



# Charles G. Sellers

*A History*

# Growing up in Charlotte, NC

Charles Sellers, Jr., was descended from a family of “two-mule farmers” who had grown corn and cotton on the rich bottomlands of Buffalo Creek in Cleveland County, N. C., since the early nineteenth century. Charlie’s father was the first family member ever to venture east across the Catawba River to Charlotte. By 1923, when Charlie was born, his father had married, prospered in business and moved the family from a modest abode on the eastern edge of Charlotte to a two-story home on fashionable Clement Avenue.



# Boy Scout Bird Study Merit Badge



The neighbors next door gave Charlie free run of their lavishly planted grounds, and he quickly found himself, at age twelve, adding new species including forty for a Boy Scout Merit Badge.

Charlie's early study of birds in the Boy Scouts sparked a lifelong passion for nature and love of birds that never waned.

At age 17 he proposed that a Mecklenburg Audubon Club be formed devoted to bird protection.

High School  
Senior,  
Central High  
School,  
Charlotte,  
N.C., 1941.



# Contact with the civil-rights movement as a high-school student

“I went to an NAACP meeting in a black church, which was packed with three or four hundred people. An imposing gentleman, who was introduced as Bishop Gordon of the AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Zion Church, got up and preached the most powerful sermon I had ever heard.

I was one of only two or three white people in this enormous congregation and I guess this was a ‘scales falling from my eyes’ kind of experience that I never got over. I was in dissent with my society from that time on.”

Sergeant and  
Staff Sergeant,  
World War II,  
10<sup>th</sup> Mountain  
Division,  
1943-1945.



