

AI47. Aikman, Herbert (Bert) (1878-1977)


Interview and memoir
25 tapes, 1710 min., 388 pp.

Aikman discusses his experiences in Macoupin and Montgomery Counties, Illinois; childhood and farmlife, one room school education, homemade foods and remedies, his family's log cabin in Hornsby, children's games, hunting, family recreation, and Christmas celebrations. He recalls his first automobile and early transportation, building the Illinois Central Railroad, paving Route 66 and local roads, and electric trolleys. He also recalls businesses in Raymond, Illinois, travelling entertainers and speakers in Litchfield, and the towns of Honeybend, Morrisonville, Farmersville, and Waggoner. He also discusses farming: hazards, pests, crops, livestock, soil types, field tiling, fences, fertilizers, weather, planting and harvesting, cooperation between neighbors, and superstitions. He recalls employment as a railroad telegraph operator and ticket man and the impact of the railroad on the community, hazards, train wrecks, mail delivery, traffic to the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, and experiences with railroad people and passengers.

Interview by Horace Q. Waggoner, 1975

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewers notes, newspaper clipping, and photos of the town of Waggoner and farm implements

See full text of memoir : [Volume I](#); [Volume II](#); [Volume III](#); [Volume IV](#).

B174. Baker, J. Harold "Bud" b. 1907

Memoir
209 pp.

Baker, a lifelong resident of Waggoner, Illinois, discusses changes which have taken place in the community, farm technology, and transportation. He recalls businesses, electrification, and social activities in Waggoner. He also discusses railroad service, stockyards and grain elevators near the tracks, depot activity, and local lumberyards and trucking services. He discusses farming in the 20's and 30's, planting, harvesting, threshing, fertilizers, pest control, crop storage, farm implements, livestock, butchering, and canning. He discusses cooperation between farmers, farming hazards, "well witching," road improvements, the Ku Klux Klan, and neighbors who served in WWI.

Interview by Horace Q. Waggoner, 1985

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

B735. Brasell, Ruth K. (1891-1986)

Interview and memoir
1 tape, 90 mins., 29 pp.

Brasell, a teacher in one room rural schools, recalls teaching near Beardstown, the school building, students, training and duties as teacher. Also discusses the educational system, Christmas programs and special events, consolidation of rural schools, and teaching in the town of Arenzville. She discusses her life as a farm wife, crops, raising chickens, preparing homemade foods and threshing dinners, her community and St. Peter's Church.

Interview by Marjorie Taylor, 1973

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

B737. Brauer, Ewell (1912-1994)

Interview and memoir
2 tapes, 120 mins., 31 pp.

Brauer, Cass County farmer, discusses farming methods and their changes over the years, farm implements, machinery, crops, livestock and farm structures. He recalls farm life in the 1920's, his family history, his education, social activities, the Depression years, and conditions during WWII.

Interview by Mary Jane Feagans, 1975

OPEN

See collateral file: family photographs and interviewer's notes

[See full text of memoir](#) 

B812. Brown, Douglas b. 1905

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 60 mins., 13 pp.

Douglas Brown discusses WWII and its impact on local businesses: war-time restrictions, war-time production, rationing, transportation, ordnance plants and military facilities in and around Springfield. References are made to Pearl Harbor and Victory Gardens.

Interview by Joanne Wheeler, 1972

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

B813. Brown, LeRoy b. 1884

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 19 pp.

BLACK COMMUNITY PROJECT

LeRoy Brown talks about his experiences farming, his work as a coachman, discrimination encountered in daily life, the 1908 race riot and its aftermath, Springfield neighborhoods, businesses, churches, and schools.

Interview by Reverend Negil L. McPherson, 1974

OPEN

[See full text of memoir](#) 

B892. Burch, Marie (1897-1994)

Interview and memoir

5 tapes, 303 mins., 2 vols., 170 pp.

Burch, farmer from near Divernon, Illinois, discusses her childhood home, family and farm life, homemade foods, housework, clothing, country schools, holiday celebrations, and leisure time activities. She recalls her graduation trip, her college years at the University of Illinois, campus life, WWI, marriage and early widowhood, trip to Europe in 1930, Depression, WWII homefront, and the housing of couples released from German concentration camps. Also discusses agriculture, farming equipment, livestock, butchering, raising chickens and egg production, 4-H club, women's club, immigrant neighbors, and a trip to the Orient in 1972.

Interview by Elizabeth Dixon, 1984

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes, newspaper articles from Divernon Women's Club activities, article written by brother Hayward T. McMurray, newspaper photograph of Mrs. Burch feeding hogs, and family tree.

[See full text of memoir](#) 

C169. Cantrall, Evans E. (1884-1982)

Interview and memoir

2 tapes, 180 mins., 44 pp.

Cantrall, farmer, discusses rural life in the late 19th and early 20th century near Springfield: family life, a trip to Yellowstone National Park, education, employment, 1908 race riot, WWI, insurance business, hunting and farming.

Interview by Elizabeth Canterbury, 1973

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

C615. Cline, George (1882-1973)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 49 pp.

