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2-2013

### Faculty Email Exchanges

Dean Saitta  
*University of Denver*

Richard Clemmer-Smith  
*University of Denver*

Billy J. Stratton  
*University of Denver*

Gary A. Fine  
*Northwestern University*

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#### Recommended Citation

Saitta, Dean; Clemmer-Smith, Richard; Stratton, Billy J.; Fine, Gary A.; and Colomy, Paul, "Faculty Email Exchanges" (2013). *John Evans Study: Supporting Materials*. 12.  
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## Faculty Email Exchanges

**Subject:** Re: John Evans, Northwestern and Denver University  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 26, 2013 11:11:33 AM MT  
**From:** Dean Saitta  
**To:** Richard Clemmer-Smith, Billy Stratton, Alan Gilbert

Hi Fellas--

Tink Tinker should be included on this email but I can't find his email address. Billy, will you forward it to him? And also to the Native Student Alliance members at DU who you briefly identified to me this morning? Thanks.

It looks like we are all keen to move ahead with our own DU-based inquiry into the Evans issue that will complement what they're doing at Northwestern University. I'm a late-comer to the party, but I'm happy to arrange meetings and help out however else I can. Will you send me some days and times that are generally good for you to meet, and I'll take it from there? Many thanks,  
Dean

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AAUP Colorado: <http://aaupcolorado.org>

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**From:** Richard Clemmer-Smith <[Richard.Clemmer-Smith@du.edu](mailto:Richard.Clemmer-Smith@du.edu)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 26, 2013 7:47 AM  
**To:** Billy Stratton <[Billy.Stratton@du.edu](mailto:Billy.Stratton@du.edu)>, AHSS <[dean.saitta@du.edu](mailto:dean.saitta@du.edu)>, Richard Clemmer-Smith <[rclemmer@du.edu](mailto:rclemmer@du.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: John Evans, Northwestern and Denver University

Billy --

Definitely count me in. Yes, let's begin with a study group and see if we can plan parallel events and perspectives with Northwestern.

R.

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From: Billy Stratton  
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2013 9:13 PM  
To: Richard Clemmer-Smith; Dean Saitta; Richard Clemmer-Smith  
Subject: RE: John Evans, Northwestern and Denver University

Dean and Richard,  
I've been in contact with Gary and have also worked on a project with Tink to bring attention to the Sand Creek Massacre. I include a discussion of it and later one on Wounded Knee in my Native Lit. courses. I've been serving as faculty adviser to the NSA since I was hired as a TT Assistant and have helped coordinate some events over the

last two years. I passed Gary's message along to the Co-chairs and they have been in touch with Northwestern's NSA group.

I like the idea of a study group and possible collaboration with the people at Northwestern. I agree that DU should be part of this effort and I'd love to strategize about this further with the both of you.

Best,  
Bill

Billy J. Stratton, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Director of Undergraduate Studies  
Department of English  
University of Denver

In the spirit of healing and peace, I pay respect to the traditional Arapaho and Cheyenne owners - both past and present - of the land on which the University of Denver stands.

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From: Richard Clemmer-Smith  
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2013 9:27 AM  
To: Dean Saitta; Billy Stratton; Richard Clemmer-Smith  
Subject: RE: John Evans, Northwestern and Denver University

Dean --

I met with Alan Gilbert and briefly with the departed Ari Kellman (now at UC Davis) about this. We do indeed have Native Student Alliance but I am not its advisor. Definitely we should gather our forces and strategies. Alan is very keen on us doing something. He had an interesting take not only on all the Evans stuff here (professorship, room, street, mountain) but also on the statuary mostly in Civic Center glorifying Indian-killing, and even justifying it.

R.

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From: Dean Saitta [[Dean.Saitta@du.edu](mailto:Dean.Saitta@du.edu)]  
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2013 4:20 PM  
To: Billy Stratton; Richard Clemmer-Smith  
Subject: FW: John Evans, Northwestern and Denver University

Dear Richard and Billy--

You two may know more than I do about Northwestern University's project to look into John Evans's relationship to the Sand Creek Massacre through formation of a "study committee" or what might also be called a "truth commission." See attached documents and links in the email messages below. I've been brought into the loop just today, and Gary Fine and I have already exchanged emails. Billy, perhaps Gary has also been in touch with you?