# Camp Hale, Vail, Colorado, 1943



# 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, Winter



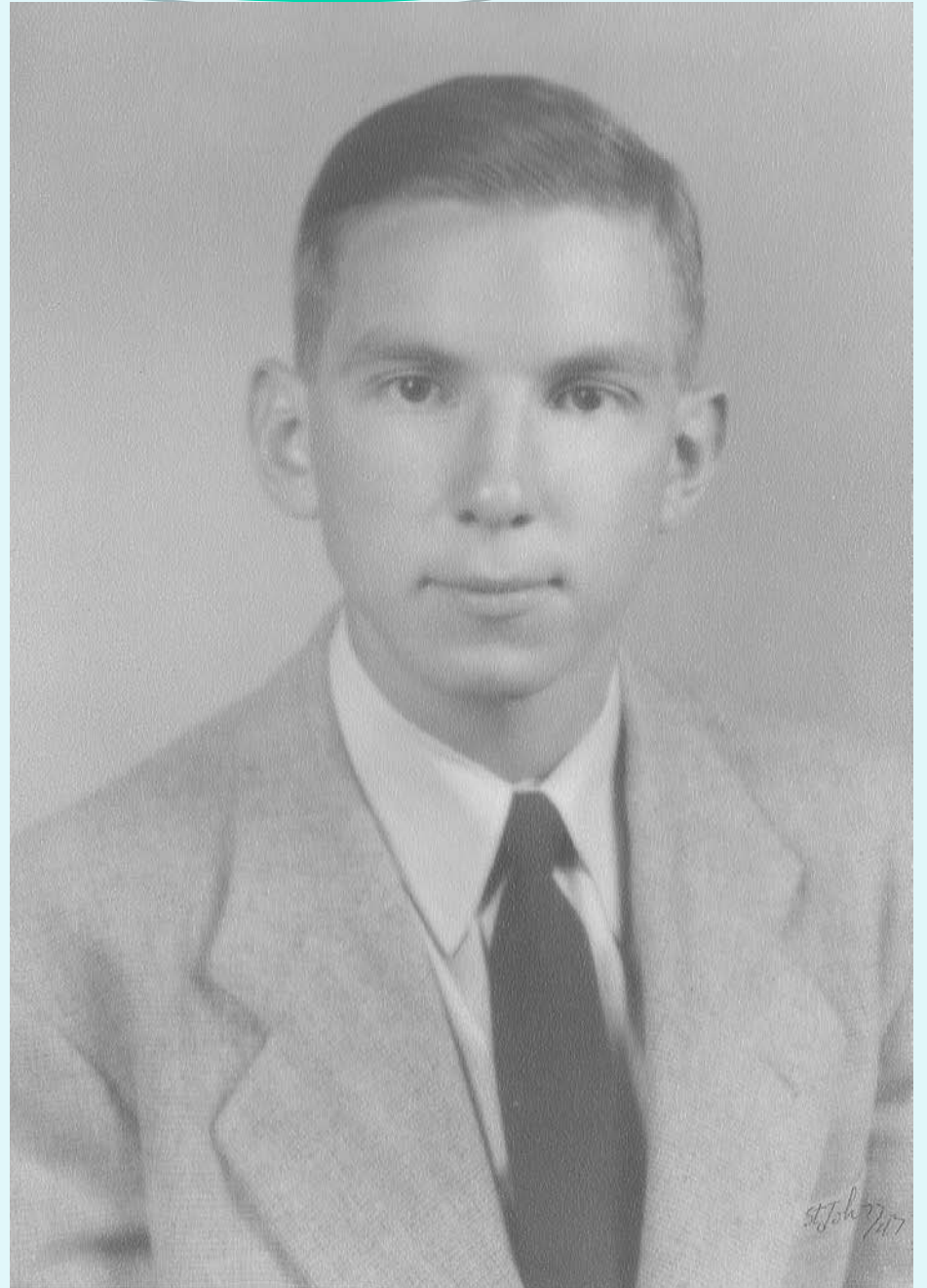


# Training at Camp Hale

It's early in the spring of 1943 at Camp Hale, Colorado, and Charlie and I are struggling with US Army Basic Training. This intense program is everywhere long, hard--and boring. Hurry up and Wait. But here at 10,000 feet in the Rocky Mountains it's even tougher. Here there are problems of altitude, acclimatization, respiratory ailments, isolation, and disappointment.

For lovers of the natural world such as Charlie and I, Birders from our youth, the great compensation is being in the mountains, especially in summer, when after Saturday morning parade and inspection until Sunday evening Taps, we were free to camp and climb about on our own in that wonderful wilderness of peaks and parks and flowering meadows. Harold Kirker, UCSB emeritus.

Charles Sellers,  
Harvard Class of  
1945,  
graduation  
delayed by  
military service  
until 1947, age  
24.



# Graduate School

Ph.D. study in American history,  
University of North Carolina, Chapel  
Hill, 1947-1950.

Dissertation: “The Early Career of  
James K. Polk.”



Princeton  
University,  
History  
Department,  
1955

# Princeton History Department 1956-57—Row 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left



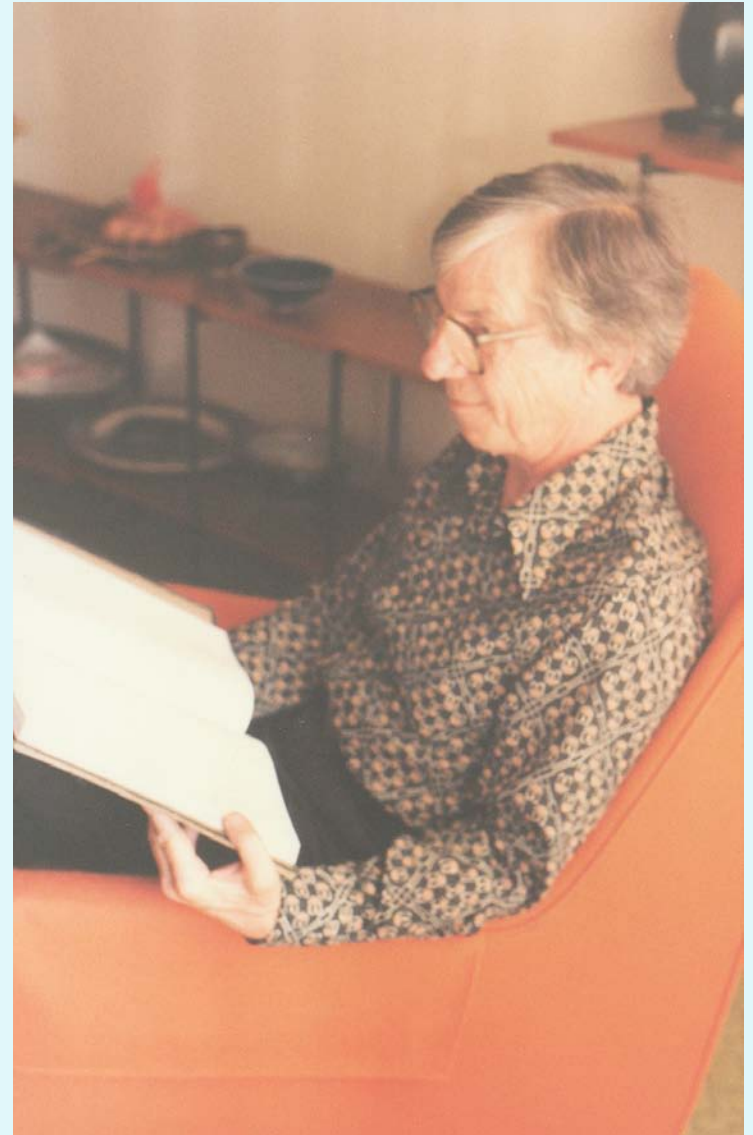
U. C. Berkeley,  
Summer, 1957



CHARLES G. SELLERS, visiting American Studies professor of history, will give three public lectures on "The White South and the Negro."

