

Windsor Historical Society

Oral History Collection

Inventory and Abstracts

Last updated May 2023

Overview of the Collection

The Windsor Historical Society Oral History Collection is an artificial collection of oral history interviews and other recorded memoirs, public presentations, and short historical essays which have been transcribed by Society staff and volunteers. The earliest recordings were made in 1952, but the collection spans to the present day. A few of the transcripts were prepared from videotaped recordings. Virtually all the recordings are now available in digital format.

Oral history themes and topics include neighborhood and family history; childhood chores and fun; school days; learning to drive; hunting, fishing, and other sports; working tobacco; church activities; and fondly remembered local stores, shopkeepers, and home delivery services. Recorded lectures and programs provide insight into history of the Lithuanian community in Poquonock; the mills along the Farmington River; the history of the Hayden Station area; Christopher Miner Spencer's many accomplishments; and Windsor's brickmaking industry. Some narrators offer perspective on the changes in the town of Windsor, CT during the 20th century, considering aspects such as the postwar housing shortages, race relations, and the impact of the opening of Interstate 91.

There are currently 115 transcripts in the collection, most with a detailed index. This inventory lists the name of the narrator, the date of the recording, the collection number, and a brief abstract of the contents. Some transcripts are filed in the library, and others are available on our website.

Alford, Leon

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

August 14, 2021

2021.56.1

Leon Alford shares a series of four photographs that depict his father, Horace Fury, moving a tobacco shed across Prospect Hill Road in 1939.

Allison, Iva Chisholm

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Patricia Bruhn

October 9, 2021

2021.56.2

Iva Allison details her involvement with the Windsor Afro-American Civic Association and Archer Memorial A.M.E Zion Church. She moved to Windsor with her husband in 1982, and her children were raised in the Windsor public school system.

Allison, Iva Chisholm

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster and Fiona Vernal

February 3, 2021 | January 19, 2022

2022.8.12

Part I and Part II of this interview includes discussions about Iva Allison's early life in South Bend, Indiana, as well as her eventual relocation to Windsor. She previously served as the Historian for the Windsor Afro-American Civic Association and for Archer Memorial A.M.E Zion Church.

Anderson, Paul

The History of Tobacco Growing in Windsor

Recorded by Kenneth Barber

May 21, 1962

1962.32.1

Dr. Anderson reads his prepared essay which briefly touches on the use of tobacco and its cultivation by the earliest Windsor settlers, the beginnings of home-based cigar production, the soil conditions in Windsor and the Connecticut River Valley especially suitable for growing tobacco, the introduction of shade cloth in 1900, the establishment of the Tobacco Experiment Station in Windsor, and the types of work done at the station for the benefit of tobacco growers.

Backus, Charles

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

September 25, 2021

2021.56.3

Charles "Charlie" Backus grew up on Scarborough Road in Windsor. In this interview, he discusses his neighborhood growing up and a few standout memories from his childhood, including the moment he learned John F. Kennedy was assassinated. He also talks about his love for swimming and some of his favorite teachers.

Ball, Warren and Dorothy Pelton Ball

Together: From Thrall School to the Moorlands

Interviewed by Christina Vida and Barbara Goodwin

June 25, 2013

2013.68.1

The topics of conversation include Dorothy and Warren's families, grade school years at Thrall School, childhood activities, Warren's service in the Navy, establishing their business Graphic Arts Machinery, Dorothy's volunteer work at the Windsor Historical Society, Albro Case's project to move their historic home to its current location at 5 Moorlands, and their second home in Sandisfield, Mass.

Banta, Laura

The Hezekiah Chaffee House: An Interview with Laura Banta

Interviewed by Marillyn Loomis

November 30, 1993

1993.76.2

Marillyn Loomis interviewed several long-time neighbors to learn more about the history of the Chaffee House. Laura Fowler Banta (1907-1996) lived on North Meadow Road much of her life.

Barlow, Florence

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Fiona Vernal

November 28, 2020

2022.8.7

Florence Barlow details her experience growing up in New Brunswick, New Jersey, before later relocating to Windsor. As an active member of the Windsor community, she has volunteered for places such as Mary's Place and the Windsor Food and Fuel Bank. Florence was also a leading figure of the Windsor Afro-American Civic Association and served as the president of the organization for multiple terms.

Bell, Bob

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

August 14, 2021

2021.56.4

Bob Bell worked at the Essex Steam Train for 15 years before relocating to Windsor. In this interview, he speaks on how he was introduced to the Windsor Historical Society and later joined the Board of Directors.

Black-Burke, Nuchette

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

September 25, 2021

2021.56.5

Nuchette Black-Burke grew up on Holmes Drive in Windsor, and she recalls witnessing the diversification of the town as well as changing attitudes that followed. She also talks about running for town council and being a former member of the Windsor Education Foundation.

Bradley, Ralph

Oral Histories from the Black Communities: Part III

Interviewed by Iva Allison and Delia Jubrey

August 13, 2008

2010.19.2

Ralph Bradley's home was in Hayden Station. He worked at the Bigelow Carpet Company in Thompsonville, CT and then did odd jobs and labored in the area.