Cline, farmer, recalls life in Cass County, Illinois during the late 19th and early 20th century: farm mechanization, crops, storage, harvests and livestock; rural life, medicine, food, and clothing; the Depression and relief programs; and his duties as a County Supervisor.

Interview by Marjorie Taylor, 1973

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

C625A. Clough, Arthur D. (1897-1984)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 30 pp.

Arthur Clough, farmer, recalls early 20th century farm life near Donnellson, Illinois: homemade foods, gardening, beekeeping, wildlife, and curing meat.

Interview by Mary Ann Dillon, 1974

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

C625E. Clough, Eva L. (1894-1979)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 80 mins., 28 pp.

Eva L. Clough recalls early 20th century farm life near Donnellson, Illinois: homemade foods and remedies, schooling, home life, gardening and quilting.

Interview by Mary Ann Dillon, 1974

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

C811. Cordes, Marie (1900-1991)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 30 mins., 13 pp.

Cordes recalls rural life in Farmingdale, Illinois during the early to mid 20th century and also discusses Immanuel Lutheran Church and German-Americans.

Interview by Virginia Bomke, 1972

OPEN

See collateral file

Tape also contains [P226 Parker, Mrs. Noel](#)

[See full text of memoir](#) 

C889A. Crumrin, Arthur b. 1908

Interview and memoir

8 tapes, 600 mins., 2 vols., 117 pp.

Arthur Crumrin, long-time resident of Cass County, Illinois, discusses the history of Cass County; rural life, electrification, and education in one room schools; Depression; marriage; records of cemeteries; his collections; and old homes in Cass County.

Interview by Nancy Cogburn, 1979

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes, historical report of Cass County Service Company, 1840 census of Cass County, and photocopied pages from the Crumrin genealogy.

[See full text of memoir](#) 

C899F. Culver, Frances (1889-1987)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 40 mins., 15 pp.

Frances Culver recalls rural farm life during the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Whiteside County and at Athens, Illinois; growing up near the Mississippi River; chores and life on a poultry farm.

Interview by Elizabeth Canterbury, 1973

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes and photocopies of documents on Indian Point Presbyterian Church in Athens, Illinois.

[See full text of memoir](#) 

C899W. Culver, Walter (1887-1976)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 28 pp.

Walter Culver, farmer, recalls farming in Menard County, Illinois: chores, livestock, farming mechanization, harvesting, baling hay, moving to a new farm, differences in seasonal work, and changes in farming.

Interview by Elizabeth Canterbury, 1973

OPEN

For collateral file see Frances Culver

[See full text of memoir](#) 

D291C. Davis, Corneal A. (1900-1995)

Interview and memoir

20 tapes, 934 mins., 2 volumes, 229 pp., plus index

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Corneal A. Davis, member of the Illinois House of Representatives 1943-79, discusses his years as a member of the Illinois General Assembly: legislative reform, legislative technique, and his work on legislation involving public aid, welfare, education, the Equal Rights Amendment, and taxation. Also discusses his work on the Advisory Commission on Public Aid, Fair Employment Practices Commission, Appropriations Committee, and the Commission on the Status of Women. He also recalls his childhood and farm life near Vicksburg, Mississippi as an African-American, segregation and conditions for blacks in the South, and his service during WWI. He also discusses his involvement with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a court case over higher salaries for black teachers in Cairo, Illinois, civil rights, and discrimination encountered in Springfield. He recalls Chicago politics, black politicians, his retirement from the legislature, and his service on the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners.

Interview by Horace Q. Waggoner, 1979 and 1982

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes, photographs and photocopies of pictures, voter registration and election judge pamphlets.

See full text of memoir : [Volume I](#); [Volume II](#).

D324. Dawson, Frances (1903-1995)

Interview and memoir

10 tapes, 631 mins., 2 vols., 188 pp., plus index

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Dawson, member of the Illinois House of Representatives 1957-71, recalls her childhood during the first two decades of the century near Des Moines, Iowa, farm activities, her education at Simpson College and Northwestern University, and her participation in Evanston civic organizations. She discusses her years in the Illinois General Assembly, campaigning, legislation regarding education, revenue, water fluoridation public aid, health, welfare, and safety, legislative and judicial reform, and legislative technique. She also recalls Illinois politicians and members of the Illinois General Assembly.

Interview by Horace Q. Waggoner, 1980

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes, reproduced newspaper articles, reproduced biennial legislative reports, and photographs

See full text of memoir : [Volume I](#); [Volume II](#).

D618. Dinsmore, R.T. (Robert Truman) (1885-1982)

Interview and memoir

17 tapes, 930 mins., 4 vols., 304 pp.