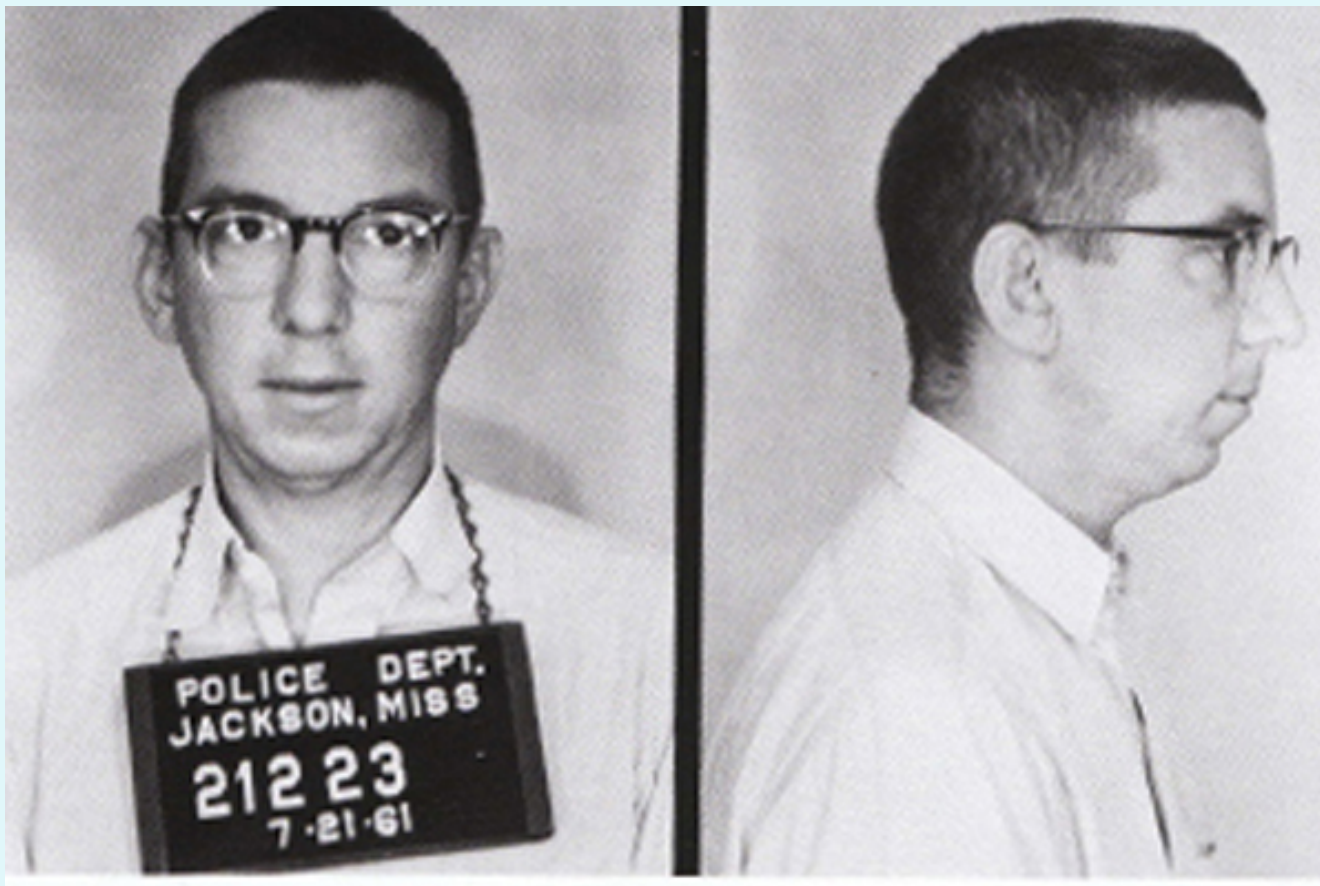
Charles G. Sellers,  
Visiting professor of  
American History.  
Three public  
lectures on "The  
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the Negro."