Brown, Marcelus

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

August 28, 2021

2021.56.6

Windsor High School student Marcelus Brown shares his experience with playing on different sports teams in town and working tobacco over the summer. He also lists a few reasons why he enjoys living in Windsor.

Brown, Victoria

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

August 23, 2021

2022.9.1

Victoria Brown talks about growing up on Mountain Road and attending school in Windsor as one of very few black students. Her Uncle, Floyd Niles, was a notable brickmaker in town and her mother, Gladys H. Niles Brown, was the oldest living Windsor resident at age 104 when she passed away in 2010.

Bruhn, Patricia

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

August 28, 2021

2021.56.8

Patricia Bruhn grew up in the Wilson section of Windsor and remembers going to places like Dairy Queen, Goslee Pool, and the Wilson Shopping Center as a kid. She worked in the tobacco fields for Brown's Harvest before graduating Windsor High School in 1983.

Caesar, Irene Scott

Oral Histories from the Black Communities: Part IV

Interviewed by Iva Allison and Delia Jubrey

August 30, 2008

2010.19.2

Irene Caesar is prompted by photos in an album to comment on her neighborhood on Cook Hill, her schooling, the Depression, and the Miskin family corner store.

Callis, Deborah E.

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

September 25, 2021

2021.56.9

Deborah Eugene Callis tells the story of seeing Ella Brown, the first Black policewoman in Hartford, at a career day event when she was seven years old. This interaction inspired Deborah to join the Hartford Police Department, and she went on to become Hartford's first Black female detective.

Carroll, Kathy

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

September 25, 2021

2021.56.10

Kathy Carroll moved to Windsor with her family halfway through kindergarten, and she later attended John Fitch School and Roger Ludlow School. She shares a few memories of growing up at Sunnyside Circle and playing with kids in the neighborhood.

Chagnon, Virginia O'Meara

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

August 28, 2021

2021.56.39

In 1978, Virginia O'Meara Chagnon started a business called Ginny's Great Cleaning Service. She later became the first person hired to clean the Windsor Historical Society, and she continued to provide services for over 32 years.

Clapp, Grace Lucretia

Hayden Station

Recorded by Kenneth Barber

Feb. 2, 1962

1962.31.1

Grace Lucretia Clapp (1881-1965) reads her paper describing the history of the Hayden Station section of Windsor, CT. The recording was made at Miss Clapp's home at 1245 Palisado Ave., Windsor. Her topics include Hayden Station's early settlers, homesteads, and taverns; the church communities; schools; Hayden Station Social Club; agriculture and local businesses; changes created by the railroad; and notable citizens.

Clifford, Savannah

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

October 9, 2021

2021.56.11

Savannah Clifford, a student at Sage Park Middle School, talks about attending school in Windsor and joining the soccer team. She also names one of her favorite teachers.

Crittenden, Daniel

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Patricia Bruhn

September 25, 2021

2021.56.12

Daniel Crittenden compares his experience of attending both public and private schools in Windsor. During his time at the University of Hartford, he helped to create the undergraduate student magazine.

Curtis, A. Cheryl

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Doug Shipman

March 10, 2021

2022.8.1

Cheryl Curtis talks about her childhood in Washington, North Carolina during the 1950s and attending an all-girls' Catholic school. After buying a home in Windsor with her husband Tim Curtis, she became involved with the Windsor Afro-American Civic Association. Cheryl was also a professor at the University of Hartford.

Curtis, Timothy

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Doug Shipman

March 11, 2021

2022.8.2

Tim Curtis discusses growing up in Washington DC in the 1950s and 60s and witnessing dramatic shifts in the racial makeup of his neighborhood. After moving to Windsor in 1984, Tim became involved in Windsor by joining WAACA, serving on Town Council for three terms and the Board of Education for five terms. At the same time, he worked as a teacher in Windsor.

Dallaire, Brennah

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Liz Burke

August 14, 2021

2021.56.13

Brennah Dallaire talks about growing up in the Deerfield section of Windsor and attending the Shad Derby with her friends and family.

Davis, Kai and Kimberly Graham

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

October 15, 2022

2023.5

Kimberly Graham, the daughter of WAACA's founder Willie Graham, discusses growing up in Windsor during the 1960s and her mother's involvement in other civic organizations throughout the Greater Hartford area. Willie Graham's granddaughter Kai Davis also shares some memories of her grandmother and their extended family.

Davis, Kristen and Albert Graham Jr.

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

January 3, 2023

2023.4

Kristen Davis and Albert Graham Jr., the children of WAACA's founder Willie Graham, shed light on their mother's legacy of community service in Windsor and beyond. The two reflect on how the organization became a reality and the lasting impact it had.

DeMaio, Jason and Diane Respeto

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

August 15, 2021

2021.56.45

Jason DeMaio and Diane Respeto work for a post office in Springfield, Mass., and Hartford respectively. In this interview, they explain why they enjoy living in Windsor and list some of their favorite restaurants in town.