Dinsmore, central Illinois newspaperman and printer, discusses his work on small weekly newspapers he owned and edited in central Illinois and Missouri and his experiences working as a printing foreman for Springfield newspapers the Journal, the Register, the Citizens Tribune, and the Journal Register. He recalls late 19th century life in Nebo, Illinois, including the citizens, businesses, social activities, and transportation including train service, buggies, steamer and packet services; education, religion, and social customs including the use of tobacco and liquor; family issues, relationship of husband and wife, home life, homemade foods, childbirth, and childrearing; health issues, medicine, and dentistry. He also discusses his experiences with a band on the Chautauqua circuit and on an excursion boat, service during WWI with the U.S. Treasury Department, the Depression, U.S. presidents, technological changes, Civil War Veterans, people in New Canton, 1899 fire at Nebo and reconstruction, Farmer's Ridge, automobiles, Springfield in the 1920's, and Illinois politicians.

Interview by Michael Boren, 1979

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes, photographs, and newspaper articles about Dinsmore

See full text of memoir : [Volumes I & II](#); [Volumes III & IV](#).

D922A. Dunn, Archibald (1891-1986)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 31 pp.

Archibald Dunn, Cass County farmer, discusses farming in the early 1900's, his family history, mail routes and telephone service, changes in farm technology, railroad, and interurban service to Decatur. He recalls his childhood on the farm, neighbors, family members and former classmates. Reference is made to the opening of Millikin University in Decatur.

Interview by Marjorie Taylor, 1974

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

EN36F. English, Freda (1906-1998)

Interview and memoir
1 tape, 90 mins., 32 pp.

Freda English, resident of rural Hamilton and Saline Counties in southern Illinois, discusses her life, education and employment as a teacher during the early 20th century. She recalls farm work, cooking homemade foods, family life, opportunities for women, social activities and entertainment, dating and wedding customs, chautauquas, rural schools, Broughton and McLeansboro High Schools, WWI and WWII homefront, and the Korean conflict.

Interview by Marilyn Anderson, 1979

OPEN

See collateral file: Interviewer's notes, photographs of her family and her husband.

[See full text of memoir](#)



EN36T. English, Tom (1903-1991)

Interview and memoir
2 tapes, 140 mins., 36 pp.

Tom English, banker, husband of Freda English, recalls growing up on a farm in Hamilton and Saline Counties in southern Illinois: farm work, church and social activities in the rural community, and education. He also discusses his banking career, changes in banking practices, changing economic conditions, effects of the stock market crash and the Great Depression, industries, and starting a new bank in McLeansboro. Also discussed are prohibition, the government's influence on banking, and credit cards.

Interview by Marilyn Anderson, 1979

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes, photographs of Tom English and his wife Freda.

[See full text of memoir](#)



F579. FitzJerrrell, Fannie (1872-1978)

Interview and memoir
10 tapes, 520 mins., 2 vols., 170 pp.

FitzJerrrell recounts growing up on a farm in the late 1800's, her family life and background, Civil War experiences of her father, marriage to a doctor and life as a doctor's wife, her husband's medical practice and psychiatry work, raising her children, family vacations, and a lengthy illness she endured in the 1920's. She discusses some of the problems associated with her advancing age and living in a nursing home. A reference is made to FitzJerrrell's father hearing Abraham Lincoln speak.

Interview by Virginia Wilbert, 1975

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes, and a copy of an article written about FitzJerrrell

[See full text of memoir](#)



F911. Fribley, John W. b. 1906

Interview and memoir
16 tapes, 763 mins., 2 vols., 235 pp., plus index

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Fribley, a Democratic member of the Illinois State Senate from 1934-1952 representing the 40th district, recalls his political career: legislative achievements in transportation, oil and gas regulation, and mine safety; Illinois political figures including Adlai Stevenson, Paul Powell and Henry Horner; political issues of the 1930's and 40's; and the relationship between Chicago and downstate and between the mayor of Chicago and the governor. He also discusses his life before the General Assembly: his family background and childhood near Assumption and Pana, Illinois; social activities, entertainment, and farm work; education at Illinois Wesleyan

University and the University of Illinois; law practice and political interests. References are made to his family's participation in the Civil War.

Interview by Horace Q. Waggoner, 1980

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes, correspondence regarding interview, and photographs of Fibley and his family

See full text of memoir : [Volume I; Volume II, pp. 107-158; Volume II, pp. 159-224.](#)

G193. Garrison, Cleo May (Philbee) b. 1921

Interview and memoir

5 tapes, 300 mins., 98 pp.

Cleo May Garrison, lifelong resident of Elmore in Peoria County, Illinois, discusses life as a women in the 20th century: childhood chores and games, father and brother, home life, entertainment, Depression, school life, lessons and teachers, remedies and illnesses, celebrations and holidays, courtship, marriage and divorce, life as a working mother, role as parent, dealing with husband's death, and role as a grandparent.

Interview by Starla Powell, 1991

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

G313A. Gerdes, Alfred (1891-1982)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 65 mins., 28 pp.

SANGAMON RIVER PROJECT

Alfred Gerdes discusses his experiences living near the Sangamon River: wildlife, floods, fishing, alterations of the natural environment, changes in rural life and farming, trespassers and dangers of the river. Also mentions the Sangamon River Improvement Association.

Interview by Judith Haynes, 1981

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

G313W. Gerdes, Weldon (1931-2002)

Gerdes, Gary b. ca. 1960

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 40 mins., 22 pp.