# Professor, UC Berkeley, 1958-1990



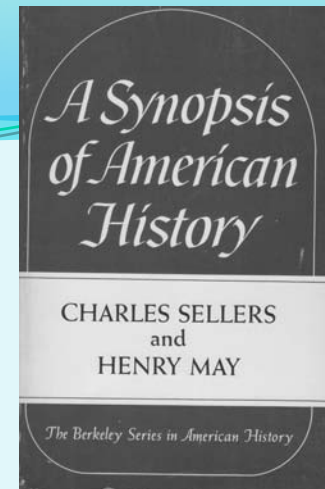
# Mississippi Freedom Rider, 1961

Arrested July 21, 1961, Jackson Airport





# Conceptualizing the Market Revolution



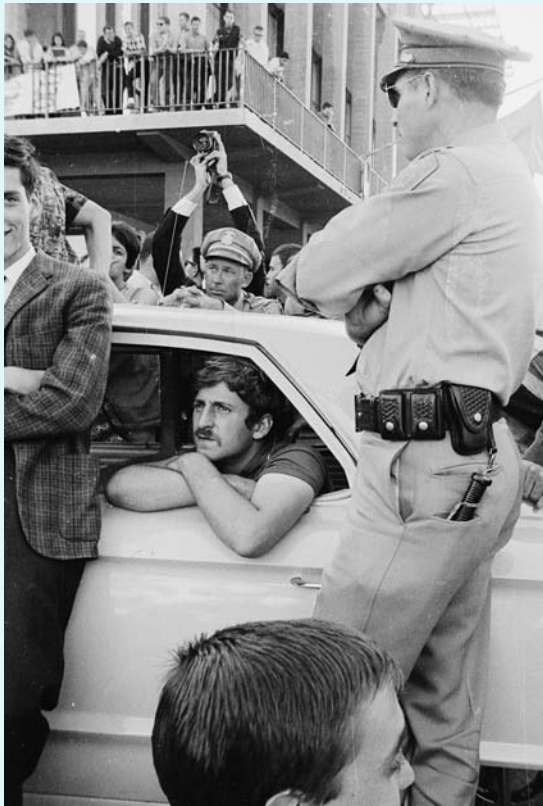
“The Market Revolution,” in *Synopsis of American History*, 1963

“Between the staple exporting economy of the 18th century and the industrial economy of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century intervened a national market economy.”

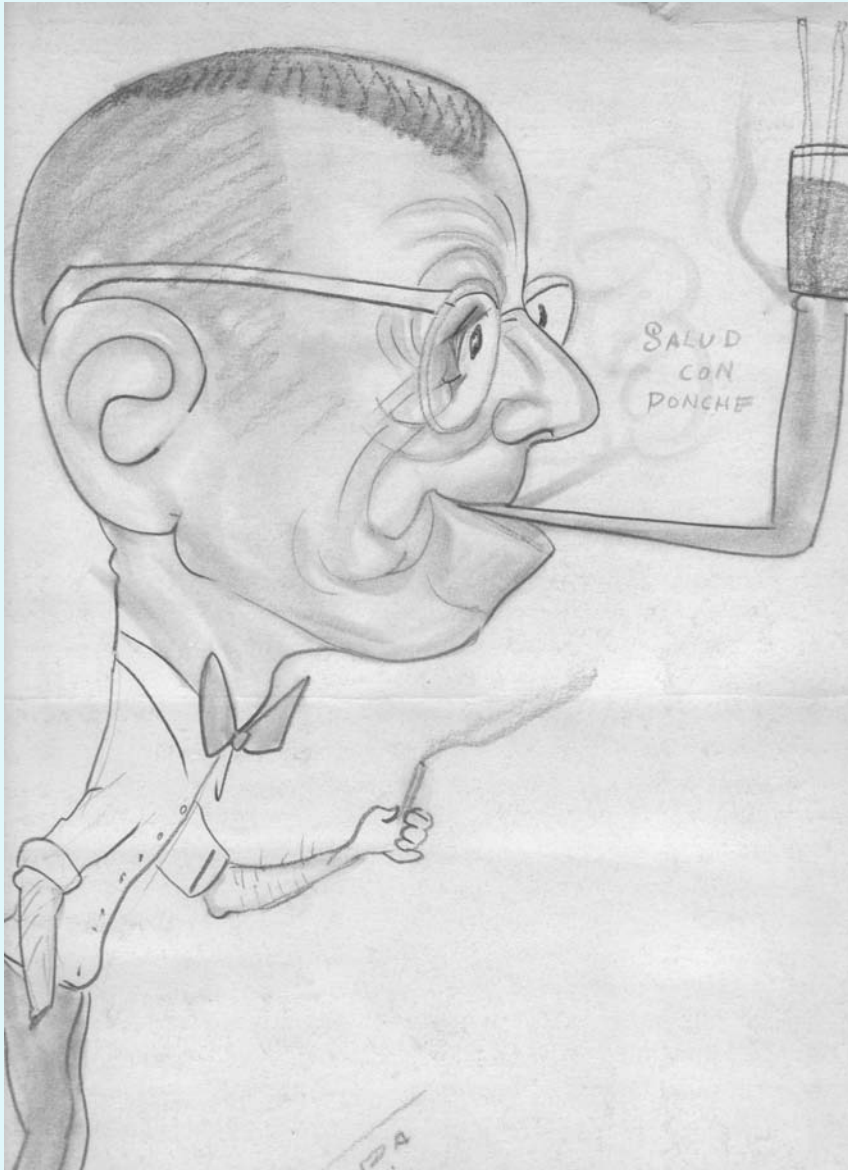
“The ‘market revolution’ brought most American economic activity into the orbit of an intricately intermeshed national market system.”