Dixon, Jennie

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Fiona Vernal

January 13, 2021

2022.8.3

This interview includes Jennie Dixon's memories of growing up and being educated in Jamaica before immigrating to Connecticut in 1968. She describes what it was like coming to the United States during an extremely tumultuous year. Jennie also discusses her education, career in Information Technology and Higher Education, and involvement in her child's schooling in Windsor. She went on to write a book about personal financial health which she is currently revising and volunteered with WAACA for many years. She offers advice and perspectives on the influence of COVID and the internet on advocacy throughout the years.

Drake, Anne Wittenzellner

Growing up on a Windsor Farm: An Interview with Anne Wittenzellner Drake

Interviewed by Connie Thomas

August 5, 2009

2009.33

The interview includes Drake's memories of growing up in the Deerfield section of Windsor during the 1930s and 1940s. Anne's parents Max and Marie Wittenzellner were immigrants from Germany. Her father worked at a brewery in Hartford and did some commercial shad and eel fishing on the side. Her mother managed the family farm on Midian Avenue; they grew and preserved an array of fruits and vegetables, cut hay, and sold poultry and eggs. Anne describes her home and chores, schooling, recreational activities, volunteering as a WWII air raid warden, working as a telephone operator, and the difficulties of the post-war housing shortage. She offers some of her views regarding the changes she has seen as a life-long resident of Windsor.

Drake, Charles P.

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

August 28, 2021

2021.56.14

Charles "Chuck" Drake has lived in Windsor since 1949, and he recalls working in tobacco as a teenager as well as listening to The Wildweeds during school dances at the VFW.

Duby, Tom

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

August 15, 2021

2021.56.15

In this interview, Tom Duby talks about boarding horses at the River Meadow Farm in Windsor and his wife's interest in teaching dressage.

Ellis, Marguerite and Robert

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

August 28, 2021

2021.56.16

As Windsor residents since 1978, Robert and Marguerite Ellis can remember some of the businesses that no longer operate in town, such as the Thompson Florist, A&P, and the 99 cent movie theater. They also recall the Tornado of 1979, which occurred while they were living on Maple Avenue.

Ellsworth, Florence Loomis

An Interview with Florence Loomis Ellsworth

Interviewed by Carol Ann Stephenson

March 15, 1988

1988.7.1

The conversation with Florence Ellsworth (1893-1996) covered a wide range of topics including her childhood and early schooling in Westfield, Mass.; her father's lumber business; trolley cars and early automobiles; the operation of the Windsor Cannery; and her involvement with the Windsor Historical Society and its Walter Fyler House.

Endee, Albert

Poquonock and Rainbow, Connecticut, in the 1920s

Interviewed by Robert T. Silliman

July 11, 1994

1994.85.1

The interview was a conversation about Poquonock history during the early 20th century. Much of the discussion focused on the various businesses in the center of Poquonock. It also touched on Endee's family history, leisure activities such as swimming and fishing in the Farmington River, notable residents, the trolleys, working tobacco as a teenager, schooling, Dunham Mill, and the local P & R [Poquonock and Rainbow] baseball team of the 1920s.

Ferola, Joel

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

September 25, 2021

2021.56.17

Joel Ferola shares some of his favorite hobbies, two of which include origami and the creation of 'proverb cards' with motivational quotes.

Finley, Thomas

A Conversation with Thomas Finley

Interviewed by Connie Thomas

August 12, 1993

1993.101.1

Thomas Finley's (1904-1994) career at Loomis Chaffee School, his service in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, and his experience as a passenger on the ship *Athenia* which was torpedoed in 1939 were among the topics in this interview.

Fowles, Lloyd

The History of Industry on Mill Brook: The Frustrations of History

Recorded independently

September 24, 1964

1964.33.1

Recording of an illustrated talk Lloyd Fowles presented to a Windsor Historical Society audience on September 24, 1964. Fowles discusses the need for and the economic value of the early colonial mills along the Mill Brook waterway including John Warham's grist mill, a stave mill, and a sawmill. Maps of the area and conjectural drawings of the historic buildings made by Robert Redmond and Don Lang were shown. In the nineteenth century four other industries used the power supplied by the Mill Brook. These were William Shelton's hat manufacturing concern, a paper mill, the Bedortha Brothers factory which made levels and blocks, and the Windsor Cannery. Fowles researched the topic by talking to family members of the businesses in the area, walking the terrain, and searching for documents, maps, and records.

Frelick, Jane Hayden

My Childhood Visits to Windsor: Reminiscences by Jane Hayden Frelick

Interviewed by Erin Stevic

June 15, 2011

2011.41.10

This transcript of reminiscences and Hayden family history was handwritten by Jane Hayden Frelick in response to a prepared set of oral history questions. See also the transcript of a similar telephone conversation on Dec. 6, 2007. (2009.65.1)

Gayle, Beverly

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

August 28, 2021

2021.56.18

New York native Beverly Gayle talks about relocating to Windsor after her son suffered from a traumatic brain injury and details how remarkable the Windsor school system was during this transition.