SANGAMON RIVER PROJECT

Weldon Gerdes, farmer on the Sangamon River near Petersburg, Illinois, and his son Gary discuss living near the river for 50 years, floods, levee construction, fishing and recreation, wildlife, pollution, Springfield's Lake Two, the Sangamon River Valley Organization, and the Green Belt Zone Project of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Interview by Judith Haynes, 1981

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

G760E. Graham, Elizabeth E. (1892-1982)

Interview and memoir

4 tapes, 308 mins., 76 pp.

Graham, a retired school teacher and former curator of the Vachel Lindsay Home, recalls aspects of early 20th century life including rural schools, farming, cooking, and family life; incidents from her childhood near Galena, Illinois; family history; college education, teaching experiences, former students, and fellow educators at Springfield High School. She also discusses Springfield, her recollections of poet Vachel Lindsay, the Lindsay Association, and her service as the curator of the Lindsay Home.

Interview by Alma Mandeville, 1980 and Jim Krohe, 1972

OPEN

See collateral file: Interviewer's notes, photocopied photographs of Graham, photocopies of Vachel Lindsay's poetry and art work, a brochure on Lindsay, and an article on Graham.

[See full text of memoir](#) 

H134. Hale, Mattie (1892-1982)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 33 pp.

BLACK COMMUNITY PROJECT

Hale, long-time resident of the Springfield area, discusses her experiences as a member of the city's African American community. She recalls her family history, farm life and growing up in a rural area, Springfield neighborhoods and schools, relations with white neighbors, marriage and family life, her husband's work in the Tuxhorn coal mine, the 1908 Springfield race riot, and racial discrimination.

Interview by Reverend Negil L. McPherson, 1974

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

H144. Hall, Mrs. Leland (Everett) (1898-1988)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 85 mins., 33 pp.

Hall discusses her childhood in rural Kentucky, and in Greenview and Athens, Illinois. She recalls the family garden and food preservation, family life and household chores, marriage at age 16, stories from the Jewish community in Athens, WWI homefront, her work as a telephone operator, Depression, job as a hairdresser, and the town and residents of Athens.

Interview by Elizabeth Canterbury, 1977

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

H431G. Herndon, Gray (1885-1973)

Interview and memoir

12 tapes, 855 mins., 2 vols., 206 pp.

Gray Herndon, Springfield lawyer, recalls rural life near New City in Sangamon County, Illinois: childhood, education, teaching, and farming. He recalls turn-of-the-century farming practices: machinery, crops, fencing, harvesting, threshing, drainage tile; childhood amusements, fishing, prohibition, moonshine production, and the Depression. He also recalls his law studies at the University of Michigan, Springfield law practice, early 20th century Springfield coal mining, and Springfield area railroads, interurbans and roads. He recalls stories of early settlers, water powered mills, and the first telephones in the area.

Interview by Barbara Herndon, 1972

OPEN

See collateral file

See full text of memoir : [Volume I](#); [Volume II](#).

H757. Honey, Margaret E. (1884-1983)

Interview and memoir

3 tapes, 225 mins., 66 pp.

Margaret Honey discusses rural life during the late 19th and early 20th century: her childhood and family home in Newton, Illinois, education, injuries, illnesses and remedies, teaching, courtship and marriage, dairy farming, housework, home childbirth, community organizations and holiday celebrations. She also discusses her life as wife of a minister, her husband's duties as a minister of the Christian Church, life adjustments, her 45th wedding anniversary, Christian Church baptisms, the Edinburg, South Fork and Rochester Churches, life after Mr. Honey's death, vacations, and nursing home life in Springfield.

Interview by Linda S. Jett, 1979

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes, photograph of Honey, copies of her poems, and a photocopy of her manuscript autobiography.

[See full text of memoir](#) 

H861. Hubbard, William B. (1900-1984)

Interview and memoir

2 tapes, 180 mins., 67 pp.

BLACK COMMUNITY PROJECT

Hubbard, lifelong Sangamon County resident, discusses his experiences as an African American in the first half of the 20th century. He recalls farm life, childhood activities, home gardening, homemade foods, construction work, local coal mines, effects of the Depression, home remedies, and holiday celebrations. He also discusses the ministry, Springfield in the 1940's, conditions of African Americans, discrimination, businesses owned by African Americans, the 1908 race riot, and politics.

Interview by Reverend Negil L. McPherson, 1975

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

H883. Hummon, Serge b. 1917

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 22 pp.

WWII CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS PROJECT

Hummon, Union Seminary student, discusses pacifism and the people and events that have influenced his beliefs. He recalls classmates at Union Seminary who were conscientious objectors during WWII, his decision to go into a rural ministry, experiences at Chicago Seminary, farm programs in the 1960's, and efforts to work with rural populations.

Interview by C. Arthur Bradley, 1988

OPEN

[See full text of memoir](#) 

K269. Keith, John (1894-1977)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 30 pp.

Keith, central Illinois farmer, discusses early 20th century farm life and agriculture: farm childhood, foods, farming methods, implements, livestock, Christmas celebrations, starting his own farm, Depression, and funeral practices. Also mentions home remedies and women and children on the farm.