“The essence of the market revolution was a vast extension of the division of labor or, in other words, specialization of economic activities. . . . Areas and individuals that had formerly engaged in only barter or limited local trade were inexorably drawn into a national and international market system linked together by . . . money and credit.” (From Chapter 9, pp. 109-111.)

# Free Speech Movement Berkeley, 1964

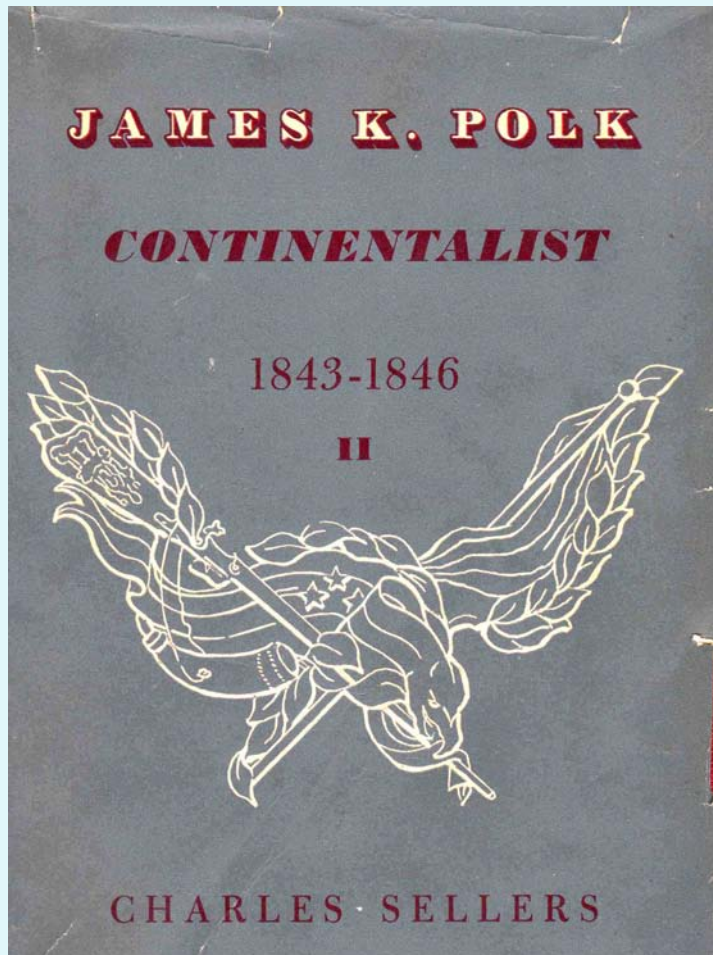


“A member of Berkeley CORE – our little band of 20 or so – was Jack Weinberg, who put up a table on the sidewalk to solicit support for CORE. A police car rolled up and they grabbed him and put him in the police car. Immediately people started sitting down around the police car and getting up on top of it, and that’s how the Free Speech Movement started. My involvement was immediate. I got up on the car and said something, as did a lot of other people.”