Gilbert, Wesley

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

August 15, 2021

Wesley reflects on his time in Windsor schools and compares his childhood experiences to his children's experiences. He also describes his time in the Windsor Marksmanship club.

Goslee, Carlan H.

Around Windsor Green: A Picture Tour of Old Windsor

Recorded at public program

June 12, 1958

1958.6.1

Carlan Goslee gave this illustrated lecture to members of the Windsor Historical Society on June 12, 1958, at the Federal Savings and Loan Association building.

Graff, Randy

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

September 25, 2021

2012.56.20

Randy Graff describes his life in the Deerfield section of Windsor for the last 74 years including his childhood, school, and community involvement. He talks about serving on the Windsor Board of Education for 4 years and then town council for 8 years as well as other committees and organizations. He references his time spent away from Windsor in college and during the Vietnam War.

Hart, Jody

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

September 18, 2021

2021.56.21

Former Windsor resident Jody Hart talks about his experience at Oliver Ellsworth and his involvement in the high school band. He also speaks on Windsor's demographics, noting the changes in diversity.

Hastings, Sandra Rusavage

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

September 18, 2021

2021.56.22

Sandra Rusavage Hastings reflects on her time in the Windsor schools. She also talks about her husband and his work as a tobacco farmer, as well as her kids and grandchildren, all of whom have attended school in Windsor.

Hawran, Jenny

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

August 25, 2021

2021.56.23

Jenny shares a fond memory about visiting Bart's with her father.

Hellerman, Betty and Len

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

August 14, 2021

The couple share stories about their respective experiences, Len about his time as a dentist and photographer and Betty about her time as the Chairman of the Community Chess Drive, Library Book Brigade and Volunteer Chairman for Summer Wind. Len talks about his time in the Hartford Dental Society and about Horace Hayden.

Henderson, Richard

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

October 9, 2021

2021.56.25

Richard Henderson recalls his first job, which was in tobacco for the Kendrick Brothers. Afterwards, he began working at the Windsor Canning Factory and handled tomatoes.

Huyghue, Joan

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Doug Shipman

March 16, 2021

2021.56.26

Joan Huyghue is a former member of WAACA and the mother of Vallerie Huyghue, the first Black Shad Derby Queen. She discusses her role as the treasurer of WAACA and a few fundraising events the organization held over the years.

Ilg, Albert

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

August 25, 2022

2022.3

In this two-part interview, former Windsor town manager Albert Ilg covers a wide range of topics, including his childhood in New York City and his time in the Navy. Before becoming town manager, Albert was an assistant city manager for Oak Ridge, Tennessee, a secret city operated by the government. Not long after, he began his tenure in Windsor and became the town's longest serving town manager to date.

Jackson, Gladys

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

September 18, 2021

2021.56.27

Gladys talks about moving to Windsor and being the first African American family to move to her street. She recalls her first encounters with the neighborhood and how it evolved over time.

Jackson, Lawrence and Susan

Share Your Windsor Story

September 25, 2021

2021.56.28

Susan and Lawrence Jackson recall moving to Windsor and attending town events like the Shady Derby Festival and Concerts on the Green.

Jacobellis, Joanne A.

Share Your Windsor Story

September 18, 2021

2021.56.29

Joanne Jacobellis shares her opinions on the Windsor school system and stories about her children and their achievements.

James, Marjorie

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

March 27, 2021

2022.8.14

Marjorie James is a Cleveland transplant who now considers Connecticut her one true home. She has lived here for more than 60 years and raised a family here. As a former member of WAACA, Marjorie talks about how she became involved and eventually became vice president and secretary. She also reflects on her neighbors and friends from throughout her years in Hartford and Windsor.

Jubrey, Delia Sales and Patricia Sales Narcisse

Oral Histories from the Black Communities: Part I

Interviewed by Iva Allison

June 24, 2008

2010.19.2

Delia Jubrey and her sister Patricia Narcisse talk about their home on Williams St., their neighbors in the Cook Hill Rd. area, mom and pop stores, their relatives and extended family, lawn parties, home delivery and itinerant salesmen, the unspoken boundaries beyond which it was not comfortable for African Americans, Windsor Center, schooling, AME Zion Church, and working tobacco. Both Dee and Patty moved out of Windsor after high school but have returned to live in Windsor.

Jubrey, Delia Sales

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

April 28, 2022

2022.7.1

Delia Jubrey shares a series of binders she has used to store her family records over the years. Her family tree begins with Thomas Sharp, a fugitive slave born in 1782 who is believed to be from New York. He eventually married Wealthy Griswold, a descendant of two early Windsor settlers who went on to build a fortune and became heavily involved in New England politics. The Griswold's are one of the most prominent families in Connecticut history.

Jubrey, Enita and Agnes Pier

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

October 9, 2021

2021.56.30

Enita Jubrey and Agnes Pier share stories about planning the 375th anniversary celebration for Windsor as town employees.