Interview by Mary Ann Dillon, 1974

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

K626. Kinter, Hallie Staley (1891-1982)

Interview and memoir

6 tapes, 540 mins., 127 pp.

Kinter, native of Loami, Illinois, discusses her careers as a nurse and farm manager: her nurse's training, reactions to working women, 1918 influenza epidemic, medical care in the early 1900's, WWI and the medical profession, physician-nurse relationships, duties as a nurse and as an anesthetist, work as superintendent at Springfield Hospital and Elmhurst Hospital, and training student nurses. She also discusses managing the family farm, changes in farming techniques, and her participation in the Sangamon County Home Bureau. She recalls early 20th century rural life including childhood activities, farm life, holidays, schooling, and social life. She also mentions the treatment of an African American patient and home remedies.

Interview by Jacqui Pearson, 1977

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes, photographs, and an article on Kinter.

[See full text of memoir](#) 

K631. Kirby, Lucile Daniels (1891-1980)

Interview and memoir

3 tapes, 214 mins., 57 pp.

Kirby, a resident of Menard County, Illinois, recalls early 20th century rural life: farming, education, dating and marriage, social life, church, 4-H clubs, touring post-WWI Europe, family life, farm wives' chores, Menard County church history, enrollment at Illinois College, and raising foster children. She also mentions the 1918 influenza epidemic, telephones, and a survey of Menard County homes during the Depression.

Interview by Mary Jane Feagans, 1975

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

L829A. Logsdon, Anna Lucille (1912-1992)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 45 mins., 20 pp.

Anna Lucille Logsdon discusses family and community social life in Litchfield, Illinois in the early 20th century: children's games and toys, community entertainment, the impact of railroads on Litchfield, schooling, small town cultural life and WWI.

Interview by David Logsdon, 1973

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

L851. Long, Irma Keele (1918-2000)

Interview and memoir

4 tapes, 210 mins., 80 pp.

Long recalls 20th century central Illinois farm life near Chesterfield, Illinois: education in a one room school and in high school; horses, railroads, automobiles, roads and trips to Springfield; parents and family; her husband's mail job on the railroad; WWII homefront in San Francisco; Chesterfield businesses and the Depression; farming machinery, livestock, crops and the farming community; fishing and hunting; living in Alton, Illinois; social activities, friends and neighbors.

Interview by Jeffrey A. Eldred, 1993-94

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)



L948. Loving, Lloyd b. 1903

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 45 mins., 16 pp.

BATES EXPERIMENTAL ROAD PROJECT

Loving recalls work testing the Bates Experimental Road near New Berlin, Illinois during the summer of 1922: its purpose, construction, and the reaction of the public. Also discusses tenant farming, farm mechanization, and the community of Loami.

Interview by Jane E. Knepler, 1975

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)



M446. Maurer, Carrie Alice (1891-1983)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 34 pp.

Maurer recalls country life in Cass County, Illinois; farming tasks; home life; social activities; Depression; and WWII.

Interview by Mary Ann Dillon, 1974

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)



M141. McDaniel, Orville (1904-1985)

Interview and memoir

3 tapes, 225 mins., 130 pp.

BLACK COMMUNITY PROJECT

McDaniel recalls life in Springfield: childhood, Depression, church experiences, Grace African Methodist Evangelical Church (later United Methodist Church); race relations, segregation, and race discrimination; American Legion activities; and work experiences. Also discusses employment and discrimination at jobs in East St. Louis, Kansas City, Memphis, Mississippi, and Ohio at a steel company, paper mill, coal mine, riverboat, highway crew, and the railroad.

Interview by Reverend Negil L. McPherson, 1974

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

M348. Marr, George (1902-1993)

Interview and memoir
1 tape, 90 mins., 25 pp.

BATES EXPERIMENTAL ROAD PROJECT

Marr, farmer, recalls farming and rural life in Illinois. Also recalls work on the Bates Experimental Road near New Berlin.

Interview by Jane E. Kepler, 1975
OPEN
See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

M363. Martin, Alice (1889-1975)

Interview and memoir
2 tapes, 180 mins., 55 pp.

BLACK COMMUNITY PROJECT

Alice Martin recalls rural Illinois life in the early 20th century: growing up near Rochester; Springfield race riot of 1908; racial discrimination, prejudices, and segregation; her involvement in women's organizations; and her travels.

Interview by Reverend Negil L. McPherson, 1974
OPEN
See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

M364. Martin, Jack E. b. 1884

Interview and memoir
3 tapes, 217 mins., 38 pp.

Jack E. Martin, mechanic, discusses life in the Springfield area in the early 20th century: farming, chauffeuring, Depression, being one of the first African Americans to own and operate a garage, working as a mechanic for the state, race relations, neighbors and recreational activities.

Interview by Jan Smith, 1974
OPEN
See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

M629. Mills, Winfred (1889-1977)

Interview and memoir
4 tapes, 315 mins., 114 pp.

Mills, farmer in Sangamon County, recalls early 20th century rural life: farming practices, hog butchering, burial customs, WPA work in rural areas, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, seed corn business, and Anti-Theft Association.