Anyway, I think this is something that we should look into doing here at DU, with interested faculty, our native/indigenous students, Steve Fisher, and other appropriate parties. Do we still have a Native Student Alliance on campus? In my email to Gary I identified Richard as an advisor, but perhaps Billy (or someone else?) is now in that role? The Provost at Northwestern has given his blessing to the project. I think it would look very strange (for DU) for Northwestern to travel this road without us alongside as a partner/collaborator. What do you think? Should we gather our forces and strategize?

Dean

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AAUP at DU: <http://portfolio.du.edu/aaup>

AAUP Colorado: <http://aaupcolorado.org><<http://aaupcolorado.org/>>

From: Gary A Fine <[g-fine@northwestern.edu](mailto:g-fine@northwestern.edu)<<mailto:g-fine@northwestern.edu>>>

Date: Saturday, February 23, 2013 2:54 PM

To: AHSS <[dean.saitta@du.edu](mailto:dean.saitta@du.edu)<<mailto:dean.saitta@du.edu>>>

Cc: Paul Colomy <[Paul.Colomy@du.edu](mailto:Paul.Colomy@du.edu)<<mailto:Paul.Colomy@du.edu>>>, Gary A Fine <[g-fine@northwestern.edu](mailto:g-fine@northwestern.edu)<<mailto:g-fine@northwestern.edu>>>

Subject: RE: John Evans, Northwestern and Denver University

Hi, Dean,

I think that it would be wonderful to DU to take responsibility and for the administrations to coordinate, ESPECIALLY because of the 150th Anniversary of Sand Creek. The money that DU and NU received is, in my judgment, blood money because it stemmed from Evans' railroad investments which stemmed from his native policies. Do let Professor Clemmer-Smith know. I am already in touch with Prof. Kelman and have read his brilliant book. I have urged our administration (to what effect, I don't know) to take the lead in developing a consortium to open the doors of higher education to native and indigenous students and to support the descendants group of the Sand Creek Massacre.

I attach the article in the Daily Northwestern that provoked NU's historical committee. Perhaps DU (maybe with student pressure) will do the same. The question, following how Brown University handled their involvement in the slave trade, is what is the responsibilities of our universities today.

[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-02-21/news/chi-northwestern-to-probe-founder-evans-and-sand-creek-massacre-20130221\\_1\\_john-evans-university-founder-provost-daniel-linzer](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-02-21/news/chi-northwestern-to-probe-founder-evans-and-sand-creek-massacre-20130221_1_john-evans-university-founder-provost-daniel-linzer)

<http://wiredcampus.chronicle.com/article/Campus-Alliance-Wants/136881/>

Let us remain in touch.

Warmly,

Gary

Gary Alan Fine  
Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology  
"John Evans" Professor of Sociology  
Northwestern University  
Phone: 847-657-0113

From: Dean Saitta [<mailto:Dean.Saitta@du.edu>]

Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2013 3:25 PM

To: Paul Colomy; Gary A Fine

Subject: Re: John Evans, Northwestern and Denver University

Hi Paul and Gary--

Paul, many thanks for forwarding this very interesting news from Gary, and hello Gary! Pleasure to meet you.

Paul's right that I'm very interested in Sand Creek, mostly from a teaching perspective and-- much more casually-- from the John-Evans-as-Indian-Killer perspective. However, my colleague in Anthropology Richard Clemmer-Smith ([rclemmer@du.edu](mailto:rclemmer@du.edu)<<mailto:rclemmer@du.edu>>) knows more about Sand Creek history than I do. We also had a faculty member in History here a few years ago— Ari Kelman—who just published a book about Sand Creek called A Misplaced Massacre. Ari started the book while he was at DU and I talked with him a couple times about the subject. Ari is now at UC-Davis. Richard and Ari are definitely people for you or your colleagues to contact to find out what they know. Especially Richard, of course, because he's still here and I believe that he's also an advisor to the Native American student organization on our campus.