Visiting  
Professor, El  
Colegio de  
Mexico, 1964

# Bancroft Prize, 1967



- “The Bancroft Prize is awarded annually by the trustees of Columbia to the authors of books of exceptional merit in the fields of American history, biography, and diplomacy.”
- The first 18 months of the Polk administration [was] one of the most important periods in the history of the United States. Texas was annexed after a 10 year period of independence, the 30 year dispute with Great Britain over Oregon was settled, and the war with Mexico that was shortly to result in the annexation of California and the Southwest was begun.

# Vietnam Commencement May 17, 1968

ADDRESS

PROFESSOR CHARLES SELLERS

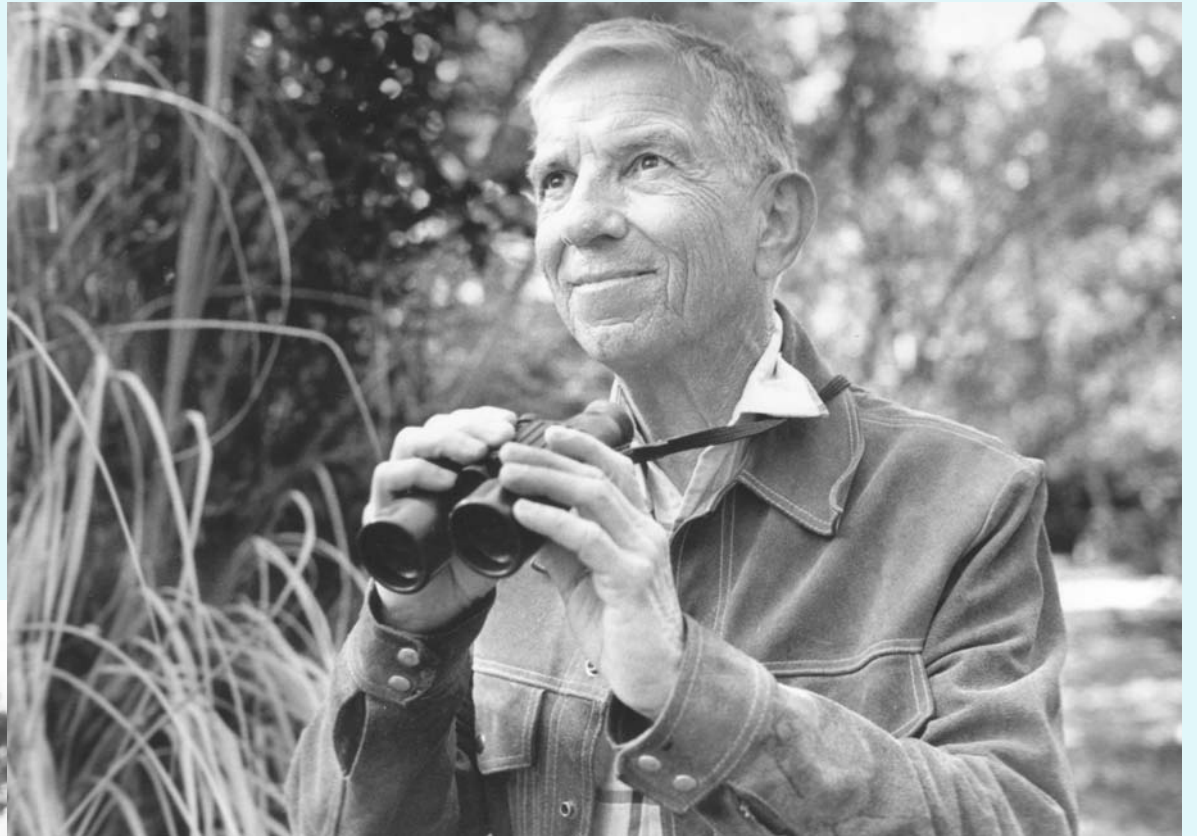


Organized by students and faculty members at the University of California, Berkeley to honor and support the men of the Class of '68 and others who have pledged to refuse military service for reasons of conscience.

