

# **Lehigh Valley Oral History Directory**

August, 2018

*Prepared by the Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium (LVEHC) in partnership  
with the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium (LVRC)*

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in partnership with the Lehigh Valley Research Consortium (LVRC)*

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**Research Team:** Kim Carrell-Smith (Lehigh University); Brian Alnutt (Northampton Community College) & Susan Clemens (Muhlenberg College)

**Project Overview:** From June through August, 2018, our research team surveyed and documented existing Oral History collections in and about the Lehigh Valley in order to create a Lehigh Valley Oral History Directory that could be publicly available. For the purposes of this project, we defined Oral Histories as long-form interviews with open-ended questions in which the narrator willingly gave consent to be interviewed. The following is the culmination of this project.

**Introduction:** We have divided the directory into five sections I.) Oral History Collections, II) Interviews of Individuals, III) Possible Interviews & Collections (including missing, undocumented and unknown collections); IV) Oral History projects in progress, and; V) Findings and Recommendations based on our research.

## I. ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

**Name of Collection:** *American Legion Baseball Team of Hellertown Oral Histories*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** The Hellertown Historical Society

**Number of items in the collection:** 26 total (4 unnamed narrators)

**Date of the interview(s):** 2004

**Interview themes:** Baseball, Baseball Stories, Pennsylvania--Hellertown, American Legion

**Description:** Bill Frey conducted these interviews with members of the American Legion baseball team as well as with baseball players on Hellertown High School's team. The collection focuses on baseball in Hellertown from 1925-2005.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Hellertown

**Interview Format:** 8mm video and Digital MOV Files.

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes.

**Permissions and Uses:** No waiver forms exist for this collection.

**Further notes on the collection:** No Known Restrictions. Bill Fry at Hellertown Historical Society is the best contact for this collection. These interviews are located in Hellertown Historical Society Catalogue under Interviews.

**Name of Collection:** *Bethlehem Oral History Project*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** PA State Archives

**Number of items in the collection:** 66

**Date of the interview(s):** late 1970's

**Interview themes:** Daily Life, Families, Work Life, Emigration and Immigration, Bethlehem Steel Corporation

**Description:** This covers a cross-section of Bethlehem residents covering years from 1910s until 1970s. Interviews address family & immigration histories, work life (many Bethlehem Steel), experience in recessions/Great Depression, ethnic and race relations, overall Bethlehem community changes.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem

**Interview Format:** 45 cassette tapes, 21 are only written transcripts

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** About half of the interviews have full transcripts.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**

<https://archon.klnpa.org/psa/?p=collections/controlcard&id=12622>

**Permissions and Uses:** 14 interviews have signed waivers.

**Further notes on the collection:** Manuscript Group 409. Materials reproduced from the collections of the State Archives are for personal viewing or educational purposes only. Please contact the State Archives for permission to use materials for all other purposes. When quoting or citing any materials from the State Archives, please specify the following: item, series title, series number, Record or Manuscript Group title, RG or MG number, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg.

**Name of Collection:** *Canal Museum Oral History I*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** The National Canal Museum, a Program of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

**Number of items in the collection:** 16

**Date of the interview(s):** 1963-1972

**Interview themes:** Labor, Lehigh Canal, Delaware Canal

**Description:** This collection is assumed to have been a part of the original research conducted by C.P. Bill Yoder, a historian who published a book on the Lehigh and Delaware Canals. The Canal Museum Staff has been unable to recover the content of these interviews and it is possible that the tapes are damaged.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania--Lehigh Canal, New Jersey--Raritan and Delaware Canal

**Interview Format:** Reel to Reel

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes

**Permissions and Uses:** No known restrictions. There are no waiver forms with these interviews. All narrators are deceased.

**Further notes on the collection:** The Canal Museum team has been unable to ensure that these tapes work. Their prior attempt to play these on a reel to reel machine failed.

**Name of Collection:** *Canal Museum Oral History II*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** The National Canal Museum, a Program of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

**Number of items in the collection:** 34-39

**Date of the interview(s):** 1981-1993

**Interview themes:** Labor, Lehigh Canal, Delaware Canal

**Description:** This collection focuses on work life on the Lehigh and Delaware Canals as told by Canal Workers.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Labor, Pennsylvania--Lehigh Canal, New Jersey--Raritan and Delaware Canal

**Interview Format:** 34 transcripts; 36 archival CDs; 39 cassettes

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes, see notes below.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes, see notes below.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes, by appointment.

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**

<https://soleburyhistory.org/category/oral-history/>

**Permissions and Uses:** No known restrictions. In some interviews, the interviewer asks narrators if they have any objections to being recorded. All narrators are deceased.

**Further notes on the collection:** This collection contains the original cassette tapes of interviews conducted between 1981-1993. Most of these interviews have accompanying printed documents of transcriptions but they are not organized or indexed. In 2016, the Solebery Township Historical Society digitized the collection. They are organized alphabetically by narrator's names and contain an interview summary, index and archival quality CD of each interview. Because there are slightly fewer archival CDs than cassettes, it is possible that up to 3 interviews in this collection have not been digitized and not all interviews have transcripts. The following interviews & transcripts are available on the Solebery Historical Society's website: George Carlson, Calvin Cooper, Grant Emery, Madeline Free Rilara and James Magill.