I personally think that it would be very interesting for DU to partner with Northwestern—and especially the native/indigenous students at both institutions—to get to the bottom of the John Evans part of the Sand Creek story. I very easily could be persuaded that DU should be held morally responsible for Evans's behavior. So, I'd be keen to help out wherever I can for any "Truth Commission" work our two institutions might conduct together. From time-to-time I've pointed out—to anyone who would listen-- John Evans's history where it concerns the treatment of Native peoples, including as recently as last year when I suggested that DU should do more to honor Silas Soule as a counterbalance to our honoring of Evans (e.g., the "Evans Professorship" is the highest honor a faculty member can receive at DU). You probably know that Silas Soule was the Army captain who refused to fire upon the defenseless Indians at Sand Creek, giving some a chance to escape the carnage. Soule was later murdered on the streets of Denver, in part, for his actions at Sand Creek.

I don't imagine that our Provost and administration would be too keen to go in this direction, especially since 2014 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of DU. But perhaps I sell them short. Certainly, I think the idea is worth taking up with our faculty and indigenous students. I'd be happy to forward your email to Richard if you'd like, and gauge the level of interest here. Let me know. And, would you please send me the Tribune, Chronicle, and NU student newspaper articles you mentioned in your emails to Paul if it's convenient? Thanks!

All best to you both,  
Dean

Dean J. Saitta  
Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology  
President, DU Chapter AAUP  
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Blog: <http://www.interculturalurbanism.com>  
AAUP at DU: <http://portfolio.du.edu/aaup>  
AAUP Colorado: <http://aaupcolorado.org>

From: Gary A Fine [[g-fine@northwestern.edu](mailto:g-fine@northwestern.edu)<<mailto:g-fine@northwestern.edu>>]  
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2013 12:57 PM  
To: Paul Colomy  
Cc: Gary A Fine  
Subject: RE: John Evans, Northwestern and Denver University  
Hi, Paul

Ask Dean if DU should be held responsible in a moral sense for the money received from Evans, who was at the time of DU's founding a very controversial figure, removed as governor because of Sand Creek. As I noted, NU has formed a study committee in preparation to action. Perhaps DU should do the same, and perhaps share information with NU if both schools agree.

Gary

Gary Alan Fine  
Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology  
John Evans Professor of Sociology  
Northwestern University  
Phone: 847-657-0113  
From: Paul Colomy [<mailto:Paul.Colomy@du.edu>]  
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2013 1:50 PM  
To: Gary A Fine  
Subject: RE: John Evans, Northwestern and Denver University

Dear Gary,

thanks for this email.

Your project sounds fascinating. I will forward you email to Dean Saitta, an anthropologist here at DU, who has been studying Sand Creek for a bit. He knows a great deal about Sand Creek, though I'm not sure whether he's devoted a great deal of attention to the John Evans part of the story. Dean will also know about other scholars in the area who may be investigating this tragic event.

All the best to you and your family. (I still remember fondly the meeting we had at your house in GA many, many years ago.)

all the best,

Paul

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From: Gary A Fine [[g-fine@northwestern.edu](mailto:g-fine@northwestern.edu)<<mailto:g-fine@northwestern.edu>>]  
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2013 12:52 PM  
To: [pcolomy@du.edu](mailto:pcolomy@du.edu)<<mailto:pcolomy@du.edu>>  
Cc: Gary A Fine  
Subject: John Evans, Northwestern and Denver University  
Dear Paul,

I hope that this email finds you well.

As you may know Denver University and Northwestern share a connection. We were both founded by John Evans, who was territorial governor of Colorado during the 1860s until he was relieved by President Johnson. I don't know how much you know about Evans (and perhaps you Coloradans know a lot). But John Evans has recently become a center of controversy at Northwestern. There is very strong evidence that he was politically and morally responsible for the Sand Creek Massacre, which was likely the worst act of genocide in American history. As a student of reputation (and scandal), I have been working with our Native American and Indigenous Student Association to call on the University to form a commission to investigate Evans's role (he has been described as Northwestern's leading benefactor in the 19th Century) and then to determine what responses to make. I attach an essay that was published in the Daily Northwestern. This has also been covered by the Chicago Tribune and the Chronicle of Higher Education. My understanding is that our administration is planning some kind of investigation, but we don't know what.