Interview by Jean A. Berg, 1977
OPEN
See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

M784. Moore, John P. (1890-1981)

Interview and memoir
1 tape, 90 mins., 34 pp.

John P. Moore, farmer, discusses his farming operation, working with horses, raising, harvesting, and storing crops, construction and use of farm buildings, the Depression, and caring for the land.

Interview by Mary Ann Dillon, 1974

OPEN

See collateral file: photo

[See full text of memoir](#) 

N883. Nuckols, James Ray "Bud" (1903-1989)

Interview and memoir
3 tapes, 270 mins., 2 vol., 93 pp.

Nuckols, resident of Auburn, Illinois, discusses early to mid 20th century life in Auburn: family and schools, teaching, prohibition, transportation and businesses. Also discusses farm life: farming techniques and problems, tractors, cattle, electrification and television.

Interview by Shirley Marshall, 1980

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

P277. Patterson, Cliffie Smith (1895-1993)

Interview and memoir
3 tapes, 270 mins., 90 pp.

Patterson, school teacher, recalls rural early 20th century rural life, family, education, country schools, farming, LaClede County, Missouri and Mt. Pulaski, Illinois. Also recalls teaching, her children's education and changes in her life over the years.

Interview by Jean Hauffe, 1984

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

P443. Peterson, Carl (1900-1987)

Interview and memoir
7 tapes, 630 mins., 2 vols., 169 pp.

Peterson, farmer, discusses early 20th century rural life in Virginia, Illinois: farming, butchering; country schools, and high school; education at the University of Illinois in Urbana; recreation, holidays, socials, weddings and churches; race relations; his trip to Sweden; the Depression and WWII; and family life as a Swedish-American.

Interview by Nancy Cogburn, 1979

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

P887. Prater, Fannie (1903-1995)

Interview and memoir

2 tapes, 110 mins., 28 pp.

Prater, postmaster, discusses rural life in Kilbourne, Illinois: farming, holidays, Depression, WWII, and operation of the Kilbourne post office.

Interview by Rosalyn Bone, 1976

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

P931. Price, James N. (1911-1985)

Interview and memoir

6 tapes, 390 mins., 80 pp.

Price, farmer and oilfield worker, recalls experiences on the family dairy farm in Lawrence County, Illinois, early agricultural methods, early oilfield techniques and working conditions, the southeastern Illinois oil "boom", organization of an oil workers' union and his family's history.

Interview by Patrick Burris, 1976

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

R329R. Rexroat, Rollo (1893-1979)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 53 pp.

Rollo Rexroat recalls early 20th century life in Virginia, Illinois: his father's grocery store, merchandise and prices, Civil War veterans and stories, school, other businesses, and the area's land.

Interview by Marjorie Taylor, 1974

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

R329V. Rexroat, Verna (1890-1984)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 45 mins., 26 pp.

Verna Rexroat recalls life in early 20th century Virginia, Illinois: her family, school, a smallpox epidemic, weaving, gardening and home life.

Interview by Marjorie Taylor, 1974

OPEN

For tape see Jurgens, Bertha
See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)



R437O. Ridley, Ola (1905-2000)

Ridley, Bill (1899-1986)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 29 pp.

ILLINOIS COAL: THE LEGACY OF AN INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

Ola Ridley, wife of Bill Ridley, discusses farm life and schooling in the early 20th century and life in Taylorville. In the second half of the memoir Bill Ridley joins her to discuss mine work in the 1930's.

Interview by Kevin Corley, 1986

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)



R474. Ringland, Hal (1896-1991)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 17 pp.

Ringland, farmer, discusses rural Illinois life during the early and mid 20th century: farming, rural mail service, his family, and elementary school education.

Interview by Rosalyn L. Bone, 1975

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes and photos.

[See full text of memoir](#)



SA28. Saiter, Jessie Gilbert (1895-1982)

Interview and memoir

4 tapes, 235 mins., 99 pp.

Saiter recalls early 20th century life in Clark County, Illinois: work on the farm, farming techniques and crops, home and family life, religion, one room school education, holiday celebrations, women's roles on the farm and women's rights.

Interview by Francie Staggs, 1981

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)



SA72. Sarff, Jack (1911-1987)

Interview and memoir

5 tapes, 310 mins., 60 pp.

Sarff discusses life as a farmer: hard times during the Depression and WWII, earning money as a boy, country schools, fairs, farm machinery and methods, farm life, crops without fertilizer and herbicides, and vacations.

Interview by Rosalyn L. Baker Bone, 1975

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)



SA99. Sayre, Jeanette (1912-1993)

Interview and memoir

3 tapes, 240 mins., 73 pp.

Sayre discusses rural life in Petersburg and central Illinois during the 20th century: farming, homemade foods, home entertainment, family life, marriage, divorce, and children. Also discusses her volunteer work and the Lincoln Memorial Gardens.

Interview by Kay MacLean, 1973

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)



See also [L638 Abraham Lincoln Memorial Gardens](#)

SH19. Shannon, Helen Jensen (1912-2000)

Interview and memoir

2 tapes, 120 mins., 38 pp.