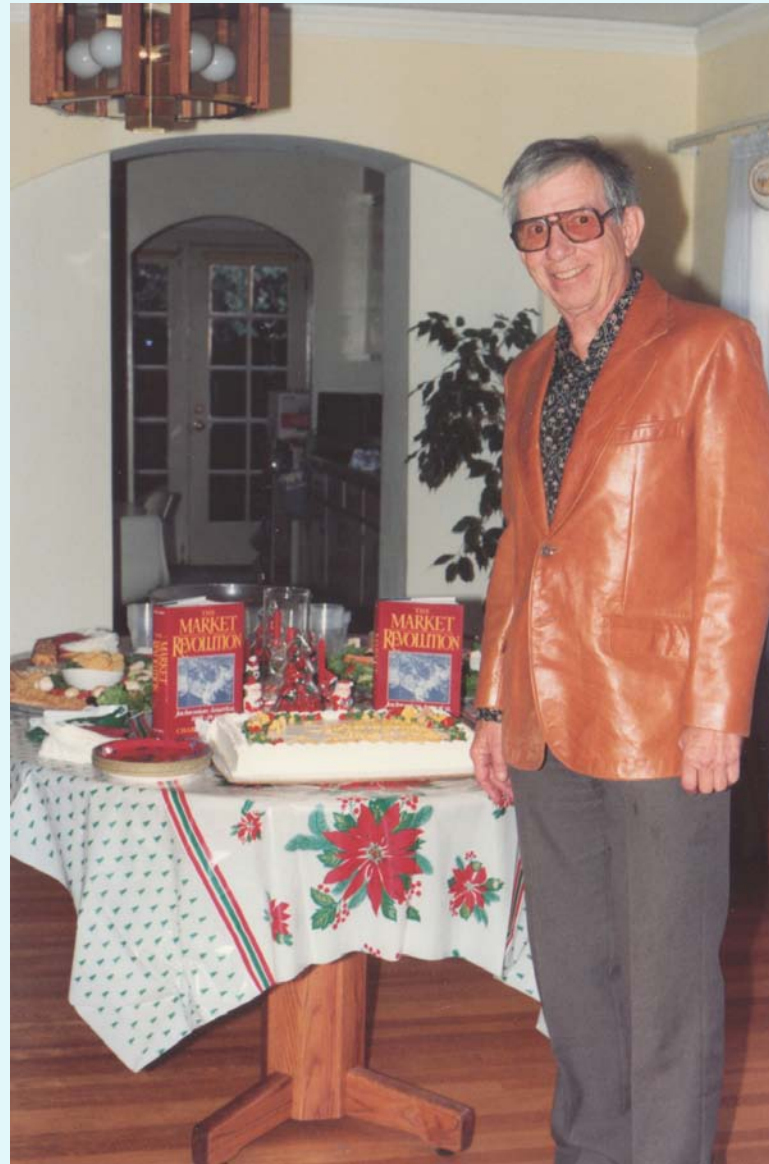
# Professor Sailor



# Lifelong Birder



*The Market  
Revolution:  
Jacksonian  
America,  
1815-1846  
(1991)*





# Awards

- Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, 1960-1961.
- Guggenheim Fellow, 1963.
- Bancroft Prize: *James K. Polk, Contentionalist*, 1967.
- Oxford University, Harmsworth Visiting Professor, 1970.

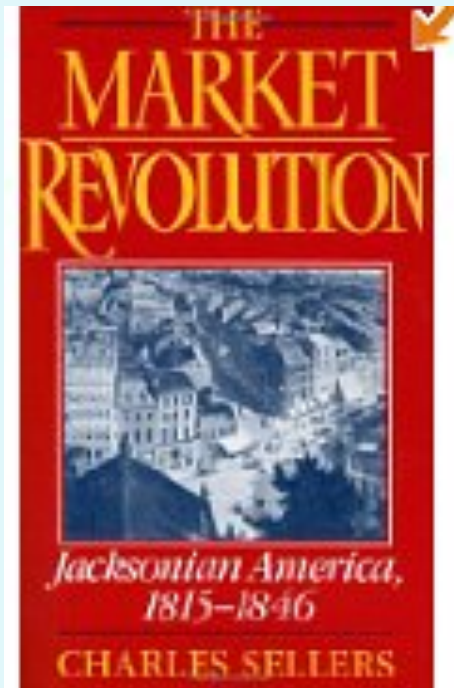
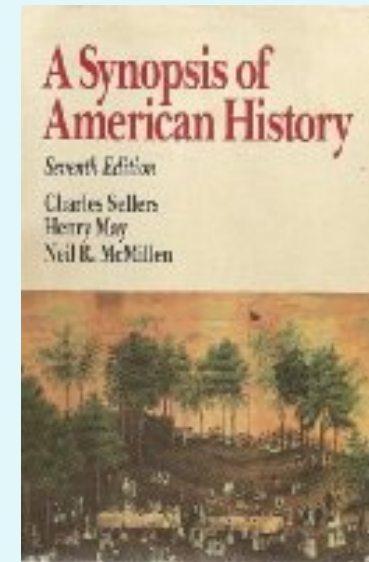


# Books

- *James K. Polk, Jacksonian*, Princeton University Press, 1957.
- *Jacksonian Democracy*, Washington, D.C., 1958.
- *The Southerner As American*, UNC Press, 1960.
- *Andrew Jackson, Nullification and the States-Rights Tradition*, Chicago: Rand McNally, 1963.
- *James K. Polk, Continentalist*, Princeton University Press, 1967.