I write to find out if there has been any discussion of Evans and Sand Creek. A quick view of DU's website suggests not (<http://www.du.edu/explore/historyandtraditions.html>). But perhaps this is an issue that both institutions should explore together as the history is the same. (I know that Denver newspapers discussed Evans and genocide when there was a proposal to change the name of Mount Evans in 2000. We have some students here who hope to visit Denver to explore the archives. Perhaps I will join them. At any rate, I attach a written version of the article that appeared in our student newspaper.

In addition, and importantly, Northwestern University has just established a study committee to track the history of Evans and NU. Here is the announcement:

#### John Evans Study Committee Formed

Provost names scholars to review historical record

text size A<<http://www.northwestern.edu/newscenter/stories/2013/02/john-evans-study-committee-formed.html>>A<<http://www.northwestern.edu/newscenter/stories/2013/02/john-evans-study-committee-formed.html>>A<<http://www.northwestern.edu/newscenter/stories/2013/02/john-evans-study-committee-formed.html>>

February 14, 2013 | by Alan K. Cubbage<<mailto:a-cubbage@northwestern.edu>>

A committee that will review and report on the history of John Evans, one of the founders of Northwestern University, has been formed, Provost Daniel I. Linzer announced today.

The committee will consist of four faculty members from Northwestern and three scholars from other institutions. The group will examine the nature of Evans' involvement in the Sand Creek Massacre, an incident that occurred in 1864 while he was the governor of what was then the Colorado Territory, and Evans' later involvement with Northwestern.

"The year 2014 will mark the 150th anniversary of Sand Creek, so it is appropriate to assess how and what we report about John Evans as part of our institutional history, and if and in what way we should continue to recognize his contributions to the University," Linzer said. "Although Sand Creek occurred 13 years after the



establishment of Northwestern, we would like to know in detail the nature of John Evans' relationship with the University when he was territorial governor and afterwards."

Linzer said the committee would examine whether any financial support for Northwestern from Evans could be attributed to wealth he obtained as a result of policies and practices he pursued while territorial governor regarding the Native American populations there.

The committee is being formed in response to a request from a group of students and supporters who asked the University to create such a group. Members of the study committee will be:

- \* Carl Smith, Franklyn Bliss Snyder Professor of English, American Studies and History, who will chair the committee
- \* Peter Hayes, Theodore Zev Weiss Holocaust Educational Foundation Professor of History and chair, department of history
- \* Dylan Penningroth, associate professor of history and a research professor at the American Bar Foundation
- \* Laurie Zoloth, professor of religious studies and of medical humanities and bioethics
- \* Ned Blackhawk, Yale University, professor of history and American studies
- \* Frederick E. Hoxie, University of Illinois, Swanlund Professor of History, Law and American Indian Studies
- \* Elliot West, University of Arkansas, Distinguished Professor and Alumni Distinguished Professor of History

A graduate student will be invited to work with the committee to conduct archival research and the University archivist, Kevin Leonard, will collaborate with the committee, Linzer said.

The committee will provide a report to the provost by June 2014 that will be made public at that time. Another committee of University members will then be asked to make recommendations on what actions the University should take as a result of the report.

Evans, one of the nine men who founded Northwestern, was a physician who came to Chicago in the 1840s and became active in politics, including supporting the abolitionist movement and the founding of the Republican party. He served as chairman of the University board of trustees from its founding until 1894. Several Northwestern professorships and the University's alumni center bear his name, and the city of Evanston is named for him.

Evans was appointed by Abraham Lincoln to be governor of the Colorado Territory in 1862. In late 1864, a group of Colorado militiamen attacked a band of Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians near Sand Creek in eastern Colorado, killing more than 150 Indians, many of them women, children and elderly. The attack became known as the Sand Creek Massacre. The following year, Evans was asked to resign as territorial governor. He remained in Colorado for the rest of his life.

"I appreciate our students and faculty raising this issue, which is important to the historical identity of Northwestern, and I thank our faculty members, and those from other institutions, for agreeing to serve on this important committee," Linzer said. "I look forward to receiving the report next year."

Let me know what you think. Perhaps this is something that you and your DU colleagues might investigate.

Take care.

Warmly,

Gary

Gary Alan Fine

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology  
John Evans Professor of Sociology  
Northwestern University