Helen Shannon, lifelong resident of Athens, Illinois, recalls early and mid 20th century life in Athens: early schooling, high school, trains, automobiles, and roads, businesses, coal mines, family life and entertainment.

Interview by Elizabeth Canterbury, 1982

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)



SH19H. Shannon, Herb b. 1912

Interview and memoir

2 tapes, 100 mins., 26 pp.

Herb Shannon of Athens, Illinois, recalls early and mid 20th century life in Athens: family; education in a one room school, businesses, entertainment, and WWII.

Interview by Elizabeth Canterbury, 1982

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)



SH92. Shull, Mildred b. 1911

Interview and memoir

2 tapes, 160 mins., 63 pp.

Shull discusses early and mid 20th century life in Illinois: family and school in Farmer City; managing a candy store in Chicago; marriage and children in Decatur and Beason; the Great Depression; weaving; WWII; and farming in Illinois and Missouri.

Interview by Joanne Stevens, 1976

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes and photocopies of pictures and letters.

[See full text of memoir](#)



SH93. Shuman, Charles B. b. 1906

Interview and memoir

5 tapes, 300 mins., 118 pp.

Charles Shuman, farmer and resident of Moultrie County, Illinois, discusses the family farm, soil and crops, rural schools, the University of Illinois College of Agriculture, Depression, county farm bureaus, the Illinois Agricultural Association, government agricultural programs, and the history of agriculture from 1920-70.

Interview by Mrs. Dorothy Burris, 1972

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)



SH11L. Siburt, Lou Ann Wagner b. 1927

Interview and memoir

2 tapes, 180 mins., 27 pp.

Lou Ann Wagner Siburt discusses farm life during the Depression, unmechanized farming, home life, childhood chores and games, horses and livestock, teenage jobs, courtship and marriage during WWII and child-bearing.

Interview by Ruth Siburt, 1993

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)



SK59. Skowera, Michael b. 1948

Memoir

62 pp.

Michael Skowera, farmer, discusses the history of the Skowera Farm in Putnam County, Illinois: his ancestors' acquisition of the farm, the generations who have inherited it, and changes in farming techniques and in the farm itself over 125 years. Also discusses his ownership and the future of the farm.

Interviewed by Leanna Skowera, 2001

OPEN

[See full text of memoir](#)



SM54. Smith, Elbert S. (1911-1983)

Interview and memoir

24 tapes, 1650 mins., 2 vols., 254 pp., plus index

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Elbert S. Smith, member of the Illinois Senate 1949-57, discusses issues and accomplishments of his years in the General Assembly:

constitutional revision, judicial reform, and reapportionment; civil rights, public utilities, and education legislation; the Gateway amendment, aeronautics, military affairs legislation, and conservation issues. Also discusses his years before the General Assembly: family, farming, Millikin University, University of Alabama law school, and his navy service in WWII. He also discusses his activities after leaving the legislature: service as Illinois Auditor of Public Accounts and Vice-President of the 1970 Illinois Constitutional Convention.

Interview by Horace Q. Waggoner, 1980

OPEN

See collateral file

See full text of memoir : [Volume I](#); [Volume II](#)

SM61. Smith, Larry b. 1937

Interview and memoir

2 tapes, 155 mins., 45 pp.

Larry Smith, farmer, discusses the central Illinois rural community of Bismarck during WWII; German prisoners of war as farm laborers; family attitudes toward the war and the de-emphasis of their German heritage; rationing; victory celebrations; life on the homefront; war crimes trials; and family life and farming.

Interview by John Cockrell, 1981

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

SN52. Snodgrass, Emma (1887-1984)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 24 pp.

Snodgrass recalls prairie life in the late 19th and early 20th century; covered wagon trips, farming, home remedies, early childhood, education, and the move to and life in Pawnee, Illinois. Also mentions marriage, children, and roles of women.

Interview by Joyce Reynolds, 1980

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

ST13. Staggs, John J. b. 1903

Interview and memoir

4 tapes, 315 mins., 80 pp.

Staggs recalls early 20th century rural life at Cory, Indiana: town life, butchering, church, teenage employment and education. Also discusses working at Sinclair Oil Refinery in East Chicago, the Depression, prohibition, courtship and marriage, his wife's family, a canteen business, and Champaign, Illinois. Also mentions different businesses in Illinois and Indiana.

Interview by Francie Staggs, 1982

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes and photographs.

[See full text of memoir](#) 

ST72. Stone, Rolland (1902-2000)

Interview and memoir
1 tape, 30 mins., 14 pp.

Rolland Stone discusses Sangamon County and its history, Sangamo Town and Springfield, growing seed corn, and the Stone Seed Company. Also mentions prohibition, Depression, WWI and WWII.

Interview by Virginia Bomke, 1972

OPEN

For tape see A.O. Bumgardner

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

T217. Taylor, Robert A. (1882-1977)

Interview and memoir
1 tape, 70 mins., 40 pp.

Robert A. Taylor, brother of James, discusses farm life in Cass County, Illinois: farming operations, horse trading, livestock and crops, chores, parents and other relatives.