**Name of Collection:** *Claussville One-room Schoolhouse Memories*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Lehigh County Historical Society

**Number of items in the collection:** 10

**Date of the interview(s):** Unknown.

**Interview themes:** Education, Rural Education, Schools

**Description:** Memories of a mostly bygone time in education, local education, nostalgia.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Claussville, PA

**Interview Format:** 1985-1991

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Contact Lehigh County Historical Society

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** These memories were captured to highlight the last one room schoolhouse in the Lehigh Valley. Images and websites are online at <https://www.cardcow.com/119351/claussville-one-room-school-house-shrine-fogelsville-pennsylvania/>

**Permissions and Uses:** Contact Lehigh County Historical Society

**Name of Collection:** *Co-education and the Black Experience*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Lafayette College Special Collections & College Archives

**Number of items in the collection:** 60 interviews

**Date of the interview(s):** ca. 2002

**Interview themes:** Vietnam war protests, Black Panther Party, Feminism

**Description:** Lafayette went co-ed in 1970, and around the same time started to make a concerted effort to recruit African-American students. The collections includes oral histories from some of the first female and black students at Lafayette, as well as with some College administrators and other parties.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lafayette College, Easton

**Interview Format:** mini-disks, master audio cassettes, and access audio cassettes; also mp3 and wav files for 12 interviews with permissions cleared to go online

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** 12 interviews are available online.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes, transcripts available for all interviews.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes, in the Reading Room, and some online.

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**

<https://sites.lafayette.edu/coeducation/>

**Permissions and Uses:** All interviews have waivers.

**Further notes on the collection:** A student went through and reached out to interviewees about going online, the ones online represent the ones who responded positively.

**Name of Collection:** *Education in 19th & 20th century Lower Macungie Township One-room schools*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Lower Macungie Township Historical Society

**Number of items in the collection:** 8

**Date of the interview(s):** May, 2015

**Interview themes:** Education, Schools

**Description:** The focus of these interviews is entirely on education in one-room Lower Macungie schools, into the 1950s. All narrators are elders who had direct experiences in one-room school houses.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lower Macungie, Lehigh Valley

**Interview Format:** DVD

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes.

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** Sample edited videos can be found here: <https://youtu.be/8udWTSX1ZLU>

**Permissions and Uses:** Permissions in place for public access

**Name of Collection:** *Federal Works Projects Administration Programs Interviews in the Lehigh Valley*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Lehigh County Historical Society

**Number of items in the collection:** 12

**Date of the interview(s):** 1984-1986

**Interview themes:** Great Depression, work programs, work relief, local programs from the New Deal

**Description:** These interviews run the gamut of local relief projects and programs. Both men and women gave interviews acted as informants which gave which added to the gender breadth of the collection.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Allentown and the Lehigh Valley to Center Valley

**Interview Format:** Transcribed and unknown recording device by various interviewers

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Contact the Lehigh County Historical Society

**Permissions and Uses:** Some signed waivers exist, no known restrictions.

**Name of Collection:** *Godfrey Daniels Oral History Project*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Godfrey Daniels, 7 E 4th St., Bethlehem, PA 18015

**Number of items in the collection:** 5

**Date of the interview(s):** 2014-2018

**Interview themes:** Music, Folk Music, Musicians

**Description:** These interviews focus on the career of Dave Fry, a Godfrey's Founder as well as the founding of Godfrey Daniel's coffeehouse/listening room, and the (ongoing) history of the national and international folk music scene. This project was undertaken to document the history of Godfrey Daniels from its formation and development, to the present (2018). Interviews explore that history and Godfrey's place in the national and international folk music scene.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem

**Interview Format:** Audio; digital files

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes, by appointment/application. Contact Ramona LaBarre or Dave Fry at Godfrey Daniels: (610) 867-2390

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** Godfrey Daniels:

<http://www.godfreydaniels.org/home.aspx>

**Permissions and Uses:** Contact Contact Ramona LaBarre or Dave Fry at Godfrey Daniels: (610) 867-2390 for permissions.

**Name of Collection:** *Holocaust Resource Center Oral History Collection*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Holocaust Resource Center and the Jewish Archives of the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley

**Number of items in the collection:** 68 total, 66 audio and 2 video

**Date of the interview(s):** 1984-1993

**Interview themes:** World War II (1939-1945), Holocaust Survivors, Concentration Camps

**Description:** The HRC's Oral History collection includes audio-cassette tapes of Holocaust survivors and descendants of early Jewish settlers of the Lehigh Valley that were collected by the late Ned Shulman, former Director of the Center. Videotapes of survivor Judy Freeman and her husband Lou Freeman, former residents of the Lehigh Valley, are also part of the collection. Interviews took place between 1984-1993. A focus of the collection is on the Bergen Belsen Concentration camp and the geographic area of the Carpathian Mountains - Russia. Some interviewees were also in Auschwitz, Dachau and other camps. Interviewees include survivors from Belgium, France, Germany and Poland.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lehigh Valley & Russia, Belgium, France, Germany and Poland.

**Interview Format:** 66 cassette tapes and 2 VHS tapes

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** There are 5 audio interview transcripts.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Unknown at this time.

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** For more detailed metadata on the collection: <https://www.ushmm.org/online/oral-history/detail.php?SurveyId=80&letter=H&ord=52>

**Permissions and Uses:** Unknown at this time.

**Further notes on the collection:** For permissions and more information: Contact Shari Spark Holocaust Resource Center Coordinator, 610-821-5500 x334; [hrc@jflv.org](mailto:hrc@jflv.org)

**Name of Collection:** *In the Age of Steel: Oral Histories from Bethlehem Pennsylvania*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Beyond Steel Digital Archive, Lehigh University

**Number of items in the collection:** 50

**Date of the interview(s):** 1975

**Interview themes:** Industrial, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Pennsylvania--Bethlehem--Southside, Labor Unions, Working Class

**Description:** With an emphasis on industry and society, the *Beyond Steel: An Archive of Lehigh Valley Industry and Culture* site highlights the Lehigh Valley's mid nineteenth-century boom, late twentieth-century decline and continuing community readjustment. Through the digitization and presentation of letters, books, photographs, maps, essays, and oral histories the site will aid researchers in understanding not only the lives of railroad barons and steel titans, but also the experiences of average folks who worked and lived in the community.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem

**Interview Format:** Audio is available online as mp3 files.

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Transcripts are available online as a downloadable PDFs. Each interview is indexed as well.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**

<http://digital.lib.lehigh.edu/beyondsteel/search/searching/0012/>

**Permissions and Uses:** The interviewees placed no restrictions on the content.

**Further notes on the collection:** There were some additional interviews that did not have accompanying signed waivers and therefore have not been digitized and made publicly available.