Jubrey, Lenora Jackson

Oral Histories from the Black Communities: Part II

Interviewed by Iva Allison and Delia Jubrey

August 12, 2008

2010.19.2

Lenora Jubrey was born on Cook Hill. Her mother had worked for Amy Archer Gilligan but was institutionalized at Middletown State Hospital and Leonora was raised by an aunt. She talks about her schooling at John Fitch High School, taking a secretarial course, not being able to get a job at the big insurance companies in Hartford, and doing domestic work much of her life. She comments on the types of work her neighbors did, lawn parties, family doctors, the Cymerys' neighborhood store, alcoholism, and the Hartford Circus Fire in 1944.

Kendrick, Carrie Marshall

The History of Poquonock: A Paper Recorded by Carrie Marshall Kendrick

Recorded independently

February 28, 1962

2007.1.41

In this recording, Carrie Marshall Kendrick (1883-1963), a life-long resident of the Poquonock area of Windsor, CT, reads some prepared remarks and memoirs about this community. She mentions some of the earliest settlers of the Elm Grove section, the location of mills and homesteads, the traveling circus and minstrel shows, Old Newgate Prison, the Poquonock post offices, and [William] Allen the "Yeast Man."

Kenneson, Gordon

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

September 25, 2021

2021.56.31

Gordon Kenneson talks about growing up in Windsor and his high school experiences. He reflects on the changes he has seen in the town and some of the fond memories he has.

Khan, Maryam F.

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

September 25, 2021

2021.56.32

Maryam talks about her work in helping refugees with their transition to life in Connecticut and her rise to the Windsor Board of Education. She discusses her relationship with her religion and the development of her religious practices.

Lee, Audrey

Mr. Audrey Lee: "The Mayor of Wilson"

Interviewed by Betsy and Gordon Kenneson

April 22, 2014

2014.60.1

The recording was made at Mr. Lee's home in Windsor. Audrey talks about his early school years at the Arsenal School in Hartford and subsequently at Roger Wolcott School and John Fitch High School in Windsor. He describes the Wilson neighborhood in the mid-20th century; learning to drive; his experiences in the Civilian Conservation Corps in Cornwall, CT; his friendship with Winthrop Rockefeller; serving on various town committees; and his honeymoon trip to Maine and Montreal with a return visit to the Montreal World's Fair Expo 1967.

Mack, Daniel

Ballad of Mack Street

Interviewed by Christine Ermenc, recorded at the WIN-TV Studios

June 28, 2004

2004.29.1

Ermenc interviews Dr. Daniel Mack about his life growing up on Mack Street in Windsor and in particular about the stories embodied in his three-panel painting "Ballad of Mack Street." This recording is a re-enactment of a program presented at Windsor Historical Society in December 2003.

Manderville, Kendall

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

August 5, 2021

2022.10.1

Kendall Manderville discusses his experience at Southern Connecticut State University. During the final two years of his undergraduate career, he served as the President of the Black Student Union. He was also a member of the Southern Student Government.

Manderville, Kendall

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

August 14, 2021

Kendall Manderville describes the contrast between living in Hartford and Windsor. In addition, he talks about coaching track and cross country for CREC Civic Leadership High School.

Martin, Kathi Brown

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

August 15, 2021

2021.56.7

Kathi tells the history of Brown's Harvest, a farm that her family has operated since the 1860s. She shares a photograph of her great-grandfather and other relatives in front of a tobacco shed, which is now used as an asparagus shed.

Mason, Marsha L.

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

August 28, 2021

2021.56.34

Marsha shares several short stories about living in Windsor; one about the kind gesture of a local mailman, another about an amusing encounter with a Windsor police officer, the Christmas of 1974, and a lighthearted memory about a young girl named Jenny Pier.

McAllister, Robert

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

October 9, 2021

2021.56.35

Bob reflects on his adult life in Windsor and his home that was converted to a bed and breakfast. He remembers encounters with travelers and a mysterious sculpture that landed on his lawn.

McAuliffe, Liz

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

September 25, 2021

2021.56.36

Liz tells the story of how she moved to Windsor in 1992. She was previously involved in the Windsor Women's Club and First Town Downtown.

McCormick, Bruce

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Liz Burke

September 25, 2021

2021.56.37

Bruce talks about moving from Louisiana to Connecticut. He remembers experiencing snow for the first time and his volunteer experiences with Mary's Place, Windsor Care, and the Windsor Food Bank.

McKnight, Shirley

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

March 22, 2022

2022.8.8

Shirley McKnight looks back on her childhood growing up in Hartford, CT in the 1950s and 60s. She tells of her jobs at Traveler's and Hartford Insurance, and her experiences raising two daughters in Windsor. Although she was a member of WAACA, she was not too involved with the organization because of her work commitments and her membership in another organization about collecting. After living in Windsor for over 50 years, she plans to move to North Carolina in the coming years to be closer to her family.