Interview by Marjorie Taylor, 1974

OPEN

See collateral file

Tape also contains James O. Taylor interview

[See full text of memoir](#) 

UL2. Ulery, Oscar L. (1877-1980)

Interview and memoir
5 tapes, 450 mins., 106 pp.

Ulery, farmer, discusses early 20th century rural life near Morrisonville, Illinois: parents' life and work, early schooling, religious life, teaching in a one room school, dairy farming, farm neighbors, butchering, woodworking and blacksmithing, WWI and the Depression, and furniture making.

Interview by Cullom Davis, 1977

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See collateral file

See also [MC 48: Oscar L. Ulery Papers and Diaries, 1901-1977](#)

W187. Wanless, Frances (1925-1984)

Interview and memoir
1 tape, 90 mins., 26 pp.

Wanless discusses rural life in central Illinois during WWII: family and rural community in Pleasant Plains, work, war industries, rationing, soldiers stationed in Springfield, and personal observations.

Interview by John Cockrell, 1981

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

W388. Weber, George (1886-1973)

Interview and memoir
1 tape, 65 mins., 30 pp.

Weber discusses rural life in the Midwest from the late 19th century onward: homesteading in Oklahoma, farming in North Dakota, and running a livery stable. He also discusses the people of Nauvoo, Illinois, operating taverns, ranching in the West, and serving on the police force in Hamilton, Illinois.

Interview by William Ortman, 1972

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

W498. Wertheim, William (1889-1979)

Interview and memoir
1 tape, 65 mins., 20 pp.

Wertheim recalls his livestock business and life in Athens, Illinois in the early 20th century.

Interview by Elizabeth Canterbury, 1978

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

W670. Williams, Anna M. (1895-1986)

Interview and memoir
2 tapes, 225 mins., 33 pp.

Anna M. Williams discusses rural life in Mason and Menard Counties, Illinois in the early 20th century: livestock, crops, life on the farm, and fishing in Illinois River backwaters; one room school education, lessons and programs; homemade foods and crafts; and family life, parents, brother, and her German-American heritage.

Interview by Rosalyn L. Bone, 1975

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes and photographs.

[See full text of memoir](#) 

W672. Williams, Gale b. 1922

Interview and memoir
15 tapes, 860 mins., 2 vols., 244 pp., plus index

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Gale Williams, Republican member of the Illinois House of Representatives 1961-65 and 1967-73, discusses the issues of his years in the General Assembly: legislative and judicial reform, economic development, transportation, conservation, and agriculture, reapportionment, patronage and public employees, and leaving the legislature. He also discusses his years before the General Assembly: family and farm life near the southern Illinois town of Ava, political and civilian jobs, and his businesses.

Interview by Horace Q. Waggoner, 1981

OPEN

See collateral file

See full text of memoir : [Volume I](#); [Volume II](#)

W674. Williams, Marie South (1893-1989)

Interview and memoir

6 tapes, 485 mins., 3 vols., 220 pp.

Marie South Williams recalls rural life in southern Illinois and in Springfield during the early 20th century: family and farm life in DeSoto, Illinois, her grandmothers, household chores, homemade foods and remedies, holidays, crops, African Americans and discrimination, early schooling and at Carbondale, her husband, Frank Williams, teaching school, gangsters in Williamson County, Depression and prohibition, Charles Lindbergh, the 1925 tornado, coal mining and the mine wars, and operating a grocery store in Springfield.

Interview by Elizabeth K. Dixon, 1984

OPEN

See collateral file: interviewer's notes and photocopies of photographs.

See full text of memoir : [Volume I](#); [Volume II](#); [Volume III](#)

W698. Wilson, Thomas T. (1893-1976) and **Mary J.**

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 34 pp.

BATES EXPERIMENTAL ROAD PROJECT

Thomas T. and Mary J. Wilson discuss the building of the Bates Experimental Road as well as farm life around Bates and New Berlin, Illinois. They discuss livestock, poultry, stores, and social life with friends.

Interview by Jane E. Knepler, 1975

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

W787. Wittmond, Carl (1905-1997)

Interview and memoir

13 tapes, 670 mins., 211 pp., plus index

ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Wittmond, Democratic member of the Illinois House of Representatives 1955-67, discusses issues and events of his years in the General Assembly: campaign and election, legislative priorities, personalities, Cook County and southern Illinois factions, a ferry project on the Illinois River at Brussels, the Great River Road project, conservation and recreation programs and agricultural issues. He also discusses his years before the legislature: family and life in Calhoun County and Brussels, Illinois, Quincy College, politics and elections.

Interview by Horace Q. Waggoner, 1982-83

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#) 

Y89. Yowell, Reina (1889-1981)

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 90 mins., 43 pp.

Reina Yowell discusses the town of Virginia, Illinois at the turn of the century: the founding of the town by her great-grandfather Henry Hall, the character and layout of the town, home cooking, early education, and her husband's veterinary practice.

Interview by Marjorie Taylor, 1974

OPEN

See collateral file

[See full text of memoir](#)