**Name of Collection:** *Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts Oral History Project*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Historic Bethlehem Museum and Sites, Bethlehem, PA

**Number of items in the collection:** 17

**Date of the interview(s):** 1989-1990

**Interview themes:** Annie S. Kemerer Museum, Family Life--Annie S. Kemerer

**Description:** This collection includes 17 interviews with local Bethlehem residents about Annie Kemerer, a local resident who bequeathed her collection of decorative arts to establish a museum for the

community. Most of the interviewees knew Ms. Kemerer in their youth; other interviewees include her lawyer, who helped to establish the museum, and the first informal curator of the collection, local historian Ralph Schwartz.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem

**Interview Format:** Currently unknown

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Currently unknown

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Currently unknown

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Currently unknown

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** Article about the content and context of this project: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27773678>

**Permissions and Uses:** Unknown

**Name of Collection:** *Lehigh University Traditions and Experiences*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Lehigh University Special Collections, Linderman Library, Lehigh University

**Number of items in the collection:** 14 different groups- multiples within each topic

**Date of the interview(s):** 2003

**Interview themes:** Lehigh University, Sports, Racial discrimination, Women, Vietnam War (1961-1975)

**Description:** This is a collection of oral histories with research papers on particular Lehigh topics, by Lehigh public history students. Topics vary but include: Touchstone Theater; Lehigh and McCarthyism; student traditions (general); Lehigh-Lafayette Traditions; Football (general), and 1977 Championship Football Team; A History of the Women's Studies Program at Lehigh; The "Lehigh Bachelor" (student publication); The Black Experience at Lehigh (1950s-70s in particular); Lehigh Wrestling; The Lehigh Marching '97 (band); First Women Students at Lehigh; Lehigh during the Vietnam War

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem, Lehigh University

**Interview Format:** Video and audio: Mostly VHS, some DVDs

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Some are in digital formats, some are not.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No transcripts, there are timed summaries for some interviews.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes.

**Permissions and Uses:** Permissions are in place.



**Name of Collection:** *Lehigh Valley Black African Heritage History Project*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Muhlenberg College

**Number of items in the collection:** There are 46 folders with some representing a married couple ( each interviewed).

**Date of the interview(s):** 2001-2013

**Interview themes:** Community, Neighborhoods, Race, Urban Renewal, Social Class, Migration-Internal, African diaspora

**Description:** This project began with interviews of people who experienced the urban renewal project to revitalize Allentown, which resulted in the relocation and dispersal of the black community who lived in the Little Lehigh area, to scattered parts of south Allentown and east Allentown that resulted in a de facto break-up of the close ties and support of the former neighborhood. In addition to that important group of oral histories of struggle and protest by Allentown's African American community in the 1960s and 1970s, the project follows along with oral histories from many topics and life stories to create a more complex and multi-vocal understanding of black history in the Lehigh Valley during the period. As the project progressed others from the Lehigh Valley cities heard about the project and created a network of interest from Bethlehem and Easton. Our interviews expanded and the history of Lehigh Valley's African American population enlarged. By casting a wider net of around the Lehigh Valley, the interviews showed intersections and differences in the Valley's African American history.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Greater Allentown, Little Lehigh neighborhood, south and east Allentown, and expanding with some interviews in Bethlehem and Easton

**Interview Format:** The format is multiple. Most include 4" DVDs and 6" DVDs with a CD to capture just the voices, and one on Hi8 MP120 tape

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No but there are plans to digitize this collection.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** 38 of them are transcribed and located on a CD that is with the collection. Some are independently transcribed and in the subject's folder.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes

**Permissions and Uses:** Some have signed waivers, others do not.

**Name of Collection:** *LGBT Central PA History Project*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Dickinson College Special Collections

**Number of items in the collection:** 135, 4 interviews pertain to the Lehigh Valley

**Date of the interview(s):** 2013-2018 (Lehigh Valley specific interviews)

**Interview themes:** LGBT, Discrimination, Homophobia

**Description:** The LGBT History Project started in August 2012. The LGBT History Project collects and presents the stories of LGBT history in central PA as told by those who lived them, through written accounts, and video interviews.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Central Pennsylvania, Lehigh Valley, Allentown, Telford, Boiling Springs, Coopersburg.

**Interview Format:** Mostly digital video files, some digital audio

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes but not yet available online.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Most have transcripts

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes, only at Dickinson College Special Collections

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** About the project: <http://www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/lgbt-history-project> and for a list of the LGBT collection at Dickinson College (Oral Histories have yet to be inventoried) see:

[http://archives.dickinson.edu/sites/all/files/files\\_collection/LGBT-021\\_1.pdf](http://archives.dickinson.edu/sites/all/files/files_collection/LGBT-021_1.pdf)

**Permissions and Uses:** There are some restrictions placed on interviews by some narrators. Please contact Barry Loveland, Chair, LGBT Center of Central PA History Project, [history@centralpalgbtcenter.org](mailto:history@centralpalgbtcenter.org) or Malinda Triller Doran, Special Collections Librarian Dickinson College Archives and Special Collection, PO Box 1773, [archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu), 717-245-1399

**Further notes on the collection:** See Addendum 1 for complete abstracts of each Lehigh Valley related interview

**Name of Collection:** *LGBT Oral Histories of the Lehigh Valley, part of the Lehigh Valley LGBT*

*Community Archive*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Special Collections and Archives, Trexler Library, Muhlenberg College.

**Number of items in the collection:** 15

**Date of the interview(s):** 2014 and 2016

**Interview themes:** LGBT, Discrimination, Activism, AIDS

**Description:** This collection covers topics such as AIDS advocacy and care, the organization F.A.C.T (Fighting Aids Continuously Together), the LGBT community and religion, LGBT activism in the Lehigh Valley, Gay bars in the Lehigh Valley, Pride in the Park, PA- GALA (Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance), Pennsylvania Diversity Network, Marriage Equality, the passing of Allentown's domestic partner benefit ordinance, LGBT publications in the Lehigh Valley, local theater. It does include Reverend Beth Goudy who is the pastor of the MCC church in Bethlehem.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Mostly Allentown, but general Lehigh Valley.

