

N.C. History Professor Developed Denmark Vesey Docu-Drama

UNC-Wilmington history professor Robert Brent Toplin developed the docu-drama, "Denmark Vesey's Rebellion", that airs Wednesday, February 17 a 9 p.m. on Center Channel 4. The program deals with an actual event in American history: the plot of Charleston blacks in 1822 to organize a slave rebellion and escape to freedom.

Professor Toplin began work on the production in 1976, when he was asked by PBS to submit a proposal for a television program on a historic theme of national interest. At the time "Roots"

had not yet appeared, and Toplin suggested a show about slavery. Shortly after, "Roots" was aired and won tremendous acclaim. Toplin was not discouraged by comments that the topic of slavery was now "already covered on TV." Instead, he felt the positive reaction to "Roots" showed that public curiosity about the history of slavery remained high.

With the help of several fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Toplin began research on the case of Denmark Vesey's slave plot. After many months of

reading the original court records, personal letters and diaries, newspaper reports and government documents, Toplin pieced together descriptions of the events and leading personalities in the story. Among the historic characters who Dr. Toplin found especially interesting were Denmark Vesey, a free black carpenter who led the conspiracy; Gullah Jack, and African-born witch doctor who led the recruitment of plantation slaves; Thomas Bennett, the governor of South Carolina who failed to detect the plot; and Rolla Bennett, the governor's per-

sonal slave servant who also secretly worked as one of the rebel ringleaders.

After organizing the main outlines of the dramatic storyline, Toplin met frequently with William Hauptman, a professional screenwriter. Together the two completed the draft of a script for the program. Then Toplin brought in a team of twelve leading historians of slavery to evaluate the script in detail and recommend improvements.

Toplin has enjoyed developing "Denmark Vesey's Rebellion" and he believes many more cases from American history could

be examined using docu-dramas.

"Docu-drama makes history come alive," says Toplin, "and it allows us to try to get close to historical reality by recreating visual as well as verbal images of the environment and the personalities of the time." Toplin reports that preparing a production for TV proved more difficult than writing a traditional history book (he is the author of four such volumes). "There was much more to worry about, such as the authenticity of clothing and furniture and the use of language and accents," he notes.

Sunday

February 7, 1981

	WFMY CH. 2 Cable 2	WPTF CH. 28 Cable 3	WTVD CH. 11 Cable 6	WUNC CH. 4 Cable 9	WTTG CH. 5 Cable 10	WRAL CH. 5 Cable 12	WTBS CH. 17 Cable 13	WGHP CH. 8
7:00	Kenneth Copeland	Jerry Falwell	Trollkins		Jimmy Swaggart	World Tomorrow Spiritual Awakening	James Robison It Is Written	Dr. D. James Kennedy
7:15	"	"	Blackstar		"	"	"	"
7:30	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
7:45	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
8:00	Rex Humbard Oral Roberts	Kenneth Copeland	Mighty Mouse Heckle Jockle Drak Pak		Frederick K. Price	Robert Schuller Church Of Our Fathers	Three Stooges & Friends	Gospel Expo Show My People
8:15	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
8:30	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
8:45	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
9:00	Sunday Morning	Jim Bakker	Sunday Morning		Dr. Jerry Falwell	Oral Roberts Rex Humbard	Last In Space	Jimmy Swaggart
9:15	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
9:30	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
9:45	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
10:00	Day Of Discovery	Jerry Falwell	L. Rukyer Bus. Journal		Superman Matinee	Day Of Discovery Sessions 5	Lighter Side Of News Theatre: "Young"	Robert Schuller
10:15	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
10:30	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
10:45	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
11:00	For Our Times Face The Nation	Jimmy Swaggart	Gospel Jubilee Face The Nation		"	First Presbyterian Church	Whiston	Business Journal This Week With David
11:15	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
11:30	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
11:45	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
12:00	Carolina Basketball Movie: "American Graffiti"	Carolina Basketball Movie: "The Press"	NBA BB		Theatre II	Pro & Con	"	"
12:15	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
12:30	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
12:45	"	"	"		"	"	"	"
1:00	"	"	"	Firing Line	"	Brinkley	TBS Theatre: "Once"	Showcase: "The Green Berets"
1:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
1:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
1:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2:00	"	"	"	Lawmakers	Theatre III	Duke Basketball Southern Sportsman	Upon A Time In The West	"
2:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
2:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
3:00	African Queen	UCLA	Louisville	All Creatures Great Small	"	Emergency	"	"
3:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
3:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
3:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
4:00	"	Sportsworld	"	Quilting	Movie	Theatre	"	M.A.S.H.
4:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
4:30	Bing Crosby	Open	Bing Crosby	Victory Garden	"	Wide World Of Sports	"	Wide World Of Sports
4:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
5:00	"	"	"	Almanac	"	"	"	"
5:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
5:30	"	"	"	Wall Street Week	"	"	"	"
5:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
6:00	"	"	"	N. Carolina People Statefile	Playhouses	News	"	News
6:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
6:30	CBS News	Montage	Reel Perspectives	"	"	ABC News	Nice People	ABC News
6:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
7:00	60 Minutes	Peacock Showcase	60 Minutes	Nashville Music Wildlife Safari	"	Code Red	TBS Movie: Tammy Tell Me True	Code Red
7:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
7:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
7:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
8:00	Archie Bunkers One Day At A Time	Movie: "The Day The Bubble"	Archie Bunkers One Day At A Time	Nova	Lawrence Walk	ABC Movie: "Superman"	"	ABC Movie: "Superman"
8:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
8:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
8:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
9:00	Alice Jeffersons	Burst	Alice Jeffersons	Masterpiece Theatre	Mary Griffin	"	This Week In Review	"
9:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
9:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
9:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
10:00	Trapper John	"	Trapper John	No, Honestly! Fall & Rise Reg. Perrin	News	Today's FBI	TBS News	Today's FBI
10:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
10:30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
10:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
11:00	News	Carol Burnett	News CBS News	Twilight Zone	Movie	News ABC News	Open Up	News ABC News
11:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
11:30	CBS News: Don	Jim Bakker	Mary Tyler Moore	"	"	Late Movie	"	Jim Valvano
11:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
12:00	Corbett Baretta	"	Rockford Files	"	"	"	TBS Theatre	Duke Basketball Exhibition This Week
12:15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
12:30	"	Wake Forest BB	"	"	"	"	"	"
12:45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

Calendar

SEARCHING FOR FINANCIAL AID — Start with EOC (Educational Opportunity Center), 208 S. Main St., Roxboro. They have the latest information on federal, campus-based and independent aid funds.

Financial Aid Forms (FAF), Family Financial Statements (FFS) and Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (BEOG) applications are available at EOC. They can help complete the forms quickly and accurately. Call EOC today (599-0257).

MODELING WORKSHOP FOR TEENS AND ADULTS beginning February 20 and continuing through April 3 at the Edison Johnson Center. Also offering Pre Athletics Program for children 2-5 years. Mondays and Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Activities consist of gymnastics, music, art, snack, and storytelling.

Gymnastic classes are now in session in beginning, intermediate, and family gym. For information on any of the classes, call 683-4270.

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