
UNCG Oral Histories: An Archival Research Guide

*“An interview that records an individual's personal recollections of the past and historical events”
Society of American Archivists Dictionary*

OVERVIEW

The Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro serves as the primary resource for information related to the history of the University. Within the department, the Betty H. Carter Women's Veterans Historical Project seeks to document the female experience in the Armed Forces. The department has actively conducted and collected oral histories covering a broad range of topics. They have been recorded using cassette tapes, CD's and video and a large portion of the oral histories in the collections have been transcribed for ease of use by researchers. The following is an attempt to aid researchers in learning about the extensive collection of oral histories that the University Archives has to offer by providing a selected list of available resources.

ARCHIVAL RESOURCES

University Archives

OH 001: Greensboro VOICES Collection, 1977-2001

See “Online Exhibits and Resources” below.

OH 002: UNCG Institutional Memory Collection, 2006-Present

The UNCG Institutional Memory Collection was established in 2006 by the University Archives to collect the history of UNCG through oral histories. Archives staff members have interviewed students, staff and faculty to preserve the untold memories of their experience at UNCG.

OH 003: UNCG Centennial Oral History Project, 1989-1991

The Centennial Oral History Project was created in conjunction with the centennial celebration of UNCG's founding in 1891. This collection includes over 200 interviews with students, staff and faculty members discussing various topics and recounting their experiences at UNCG. A complete finding aid is available in the Archives with a short description of each interview.

OH 004: Gail McDonald Oral History Collection, 1995

This oral history collection contains interviews conducted by Dr. Gail McDonald in preparation for an article she was writing on Randall Jarrell in 1995. It includes discussions with Suzanne Rogers Bush, Mary Jarrell and Robert and Betty Watson. They were recorded on CD and they have not been transcribed.

OH 005: Pat Fairfield-Artman Oral History Collection, 2004

This oral history collection was created by Patricia Fairfield-Artman, a graduate student in the PhD program in Cultural Studies at UNCG, in 2004. She wanted to collect and analyze narratives from women faculty and staff members who worked at UNCG prior to 1964 when it was known as Woman's College and the transition to UNCG as a coeducational environment. The goal of her research was to provide a historical account of life at a female student institution prior to 1964 and then after the transition to a coeducational university. It includes interviews with Laura Anderton, Jean Buchert, Dorothy Darnell, Rosemary McGee, Jane Tucker Mitchell, Clara Rider, Sarah "Sally" Robinson and Nancy White.

OH 006: Preserving Our History: Rotary Club of Greensboro Collection, 2007-Present

This oral history collection is collaboration between the UNCG University Archives and the Rotary Club of Greensboro. The purpose of this project is to gather the recollections of the members, thereby preserving the history of the local Rotary Club and the city of Greensboro. The member interviews were recorded on audio cassettes, but all interviews are also available on CDs. The collection includes 21 oral history interviews, most of which are transcribed.

OH 007: UNCG Alumni Association Oral History Program Collection, 1976-1979

This oral history collection was created by the Alumni Association and contains interviews with Clara Booth Byrd, Kathleen Hawkins, Residence Hall Counselors, Louise Robbins and Gladys Avery Tilet.

OH 008: Centenary Project Collection, 1980-1982

The Centenary Project was established by the Alumni Association in conjunction with UNCG history professor Dr. Richard Bardolph in 1980. The purpose of the project was to preserve the memories of female students who graduated from UNCG back when it was known as the State Normal and Industrial College for Women in the early 1900s. The interviews focus on senior alumni and include discussions with Gertrude Carraway, Edith Haight, Ethel Harris Kirby, Ione Mebane Mann, Mabel Merritt, Ruth Sherrill and Jane Summerell. Not all of the interviews have been transcribed.

OH 009: Growing Up in Summerville: 1900-1935 Collection, 1983-1994

This collection was created by UNCG history student Jamie Credle for an internship in the Spring of 1984. The purpose of the project was to preserve the memories of those who remembered the Bruce's Crossroads community in Summerville, North Carolina and to learn what it was like to grow up there in the early 20th century. It includes five oral history interviews with residents of the town.

OH 0010: Civil Rights Oral History Collection, 1986-1990

This oral history collection contains roughly 60 interviews with various men and women who participated in the Civil Rights Movement in Greensboro.

OH 0011: Adult Students at UNCG Oral History Collection, 2002-2004

The Adult Students at UNCG Oral History Collection was created through the Office for Adult Students. It contains VHS videos and cassette tapes of interviews with key players at UNCG who developed and supported the institutional framework for recruiting, admitting and advising adult students from the early 1970s to the late 1990s. There are no transcripts of the interviews.