**Interview Format:** .WAV files

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Some have transcripts, but they will not be made public with the audio files (mostly due to the fact that we cannot publish compound objects of different formats together).

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Not yet, but soon

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** This website will have more content soon: <http://trexler.muhlenberg.edu/collections/special-collections/collections/#lv-lgbt>

**Permissions and Uses:** Specific instructions related to permissions and usage is coming soon.

**Name of Collection:** *Mugshots: Preserving, Sharing, Remembering Musikfest*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Historic Bethlehem Museum and Sites; online hosting by Storycorps.

**Number of items in the collection:** 77

**Date of the interview(s):** 2017

**Interview themes:** Bethlehem Musikfest

**Description:** *Mugshots: Oral Histories & Musikfest Memorabilia* each look to community members to help tell the story of the largest, ungated free music festival in America. *Mugshots: Oral Histories* is a collaborative project that marries oral history interviews and photography with interactive displays that provide a fun space for people to share their accounts of Musikfest. Throughout the space, *Musikfest Memorabilia* is exhibited to remind visitors of the days when the Chicken Lady danced down Main Street or of candle-lit walks through the festival grounds. Honor the old traditions, and celebrate the new ones.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem and Beyond

**Interview Format:** Video files are housed on Storycorps Website.

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**

<https://archive.storycorps.org/organizations/historic-bethlehem-museums-sites/>

**Permissions and Uses:** No known restrictions.

**Further notes on the collection:** This collection is comprised of shorter-form interviews more than *Oral Histories*.

**Name of Collection:** *Preserving Life Stories Student Interviews*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Muhlenberg College

**Number of items in the collection:** 5

**Date of the interview(s):** 2012

**Interview themes:** Elementary School Teachers, Education, Schools

**Description:** This small upper level class studied best practices and processes of oral history. They

researched the city past and present and the current populations of the school district to give them background for questions. The class devised appropriate questions for the interviews and then visited the target school of Jefferson Elementary. Each student interviewed a person connected to the district, video and audio and video recorded the subject. They became very committed to the school and visited several times to help connect with children on the playground after completing the visitor protocol. The topics of the interviews include: commitment to education, personal journey to get to the current education position, diversity in the school in which they teach, reasons for wanted to teach in a city, and various educational positions.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Allentown

**Interview Format:** 4" DVDs and 6 "inch copies

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes. See permissions.

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**

**Permissions and Uses:** With permission of the school and district; project administrator would check for continued allowance.

**Name of Collection:** *Queer Archives Project*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Lafayette College Special Collections & College Archives

**Number of items in the collection:** 18

**Date of the interview(s):** 2017-present

**Interview themes:** Student life, the AIDS epidemic, co-education, athletics, the trans experience

**Description:** This oral history project is a collaboration between Women's and Gender Studies and Special Collections at Lafayette. The goal is to include more primary sources regarding the LGBTQ+ experience at Lafayette in the College Archives. The collection includes interviews with Lafayette alumni and faculty reflecting on the LGBTQ+ experience at Lafayette during approximately the past half-century.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lafayette College

**Interview Format:** mp3 and wav files

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes, both a Wordpress and a Scalar site are in-process

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes, transcripts available for all interviews

**Is this collection available to the Public?** All interviews are available in the Reading Room; as of this fall they will also be available online. The collection is in process and will be available to the public in the Fall of 2018.

**Permissions and Uses:** No known restrictions

**Name of Collection:** *Reviewing Bethlehem*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Bethlehem Area Public Library

**Number of items in the collection:** 1 1990 Master Tape of 20 videos

**Date of the interview(s):** 1990

**Interview themes:** Celebrating the 250 anniversary of Bethlehem City

**Description:** 250 Anniversary of Bethlehem under the direction of Paul Larson, and a grant from the PA Humanities Council.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem

**Interview Format:** 1990 Master Tape of 20 Videos

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes (in-house use only)

**Permissions and Uses:** non-circulating

**Further notes on the collection:** This item is for in-house use only. However, expectations can be made to academic institutions.

**Name of Collection:** *School Reunions*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society Archives and Jane S. Moyer library at the Sigal Museum

**Number of items in the collection:** 8

**Date of the interview(s):** 2011

**Interview themes:** Education, Schools

**Description:** These are audio files of reunions and memories shared from different one-room school houses: This includes: Klein School, Raubsville School, December School, Fairview School, Cedarville School, Mt. Pleasant School, Stouts School and Hopewell School.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Williams Township, Northampton County.

**Interview Format:** Cassette tapes plus one CD

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** One CD, otherwise, no.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes

**Permissions and Uses:** No written waivers exist. Written permission of NCHGS is needed “to quote, cite, or reproduce” this material.

**Name of Collection:** *Silk Oral Histories*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** The National Canal Museum, a Program of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

**Number of items in the collection:** 5

**Date of the interview(s):** 2001-2002

**Interview themes:** Labor, Industrial History, Silk Mills

**Description:** These interviews were originally conducted for an Exhibit although they were never used and have recently been recovered. The collection contains 4 narrators (1 narrator was interviewed twice) who were highly skilled workers in the Lehigh Valley Silk Industry during the 1920's-1989. The narrators include a warper, loom fixer and weaver and the Mills of interest include Auburn, Canova and Catoir Inc Mills of Allentown and Cands Fabrics of Catasaqua.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Allentown, Catasaqua, Lehigh Valley, York

**Interview Format:** Cassette tapes

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No, but it is a high priority to digitize this collection.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Not currently.

**Permissions and Uses:** No

**Further notes on the collection:** No known restrictions. Interviews were originally conducted for a public-facing exhibit. All narrators are deceased.

