kids, he's in business.

D: But they didn't want to stay in Ohio?

B: No. It's like so many kids growing up in Youngstown with the difficult economic situation here and the lack of opportunity, they never really even thought about staying put. They knew they were going elsewhere.

D: Now did the faculty ever hang out outside of here, the department, over the years? Did you get together maybe once a week or have lunches together?

B: Some, when Agnes Smith was with the faculty she and her husband lived up on a farm near Parkman, and she had an annual fall picnic, which the faculty came, and the kids wanted to watch the cows give milk. They had sugaring up there, so she'd invite us in March to see them make the syrup they made.

D: I've heard some of the faculty, or even some of the students talk about how on Lincoln here. Were there some restaurants, or other things that used to be there, or am I confused with something else?

B: Lincoln, I can't think of anything other than that those have changed hands a lot in terms of restaurants and bars. Kinko's was there, you remember that, that isn't that many years ago, and Inner Circle has always been there in a different location.

D: So over the years did you ever have a memorable student or someone who did well, or you took under your wings and helped them over the processes of publishing and research?

B: Yea, there have been a number over the years. One I think of is Vernon Volpe, who went from here to the University of Nebraska; he graduated from here with his Master's about 1980. He got his Doctorate at Nebraska and wrote a book on the Liberty party, which is obviously of interest to me, and he teaches at the University of Nebraska in Kearney. And the numbers that we send on to Doctorate programs we're extremely proud of, because of course Youngstown's reputation nation wide is not that high profile, so whenever we can make that kind of...now I think of just last year, two of our better students, Ray Krone and Jamie Bartek are going on to Doctoral programs, Jaime at Kentucky and Ray at Perdue. Those kinds of achievements always reflect well on our department and on the university as a whole.

D: Do you have any specific funny story, or anything that happened over the years that just was within the department or with a student, or something maybe that happened in one of your classes that occurred?

B: Nothing comes to mind I'm afraid Sam.

D: Do you remember...I don't know if you had any classes with David Roush when he was here?

B: Yes, I didn't know him well though.

D: He was with Dr. Friedman.

B: Yea he's been more into Marx and the European thing.

D: Lastly pretty much, do you have any advice for people who want to basically follow in your steps as historians broadly? When it comes to publishing, or advice, or anything really.

B: I don't know, they often say if you're getting your undergraduate at one school you shouldn't do your graduate work there, you know, a more cosmopolitan view, a broader view with different schools, but I don't know that that's necessarily true since you can't stay here for a doctorate anyway. And graduate programs no longer seem to demand that you do your Master's work there to get a doctoral assistantship, so I think staying here...just being willing obviously in terms of concentration to broaden yourself beyond the narrow field of American or European, because those are the fields that are most blooded. I'm saying the obvious but you've got to have some less popular fields to make yourself more marketable.

D: A specialty or niche that hasn't been really talked about. Lastly is there anything that you want to add to the interview, or anything else?

B: No, I think you covered it pretty well.

D: Hopefully I did an all right job. I really want to thank you for doing this, you're a really remarkable individual and I'm very lucky; I did sign up for the class for this semester, and just thank you very much.

B: Okay, thank you Sam.