McMahon, Martin Doyle

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

October 19, 2021

2022.11.1

Marty McMahon was the first Connecticut resident to swim the English Channel. In this interview, he talks about the open water swimming challenges he has completed over the years, including the Manhattan Island Marathon Swim, the Swim Across the Sound, and the Catalina Channel. He eventually achieved the Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming in August of 2021.

Memery, Mary

Memories from Mary Memery, Kindergarten Teacher at Stony Hill School, 1947-1969

Recorded independently

May 22, 1990

1993.22.1

In this recording session on May 22, 1990, Mary Memery talked about her days as a kindergarten teacher at Stony Hill School in Windsor, CT. She described the regular activities of the school day and special projects and plays. Stony Hill School closed in 1969, but later in the 1980s there was a movement to restore the building and open it as a museum. Mary Memery prepared her stories and made this tape for the Friends of Stony Hill School.

Moody, Kalaya

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

September 18, 2021

2021.56.38

Kalaya shares her story about winning the Let's Move challenge sponsored by First Lady Michelle Obama.

Morgan, Fred W.

Fred Morgan Memoirs: An Interview with Frederick W. Morgan

Interviewed by Hilliard Bryant

October 15, 1952

2007.1.40

The conversation briefly touched on a wide range of topics including Mr. Morgan's schooling, the North Meadow Road area, and his involvement with the Windsor Creamery, the Windsor Trust Company, and the Sage Park racetrack.

Nearing, Jane Cary

A Long and Happy Life in Windsor: A Conversation with Jane Cary Nearing

Interviewed by Mary Ann Pleva

July 11, 1991

1991.71.1

The interview includes conversation about Jane's life in Windsor, her schooling, social and recreational activities, the family gardens, and various people and places in town. The stories convey some of the flavor of life in Windsor during the early and mid twentieth century.

Parker, Elizabeth Bryant

Growing up in Windsor: An Interview with Elizabeth Bryant Parker

Interviewed by Julia Baldini

January 15, 2010

2010.2.1

The wide-ranging conversation touched on the interviewee's family heritage, her childhood and teen years in Windsor, her marriage to Windsor native Frank Parker and their subsequent return to Windsor in 1953 to take over her father's insurance business. The Parkers were active in local Republican politics, the Chamber of Commerce, youth athletics and Scouting, and the Windsor Historical Society. Elizabeth offers opinions on the changes in the vibrancy of Windsor Center, the effect of the opening of Interstate 91, women's liberation, and the aftereffects of world events such as the attack on Pearl Harbor and September 11, 2001.

Parkinson, Carlton Noble

Working on Tobacco: A Rite of Passage?

Interviewed by Shirley Quintero

March 17, 2010

2011.27.1

Carlton talks about his father Fitzroy Henry Parkinson, a native of Jamaica, and his immigration to Connecticut during the labor shortage in the 1940s. Fitzroy worked in the tobacco fields for a

short time and then had a long career in food service, primarily for the tobacco camp. Carlton's mother Mildred Derr Parkinson was a nurse for the migrant tobacco workers. Carlton also describes his short time working tobacco, other jobs and responsibilities as a teenager, and reflects on how these demonstrate the second generation's upward mobility.

Pelton, Lon

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

August 14, 2021

2021.56.40

Lon shares stories about his father's connection to Oil City dam, his time with the boy scouts, and his sculptures throughout the town. He talks about how he gets the metal for his work and the story behind one of his famous creations, Molly Mosquito.

Peters, Frank

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

January 12, 2022

2022.12.1

Frank Peters grew up in Windsor in the 1920s and 30s. At 14 years old, he began working at the Mack Brickyard due to its proximity to his home on Mack Street. He later joined the Marine Corps in 1943. He shares stories of his time in the pacific during World War II, as well as his experiences after he returned home.

Pier, Agnes

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

September 25, 2021

2021.56.41

Agnes tells the story of how the Mack Brickyard contributed to the construction of Windsor's Town Hall and the Mark Twain House in Hartford.

Poirier, Paul

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Colette Yeich

October 9, 2021

2021.56.42

Paul reflects on Little League and Boy Scouts. He also speaks about growing up near the center of town on Preston Street.

Pomeroy, Eleazer

The Windsor Water Works

Interviewed by Hilliard Bryant

Circa 1950

1952.13.1

This short interview with Eleazer Pomeroy is about the early water and sewer system in Windsor. Eleazer Pomeroy was a former first selectman and on the Board of Assessors.

Porteus, Ruth Morgan

A Conversation with Ruth Morgan Porteus

Interviewed by Ted Anderson, Mary Ann Pleva, and Martha Porteus

August 4, 1987

1989.43.1

Topics discussed on the tape include Windsor churches, First Church in Windsor ministers, people and homes on North Meadow Road, the Palisado Bridge, South Carolina congressman Joseph Rainey, Rowland Lane, NY's Governor Morgan, Fenton's Store, and more.

Primus, Desiree

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

September 25, 2021

2021.56.43

Desiree's family has lived in Windsor for more than 60 years. She sheds light on the accomplishments of her father, who was one of the first Black marines in World War II, and her uncle, who was a Tuskegee Airman.