**Name of Collection:** *Slate Belt Oral History Project*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society Archives and Jane S. Moyer library at the Sigal Museum

**Number of items in the collection:** 22 individuals, some did multiple interviews.

**Date of the interview(s):** 1997

**Interview themes:** Slate Belt, Labor, Employment--Slate work

**Description:** This project seeks to document and preserve the early twentieth century history of the slate industry in Northampton County's "Slate Belt" region which helped make Pennsylvania the largest slate-producing state in the US. This collection includes the Oral History briefing book from the Summer 1997 project, with background research, articles, etc. Another folder accounts for the range of narrators, this includes potential narrators and it appears as though 5 people listed were not actually interviewed. While many of the information sheets note that transcripts were done of many interviews, only 3 were found in the archive. Additionally, the

project design included multiple interviews so some narrators were interviewed on multiple occasions.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bangor, Penn Argyl, Slatington

**Interview Format:** Cassette tapes

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** 3 transcripts for Raymond Traves, Kenton Lerch, and Ronald Hamm

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** None

**Permissions and Uses:** While a copy of the permission form can be found with the archive, (stating that the interview is an “unrestricted gift and transfer to the Society”. Signed waivers are not to be found. It is assumed that, written permission of NCHGS is needed “to quote, cite , or reproduce” this material.

**Name of Collection:** *South Bethlehem Ethnic Churches Oral History Project*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** South Bethlehem Historical Society Collection (Housed at Lehigh University) Special Collections, Linderman Library, Lehigh University

**Number of items in the collection:** 36

**Date of the interview(s):** 2007-2010

**Interview themes:** Churches, Church events and traditions; Christmas traditions (short interviews)

**Description:** These interviews were done by Lehigh public history students with parishioners from a number of ethnic churches in South Bethlehem. There are a few outliers from the north side of Bethlehem, including the Moravian Church and Trinity Lutheran (on Christmas traditions). Interviewees remember their churches, and ethnic traditions, in particular those of 5 ethnic Catholic churches that were closed and consolidated into one renamed church.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem

**Interview Format:** DVDs and CDs; video and audio

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** There are no transcripts but all interviews have timed summaries.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes.

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** Some items were used to create a church“tour” for a Lehigh-maintained website of Bethlehem which can be found here: <https://memories.lehigh.edu/> . The website includes historical and contemporary photos, and video clips and quotes from interviews.

**Permissions and Uses:** No restrictions.

**Name of Collection:** *South Bethlehem Memories*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** South Bethlehem Historical Society Collection (Housed at Lehigh University), Special Collections, Linderman Library, Lehigh University

**Number of items in the collection:** 2

**Date of the interview(s):** 2007 & 2010

**Interview themes:** Everyday life in South Bethlehem 1930s-1990s; Ethnicity; Lehigh University--Community Relations; Broughal Middle School history

**Description:** These interviews were done by Lehigh public history students: one with the former principal of Broughal Middle School (1980-1993) and the other with two longtime residents of South Bethlehem.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** South Bethlehem

**Interview Format:** DVD and CD

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** There are no transcripts but all interviews have timed summaries.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** None

**Permissions and Uses:** Signed Waivers, no know restrictions.

**Further notes on the collection:** this will be an ongoing collection as individual interviews are done about Southside topics.

**Name of Collection:** *South Bethlehem Retail History Project (ongoing)*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** South Bethlehem Historical Society Collection (Housed at Lehigh University), Special Collections, Linderman Library, Lehigh University

**Number of items in the collection:** 4

**Date of the interview(s):** 2006

**Interview themes:** South Bethlehem Shops and Business districts; Shopping; Sights and Sounds

**Description:** This collection (ongoing) tells the stories of shopping and doing business in the bustling retail districts of South Bethlehem from the 1940s to 2018

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem

**Interview Format:** DVDs and CDs

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** There are no transcripts but all interviews have timed summaries.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes

**Permissions and Uses:** Signed Waivers, no known restrictions.

**Name of Collection:** *Steamtown Oral History Collection*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Steamtown National Historic Site  
350 Cliff St. Scranton, PA 18503

**Number of items in the collection:** 37 interviews have been identified as possibly having content related to the Lehigh Valley 3 interviews definitely have LV-related info (#5100, 5118, and 6228 on excel spreadsheet)

**Date of the interview(s):** 1992-1996

**Interview themes:** Railroads, railroading, RR preservation

**Description:** The site has documented the human dimensions of steam railroading by interviewing the men and women who worked the historic railroads of the Northeast during the heyday of steam and American industry. Interviews emphasize the social, cultural and economic



aspects of individuals, families and communities associated with steam era railroading. Specific focus has been placed on the personnel and families associated with the regional railroads that served the Scranton/ Lackawanna County area, including but not limited to the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western; Lehigh Valley; New York, Ontario & Western; Erie; Delaware & Hudson; and the Central Railroad of New Jersey. Steamtown also conducted interviews with people involved in the railroad preservation movement. Thirty seven items were identified as having potential LV-related content; 3 are identified as having definite LV-related content.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lehigh Valley

**Interview Format:** Cassettes tapes

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** [www.nps.gov/stea](http://www.nps.gov/stea)

**Permissions and Uses:** Signed release statements

**Further notes on the collection:** Lehigh Valley specific interviews include: (#5100, 5118, and 6228) Curator Steamtown National Historic Site, 150 S. Washington Avenue, Scranton, PA 80153 (570) 340-5196, Fax (570) 340-5328

**Name of Collection:** *The Jewish Textile and Needle Trades Owners' Oral History Initiative of the Lehigh Valley*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Muhlenberg College Accounting, Business, Economics, and Finance (ABEF) Department and History Department

**Number of items in the collection:** 51 interviews from 32 families

**Date of the interview(s):** 2011-2017

**Interview themes:** 20th Century Textile and Needle trades, American Manufacturing, Entrepreneurship, Jewish culture, Immigrant families

**Description:** This project began with Gail Eisenberg from the ABEF Department who partnered with Susan Clemens from the History Department to collect and disseminate the story of