OH 0012: Doing Visual History Collection, 2007

The Doing Visual History Collection includes interviews from nine projects that were conducted for a HIS 589 course, "Doing Visual History," in 2007. Included are audio and video interview tapes and DVDs that offer thematic excerpts from the interviews of each project. The interviews focus on the Greensboro area and cover topics such as: military service and women, Greensboro musicians, personal families, Triad transportation, and symbols of the South.

OH 013: UNCG in the 1960s

This collection of oral history interviews was conducted by students in Professor Peter Carmichael's HIS 520: Southern History "Interpreting and Presenting Southern History to the Public" taught in the Fall of 2006. Students were instructed to interview either a student, faculty, or staff member who was associated with UNCG during the 1960s. They were asked to focus on a specific issue or event related to the school's history. The interviews were conducted from October to November 2006.

The topics covered include: the Civil Rights Movement, faculty members, the Vietnam War, race relations at UNCG and in general, UNCG Cafeteria Strike, Neo-Black Society protest, UNCG traditions, class jackets, chancellors, various departments, the 1960 Greensboro Sit-in Movement and other personal experiences.

OH 0014: Cone Mill Village Oral History Collection, 2009

The Cone Mill Village Oral History Collection contains 18 oral history interviews conducted in the Spring of 2009 by members of Dr. Benjamin Filene's "Museums and Historic Site Interpretation" class with current and former residents of Cone Mill villages located in Greensboro, North Carolina. The villages were created in the early 1900s by Cone Mills to house its workers. The interviewees are part of the last generation to grow up in the mill villages, as Cone began selling off its worker housing in the late 1950s. The oral histories were recorded in audio and video formats.

Manuscripts

Papers of Ned Cline Mss 219

This collection contains an oral history interview conducted by Ned Cline with Joseph M. Bryan on August 26, 1986 and it focuses on Bryan's life. In addition, there are 25 interviews Cline conducted in the late 1990s with various friends and family members associated with Joseph M. Bryan. All the oral histories have been transcribed.

Papers of Ellen Black Winston Mss 40

This collection contains an oral history conducted by Annette Cox Smith with Dr. Ellen Black Winston on August 8, 1973. The interview is three hours long and focuses on her personal life as well as her work in the area of social welfare in North Carolina and the United States.

Betty H. Carter Women's Veterans Historical Project

The Betty H. Carter Women's Veterans Historical Project was established in 1998 by the UNCG University Archives to document the contributions of women in the military and related service organizations since World War I. The collection offers a wide range of source material, including photographs, letters, diaries, scrapbooks, military patches and insignia, uniforms, posters, published works, as well as oral histories. The WVHP is still actively conducting oral history interviews with women veterans. A description of oral histories available through the WVHP is listed at:

<<http://library.uncg.edu/dp/wv/find.aspx>>

Books

The Special Collections & Rare Books Department, in connection with the University Archives, houses several books in their Woman's Collection that contain oral history interviews related to the woman's suffrage movement. [Special Collections: W: JK1896 c 2480 v.1-8]

Helen Valeska Bary: Labor Administration and Social Security A Woman's Life- An interview conducted by Jacqueline K. Parker, 1974

Jeannette Rankin: Activist for World Peace, Women's Rights, and Democratic Government- Interviews conducted by Malca Chall and Hannah Josephson, 1974

The Suffragists: From Tea-Parties to Prison including interviews with Sylvie Grace Thompson Thygeson, Jessie Havar Butler, Miriam Allen deFord, Laura Ellsworth Seiler, and Ernestine Hara Kettler- Interviews conducted by Sherna Gluck, 1975.

Burnita Shelton Matthews: Pathfinder in the Legal Aspects of Women- An interview conducted by Amelia R. Fry, 1975

Alice Paul: Woman Suffrage and Equal Rights Amendment- An interview conducted by Amelia R. Fry, 1976

Mabel Vernon: Speaker for Suffrage and Petitioner for Peace- An interview conducted by Amelia R. Fry, 1976

Rebecca Hourwich Reyher: Search and Struggle for Equality and Independence- An interview conducted by Amelia R. Fry and Fern Ingersoll, 1977

Sara Bard Field: Poet and Suffragist – An interview conducted by Amelia R. Fry, 1959-1963

Online Exhibits and Resources

Greensboro Voices: Voicing Observations in Civil Rights and Equality Struggles
<<http://library.uncg.edu/depts/archives/civrights/index.asp>>

Greensboro Voices provides access to a collection of 125 oral interviews housed in the Greensboro Public Library and in the University Archives of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The recordings, collected over the past thirty years, provide a rich resource for historical research concerning the Civil Rights Movement in the Greensboro area.

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