Quigley, Margaret

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

August 14, 2021

2021.56.44

Margaret talks about a raft race that her husband John started, which was held annually from 1983 to 1988.

Quintero, Richard

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Fiona Vernal

January 18, 2021

2022.8.6

Richard Quintero fondly looks back on his childhood in New York City and growing up in Harlem surrounded by friends and family. He also recalls the drastic transition upon moving to Windsor and becoming involved in WAACA. As a former President of WAACA, he supported the mission of WAACA because of their goals of improving the lives of Black Windsor residents and the community.

Rimosukas, John

The Lithuanians in Poquonock

Recorded independently

September 26, 1962

1962.29.1

John Rimosukas, Poquonock native and principal of Windsor High School, presented an illustrated lecture for the Windsor Historical Society on September 26, 1962 about "The Lithuanians in Poquonock." He began with a brief history of Lithuania and then talked about when and why the Lithuanian people began to settle in the Poquonock area of Windsor, CT. He

relates stories of some of the individuals of Lithuanian descent and of community life in Poquonock in the early 20th century.

Sampson, Beryl

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Steve Porcaro

August 14, 2021

2021.56.46

Originally from Jamaica, Beryl Sampson moved to Windsor in 1990. She discusses her interactions with the Windsor police department and her neighbors throughout the years.

Sanders, Monique

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

October 9, 2021

2021.56.47

Monique Sanders talks about growing up in Windsor, attending Oliver Ellsworth Elementary School, and becoming a reverend at Archer Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church.

Saunders, Mary Johnson

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

September 18, 2021

2021.56.48

Mary J. Saunders grew up on Pond Road in the Hayden Station section of Windsor. She sheds light on the discrimination she faced growing up and remembers learning about Martin Luther King Jr., as well as the riots that came to Windsor. She offers advice on staying strong in the face of adversity.

Scott, Daniel

Daniel Scott's 100th Birthday

Interviewed by Delia Sales Jubrey and an unidentified *Hartford Courant* reporter

June 25, 1984

Scott talks about managing the farm of Col. Ellsworth Phelps on "The Island" in Windsor which produced a variety of crops, livestock, and tobacco; subsequently working with his horse teams and equipment for other tobacco growing businesses in Windsor including the P. Lorillard Tobacco Company; sulky racing on the Farmington River in the winter; amateur boxing; his two wives; and at the end he offers sage advice for a long life.

Scott, Lois Ethel Niles

Oral Histories from the Black Communities: Part V

Interviewed by Iva Allison and Delia Jubrey

February 14, 2010

2010.19.2

Lois Scott complains of the frustrations of being elderly. Using family photos as a prompt, the interviewers get her to talk about various family members, her grandmother Susan Niles and her

Native American heritage, going to church, experiences of discrimination, the Cook Hill neighborhood, and working as a home duty nurse.

Sheff, Elizabeth Horton

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

August 28, 2021

2021.56.26

Elizabeth opens up about her adjustment to Windsor with the help of her neighbors. She also discusses her involvement in Sheff vs O'Neill, a landmark case in the Connecticut Supreme Court.

Silliman, Priscilla Huntington

Priscilla Huntington Silliman: A Poquonock Childhood

Interviewed by Colette Yeich

August 9, 2010

2010.33.1

Priscilla was the daughter of Charles A. Huntington, Jr. and Margaret Stinson Huntington. Her Stinson grandfather owned a coal distributing company in Windsor and the extended Huntington family grew tobacco. She grew up in Poquonock living in her grandmother's large house at 174 West Street. Priscilla talks about her childhood chores, games and pastimes, school, learning to drive, enjoying movies in Hartford, her brothers' hunting and fishing activities, and town politics. She also describes the rural schools in the north end of Windsor, the filming of the movie *Parrish*, the Hurricane of 1938 and the Flood of 1955, her family's tobacco growing business, rationing during WWII, her husband Robert Silliman and their three children. Her comments reflect how the town of Windsor has grown and changed during the 20th century.

Silliman, Robert T.

Windsor, Connecticut in 1976: Our Bicentennial Year

Recorded independently

December 30, 1976

1976.34.1

Bob Silliman, President of the Windsor Historical Society, made this recording at the end of 1976, our nation's bicentennial year, for the benefit of future Windsor residents. He took the listener on a driving tour of the historic areas of town, summarized the Windsor Historical Society's Bicentennial activities, and concluded with a description of a few of the current businesses, utilities, and farming operations in Windsor.

Silliman, Robert T.

One Hundred Years of Industry in Poquonock and Rainbow

Recorded independently

October 26, 1977

1977.33.1

Robert Silliman, President of the Windsor Historical Society, speaking on the history of the Poquonock and Rainbow manufacturing industries. His talk includes information about the

Hatheway Mill, Congress Mills, Franklin Mills Company, and Dunham Mills. Bob accompanied the historical facts with some of his own personal memories.