Jewish owned textile businesses in the Lehigh Valley. There were a substantial number of textile businesses in Eastern PA because many owners left New York and Northern New Jersey to move away

from growing unionization. In Allentown particularly numerous textile and needle trades owners were

members of the Jewish community. Women predominated as textile sewing workers, often providing a

second income to their families. These businesses thrived until the 1980s when many moved to the

South or overseas for cheaper labor costs. The local Allentown businesses during their heyday transformed the owners' families from lower to higher socio-economic status to become the pillars of

the local Jewish community.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Allentown, Lehigh Valley

**Interview Format:** 4" DVDs, 6" DVDs, print, and online digital

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Some interviews are transcribed.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes, contact Susan Clemens or Gail Eisenberg at Muhlenberg College

**Permissions and Uses:** Yes, no known restrictions.

**Name of Collection:** *Veteran's Empathy Project*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Lehigh University

**Number of items in the collection:** 17

**Date of the interview(s):** 2011-2016

**Interview themes:** Veterans, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Iraq War, Afghanistan, Enlistment, Military Culture, Battle, Reintegration into Civilian Life

**Description:** The Veterans Empathy Project is an ongoing work in oral history focused on the military experience of U.S. soldiers and Marines in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, 2001 to the present. The project takes its name from the importance of trying to imagine other perspectives and experiences, a personal act to be developed as a social practice essential to democracy and, in turn, necessary for reintegrating veterans back into their communities and civilian lives. The Veterans Empathy Project is a collaborative effort.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lehigh Valley, Eastern Pennsylvania, United States, International

**Interview Format:** Video files are embedded into the website via Ensemble.

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Full transcripts with a search feature are available. Interviews are also indexed.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**

<https://veterans empathy.lehigh.edu/in-their-own-words>

**Permissions and Uses:** Yes, Waiver forms, information on specific restrictions pending.

**Further notes on the collection:**

**Name of Collection:** *Veterans' History Project Oral Histories*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Penn State University Park Paterno Library Special Collections (part of a much larger collection of non-LV Vietnam vet oral histories)

**Number of items in the collection:** 5

**Date of the interview(s):** 2015-2017

**Interview themes:** Vietnam war, Veterans

**Description:** These are interviews with Veterans of the Vietnam war. This collection has five interviews with Lehigh Valley residents, including an interview with Tom Roney.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lehigh Valley

**Interview Format:** DVR recordings & written transcripts

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes.

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** Some interviews are available online: <https://lehighvalley.psu.edu/video/1892/2017/01/20/vietnam-veteran-oral-history-project-tom-roney>

**Permissions and Uses:** No known restrictions

**Name of Collection:** *Welcome, Neighbor! Collective Memory Project*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Initiated in partnership with Sustain Lehigh Valley, Collection housed at Special Collections, Linderman Library, Lehigh University

**Number of items in the collection:** 16 audio recordings, 95 photographs

**Date of the interview(s):** 2011

**Interview themes:** Emigration and Immigration , Lehigh Valley

**Description:** This exhibit brings together the stories of sixteen people who appear to have little in common. Yet they all share one thing: their lives converge here, in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania. We spoke to immigrants from different countries, speakers of different languages, devotees of different religions. Each of the people that we sat down with opened up to us, telling us about the joys and sorrows of their lives, often welcoming us into their homes, feeding us, and making us laugh.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lehigh Valley

**Interview Format:** Digital Archive .WAV or mp3 files.

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes

**Is this collection available to the Public?** No

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**

**Permissions and Uses:** No known restrictions. The collection contains email permissions from the photographer, but no releases are with the audio files

**Name of Collection:** *Windish Evangelical Lutheran Church 100th year Oral History Project*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Housed in the archives room at St. John's Windish Evangelical Lutheran Church, 617 East Fourth Street, Bethlehem, PA

**Number of items in the collection:** 12 Interviews with 16 people on multiple discs for most

**Date of the interview(s):** 2008-2009

**Interview themes:** Emigration and Immigration, Church and Community, Slovenia, Bethlehem Steel Corporation

**Description:** The church was planning a 100th anniversary celebration slated for 2010, and asked current members if they wanted to be interviewed. Sixteen parishioners were willing in addition to the pastor. This allowed the church to capture a significant moment in time. Like many religious institutions, the membership and attendance is less robust in 2018, but at a time when many churches have closed St. John's Windish has not.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem, Slovenia,

**Interview Format:** Each subject recorded on 4" DVD-R and at least 2 copies are made from their mostly

2-3 original DVDs to complete the interviews.

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Older digital format 4 inch DVD-R plays on computers as do the 6 inch copies

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Pending

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Contact the Church to inquire, (610) 868-3282

**Permissions and Uses:** Signed Waiver, no known restrictions.

**Name of Collection:** *Women of Bethlehem Steel*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Lehigh University

**Number of items in the collection:** 35

**Date of the interview(s):** 1975, 1985, 2007-2016

**Interview themes:** Gender, Women in the Workforce, Bethlehem Steel

**Description:** The Women of Bethlehem Steel collection represents the stories of women who worked at Bethlehem Steel Corporation from the mid-20th century through the sale and closure of the company in 2003. These oral histories convey a variety of experiences from women who worked on the shop floor, company executives, to women with strong family ties to the industry. The narrators describe their work, how they balanced their occupation with their home life, how they were treated by their male co-workers, and the effects of Bethlehem Steel's decline. In addition to audio and video recordings, this collection houses a variety of photos of women at work and portraits of former employees.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem

**Interview Format:** mp3 files and digital video (embedded in Ensemble)

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Full transcripts available for download as PDFs for the first 9 interviews in the Age of Steel Collection, also housed in the Beyond Steel digital archive. Later interviews only contain partial transcripts embedded in the The Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS) system online.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** yes

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**

[http://digital.lib.lehigh.edu/beyondsteel/search/searching/oral%20history\\_0\\_0\\_1\\_3\\_0\\_0\\_0/](http://digital.lib.lehigh.edu/beyondsteel/search/searching/oral%20history_0_0_1_3_0_0_0/)

**Permissions and Uses:** The interviewees placed no restrictions on the content. One exception: One woman asked us to leave out one sentence from her interview.

