

A Klansman Tells His Story: The Role of Personal Narratives in a Community Reconciliation Project

by Joya Wesley

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GREENSBORO, N.C., USA -- The story former Ku Klux Klansman Joseph Gorrell Pierce came to tell – the one about his knowledge of the events that led up to the tragedy of Nov. 3, 1979 in Greensboro, N.C., USA – is part of a larger story the Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission (GTRC) still is piecing together.

The GTRC is modeled on truth-seeking efforts in South Africa, Peru and elsewhere. The democratically selected commission is mandated to examine the context, causes, sequence and consequences of that day, when Klan and Nazi members killed five labor organizers and wounded ten others at a “Death to the Klan” rally organized by the Communist Workers Party.

[SNIP – End of preview.]