Sorrentino, Lou

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

September 25, 2021

Lou Sorrentino shares his experience joining the Windsor Recovery Club and how it changed his life.

Stillman, Jordan

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

October 9, 2021

Fifth-grade student Jordan Stillman talks about attending school at John F. Kennedy and his favorite classes.

Stillman, Nate

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

October 9, 2021

Nate Stillman, an eighth grader at Sage Park Middle School, discusses his neighborhood and playing soccer for the Sage Park soccer team.

Sullivan, William F.

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Michelle Tom

August 14, 2021

Bill Sullivan has lived in Windsor for over 30 years. He joined us to share his experience working in the Advertising Department for the Hartford Courant. During his time there, he received a call from an individual looking to create an advertisement for his restaurant. Bill's advertisement would later be featured in an issue of Reader's Digest Magazine.

Taylor, Charles F.

Charles F. Taylor Stories

Interviewed by Kenneth Barber

April 30, 1962

1984.63.1

Charles F. Taylor tells stories about Windsor's "Yeast Man" William Allen and of crossing the Connecticut River on Bissell's Ferry.

Taylor, Vesta Spencer

A Conversation with Vesta Spencer Taylor

Interviewed by Dick Bertel

1965

1984.63.1

The interview concerned the life of Vesta's father, Christopher Miner Spencer, and his many accomplishments, including his meeting with President Abraham Lincoln to demonstrate his Spencer repeating rifle, his development of an automatic screw machine, and his personal steamboat the *Luzette*.

Trocchi, Jim

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

September 18, 2021

2021.56.53

Jim reminisces about his life in Windsor, from his childhood adventures to his wife and children. He talks about how he spends his days volunteering at the Windsor Historical Society and encountering new people.

Viner, Allan and Susan

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

February 6, 2023

2023.6

Allan and Susan Viner discuss their involvement in the Beth Ahm Synagogue in Windsor, which closed its doors in 2018. Allan previously served as the president of the synagogue.

Veney, Stacey Ellison

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

April 5, 2022

In this interview, Stacy Ellison Veney recalls her experience as a Queen candidate for the 1993 Shad Derby Pageant. She obtained a sponsorship from the Windsor Afro-American Civic Association and was selected as Miss Congeniality by the contestants.

Walker, Lenworth

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

June 20, 2022

2022.8.10

Lenworth Walker discusses growing up in Saint Andrew, Jamaica, and relocating to Hartford, CT, as a young adult. He attended Capital Community College and University of Hartford before settling in Windsor in 1996. He eventually became involved on the Windsor Town Council as both a Democrat and a Republican and was a member of the Windsor Afro-American Civic Association.

Warner-Prouty, Bill

Windsor Afro-American Civic Association

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

March 28, 2022

2022.8.11

As a member of religious communities throughout his life, Bill Warner-Prouty remembers the impact of the Civil Rights Movement on his life and how he wanted to pursue a life of service. He was previously in the Windsor Education Association and the Human Rights Commission, even going on to teach in the Windsor public schools. Warner-Prouty also served as an associate for First Church and was one of three white members of the Windsor Afro-American Civic Association.

Weiner, Mimi

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Sulema DePeyster

September 18, 2021

2021.56.54

Mimi talks about her children and their experiences while attending Oliver Ellsworth Elementary School.

White, Cora M.

Broad Street Green and Other Windsor Landmarks: An Interview with Cora M. White

Interviewed by Carlan H. Goslee

October 18, 1963

1963.57.1

Mrs. White offered many memories and a lively perspective on the families and businesses around Broad Street Green in Windsor during the first half of the twentieth century. In particular, her affection for her church, Grace Episcopal Church, is quite evident.

Whiting, Kenneth

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Liz Burke

August 15, 2021

2021.56.55

Kenneth Whiting moved to Windsor in 1986 and has remained in town ever since. He discusses his wife's involvement in the Cake Walk at the Northwest Park Country Fair.

Wilson, Leland P.

The Fyler House and Windsor's Town Hall

Interviewed by Hilliard Bryant

Circa 1950

1952.14.1

This short interview with Leland P. Wilson touches on Windsor Historical Society's purchase of the Fyler House and Windsor's first Town Hall.

Yavener, Symond

Growing up on Cook Hill in Windsor: An Interview with Symond Yavener

Interviewed by Robert McAllister

March 3, 2009

2009.5.1

The interview includes Yavener's memories of growing up on Cook Hill in Windsor during the 1930s and 1940s. The subject's father Jack Yavener worked for the Agricultural Experiment Station and he and his wife Gussie grew crops on the side to sell to local markets. Yavener expresses appreciation for the benefit of growing up in a diverse neighborhood and recounts memories of his schooling and recreational activities in Windsor Center and the impact of the beginning of World War II.

Young, Tracey

Share Your Windsor Story

Interviewed by Liz Burke

August 15, 2021

Tracey Young recalls attending school in Windsor and relocating to Florida before returning in 2006. She also expresses her interest in gardening and landscaping.