**Further notes on the collection:** The first 9 interviews (all from 1975, with the exception of one interview from 1985) are digital audio files from the In the Age of Steel: Oral Histories of Bethlehem Pennsylvania. These interviews are only audio, yet they are formatted to play on Ensemble as a video files. The collection includes partial transcripts now indexed through The Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS.) Full transcripts are available in the same Digital Archive, through the In the Age of Steel collection. The later 26 interviews (2009-2017) are video oral histories which play through embedded Ensemble digital video files. They are indexed through and contain partial transcripts OHMS. This project is a collaboration between Lehigh University and the Steelworkers' Archives and is made possible by a grant from Lehigh University's Mellon Digital Humanities Initiative and support from Lehigh University's South Side Initiative.

**Name of Collection:** *World War II Service Interviews from the Lehigh Valley*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Lehigh County Historical Society

**Number of items in the collection:** 13

**Date of the interview(s):** 1985-1995

**Interview themes:** Servicemen, Branches of the Military, Type of Service including some non-combat roles, Multiple Deployments, and War Theatre (1930-1946)

**Description:** These interviews highlight memories of service in the military from 1939-1946. Many branches of military and deployment are represented. One has specific statements of the attack at Pearl Harbor where he was stationed.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lehigh Valley

**Interview Format:** Transcripts

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?**

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Contact the Lehigh County Historical Society

**Permissions and Uses:** Contact the Lehigh County Historical Society

## II. INTERVIEWS WITH INDIVIDUALS

**Name of Narrator:** *Arthur J. Rothkopf*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society Archives and Jane S. Moyer library at the Sigal Museum

**Brief Biography:** Former President of Lafayette College

**Date of the interview(s):** January 18, 2011.

**Interview themes:** Easton, Lafayette College, Arts

**Description:** This is a very short phone interview. Arthur discusses town/gown relations between Lafayette College and Easton. He also discusses the emphasis on the arts in a revitalization process in Easton.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Easton, Lafayette College

**Interview Format:** Written Transcript

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes

**Is this collection available to the**

**Public?** Yes, by appointment

**Permissions and Uses:** Yes, signed waiver. Written permission of NCHGS is needed "to quote, cite, or reproduce" this material.

**Name of Narrator:** *Bessie Keck Shiffer and daughter Betty Pasternak*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** Hellertown Historical Society

**Brief Biography:** Hellertown Residents

**Date of the interview(s):** 1989

**Interview themes:** Life in Miller House of Wagner-Heller Grist Mill

**Description:** Life in Miller House of Wagner-Heller Grist Mill ca. 1910-1930.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Hellertown, Saucon Creek

**Interview Format:** 8mm video

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No

**Is this collection available to the public?** Yes

**Permissions and Uses:** Permission forms were not used for these interviews. Must seek permissions from the Hellertown Historical Society

**Name of Narrator:** *Dennis L. Boyer*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** This interview is part of The Civil Rights History Project: Survey of Collections and Repositories.

**Brief Biography:** In this interview, Boyer describes the involvement of GI Resistance members and other military personnel (including himself) in the building of Resurrection City in 1968.

**Date of the interview(s):** November 3, 1994 and on January 24, 1995

**Interview themes:** Civil rights demonstrations--Washington (D.C.), Poor People's Campaign, Race

relations,, Students for a Democratic Society (U.S.), Veterans--Political activity, Vietnam War, 1961-1975

**Description:** Dennis L. Boyer, a Dodgeville, Wis. resident, discusses his duties in the Air Force during the Vietnam War as a member of the Combined Intelligence Center/MACV, anti-war activities with the American Servicemen's Union (ASU), and post-war involvement with the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Boyer tells of basic training at Lackland (Texas) speaking to economic class differences and physical abuse. He also mentions meteorology training at Chanute Air Force Base (Illinois). Stationed in Washington D.C., Boyer relates his impressions of the Tet Offensive and GI resistance programs. He describes his participation in civil rights demonstrations and involvement in ASU. While in Vietnam, he mentions planning for anticipated operations with the Combined Intelligence Center, trips to Cambodia and the evidence of American bombing there, and living with a Vietnamese family. Boyer provides detailed discussions about drug use, fragging, racial tension, class differences, and soldier morale. He talks about his involvement with the ASU in Vietnam including meetings, organizational structure, anti-war actions, and connection between the ASU in Vietnam and in the United States. Boyer comments on his return home, fears of re-entering civilian life, and decision to join VVAW. Boyer discusses VVAW at length, providing an analysis of the group's successes and failures and the reasons for its decline. As a member of the Lehigh Valley (Pennsylvania) Chapter of VVAW, Boyer talks about participating in Memorial Day and Veterans' Day parades, interacting with the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and coordinating several eastern state VVAW chapters. He mentions John Kerry's role and subsequent dismissal, FBI infiltration, occupation of national sites, the Gainesville Seven, and the Winter Soldier Organization. Boyer comments on the effect that his participation in the VVAW had on his life, including his politics, work with labor unions, and becoming a Mennonite.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lehigh Valley and beyond

**Interview Format:** 2 sound cassettes analog, 1 7/8 ips (ca. 233 min.); 77-page transcript

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** no

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes

**Is this collection available to the Public?**

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:** More information here:

[https://www.loc.gov/folklife/civilrights/survey/view\\_collection.php?coll\\_id=835](https://www.loc.gov/folklife/civilrights/survey/view_collection.php?coll_id=835)

**Permissions and Uses:** Contact the repository which holds the collection for information on rights

**Name of Narrator:** *Dexter F. Baker*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** Center for Oral History at the the Science History Institute