# Books continued

- *A Synopsis of American History*, with Henry May and Neil McMillan, 7 editions, 1963-1992.
- *Andrew Jackson: A Profile* (ed.) Hill and Wang, 1971.
- *As It Happened: A History of the United States*, 1975.
- *The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846*, Oxford University Press, 1991.



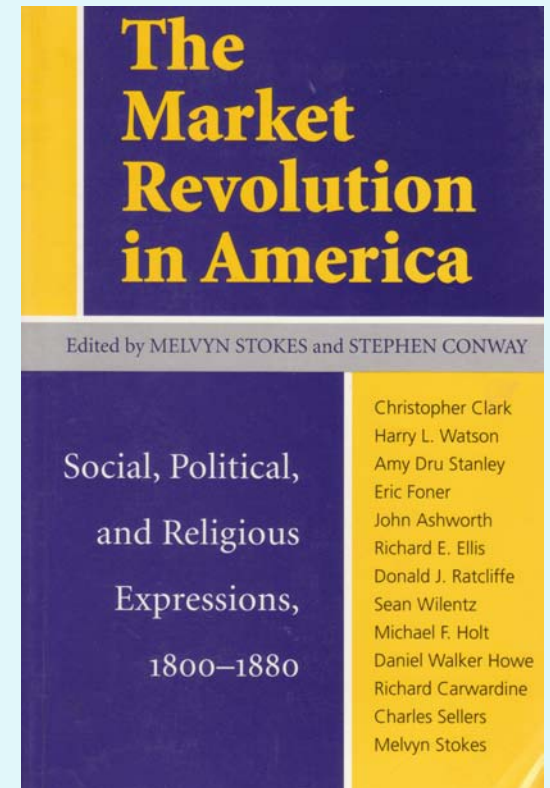
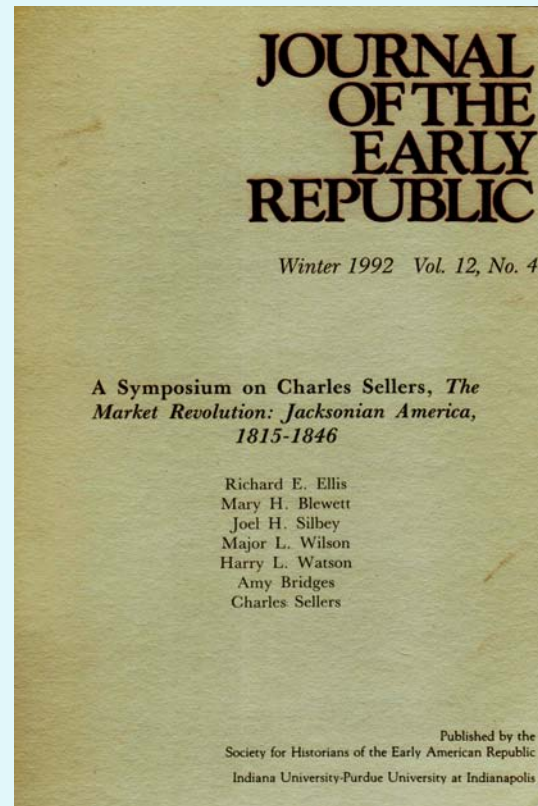
# Articles: Bobbs-Merrill

## Reprints

- “Who Were the Southern Whigs?” *American Historical Review*, 59 (1954): 335-346.
- “Andrew Jackson versus the Historians,” *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, 44, no. 4 (March 1958): 615-634.
- “The Travail of Slavery,” from *The Southerner as American* (UNC Press, 1960), pp. 40-71.
- “The Equilibrium Cycle in Two-Party Politics,” *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 29, no. 1 (Spring 1965): 16-38.

# Symposia on the Market Revolution

- “Symposium on Charles Sellers, *The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1816-1846*,” *Journal of the Early Republic*, 12, no. 4 (1992).
- *The Market Revolution in America*, ed. Melvin Stokes (1996).





The End