**Brief Biography:** Lehigh graduate who worked at Air Products and Chemicals in Emmaus, PA

**Date of the interview(s):** January 27, 1995.

**Interview themes:** Engineering, Industry

**Description:** Dexter F. Baker discusses his early life in the suburbs of Philadelphia during World War II. He was drafted into the US Navy after graduating from high school and admitted into the Naval Academy Preparatory program. Later, he studied mechanical engineering at Lehigh University, developing an interest in turbines. Baker was drafted again, serving the US Army during the Korean War in engineering research and development laboratories and working on high-speed, small-size gas turbine engines. Eventually, Baker resumed his career in industry and business, working in a variety of positions including sales, president of air products, and Chairman of the Board.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem, Emmaus

**Interview Format:** Transcript, 34 pages

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes

**Is this collection available to the**

**Public?** Yes, transcripts can be

ordered for a small fee here: [https://oh.sciencehistory.org/order-transcript?oh\\_name=Dexter+F.+Baker&oh\\_nid=OH0131](https://oh.sciencehistory.org/order-transcript?oh_name=Dexter+F.+Baker&oh_nid=OH0131)

**Website or link to interviews or**

**information on the collection:** <https://oh.sciencehistory.org/oral-histories/baker-dexter-f>

**Permissions and Uses:** Free Access

**Further notes on the collection:**

**Name of Narrator:** *Dick Kantor*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** Lower Saucon Township Historical Society

**Date of interview:** Sept. 27 2017

**Interview themes:** Teachers and teaching in Lower Saucon Township, PA.

**Description:** LSTHS Archivist, Robert Sterling, interviews Dick Kantor. They discuss teaching and teacher in Lower Saucon including Kantor's mother who taught in a one room schoolhouse. They also talk about some of Kantor's military history artifacts he owns and displays in his house and about some other collections he has. They also discuss the bicentennial and what that involved preparing for the celebration. The two conclude the interview with childhood activities including playing with the trolley cars and talking about important Hellertown landmarks.



**Geographical focus of interview:** Main Street, Hellertown, Wassergass, and other Lower Saucon Township areas.

**Interview format:** MP4 & DVD-R

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes.

**Website or link to interviews or**

**information on the collection:** All interviews are on DVD-Rs and are free to view in the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society office.

**Permissions and Uses:** Free Access

**Name of Narrator:** *Elmer Brown*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** Lower Saucon Township Historical Society

**Interview themes:** Baseball, Baseball fields, Hellertown, PA, Hellertown High School, Legion

**Description:** Elmer Brown is interviewed by an unknown person discussing baseball in the Hellertown area. Discusses playing baseball for Hellertown High from 1933-1934, and having Robert Hoppes as a coach. They also talk about the State Championship in 1934, which Hellertown participated in in York, PA.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township

**Interview format:** MP4 & DVD-R

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes.

**Website or link to interviews or**

**information on the collection:** All interviews are on DVD-Rs and are free to view in the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society office.

**Permissions and Uses:** Free Access

**Name of Narrator:** *Frank J. Biondi*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** Center for Oral History at the the Science History Institute

**Brief Biography:** Lehigh graduate in chemical engineering, worked on the Manhattan Project.

**Date of the interview(s):** March 19, 1996

**Interview themes:** Engineering, Manhattan Project

**Description:** Frank J. Biondi majored in chemical engineering at Lehigh University, and worked at Bell Telephone Laboratories (BTL) in the 1930s. After being in industry for a short period of time, he decided to pursue a graduate education at Columbia University. After completing his master's degree in chemical engineering, he enrolled in the PhD program and became involved in the Manhattan Project. Biondi worked on a gaseous diffusion program to separate uranium 235 from uranium ore, designing the diffusion barrier used for the atom bomb. After making his contribution to the Manhattan Project, Biondi returned to BTL work and focused on electronics, initially developing long-life cathodes used by the British during the war. He continued cathode work, becoming

involved with the ASTM to standardize three nickel alloys for electronics industry electron tube cathodes. Biondi's later work focused on fuel cells, the electronics industry's first dust-free white room, semiconductors used for satellites, and improvements in battery manufacture and design.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem

**Interview Format:** Transcript, 57 pages

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes

**Is this collection available to the public?** Yes, transcripts can be ordered for a small fee here:

[https://oh.sciencehistory.org/order-transcript?oh\\_name=Frank+J.+Biondi&oh\\_nid=OH0147](https://oh.sciencehistory.org/order-transcript?oh_name=Frank+J.+Biondi&oh_nid=OH0147)

**Website or link to interviews or**

**information on the collection:** <https://oh.sciencehistory.org/oral-histories/biondi-frank-j>

**Permissions and Uses:** Free Access

**Name of Narrator:** *Herman E. Collier, Jr.*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society Archives and Jane S. Moyer library at the Sigal Museum

**Brief Biography:** Former president of Moravian College

**Date of the interview(s):** January 27, 2011

**Interview themes:** Historical Preservation, Bethlehem

**Description:** This is a transcript of a short phone interview. Herman discusses cleaning out the junkyard near the Monocacy Creek to transform the site into the Historic colonial quarter of Bethlehem. He also describes life in Bethlehem and the influence of Bethlehem Steel.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem

**Interview Format:** Written Transcript

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes

**Is this collection available to the public?** Yes, by appointment

**Website or link to interviews or**

**information on the collection:**

**Permissions and Uses:** Yes, signed waiver. Written permission of NCHGS is needed "to quote, cite, or reproduce" this material.

**Name of Narrator:** *Jane Moyer*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society Archives and Jane S. Moyer library at the Sigal Museum

**Brief Biography:** Librarian, Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society Archives and Jane S. Moyer library at the Sigal Museum

**Date of the interview(s):** November 12, 2004; February 21, 2014

**Interview themes:** Easton, Public

Library, Northampton County, Early childhood

**Description:** Jane Moyer, former Librarian of the Sigal Museum of the Easton public library discusses her life history, her passion for books, and Silk Mills.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Easton, Northampton County

**Interview Format:** 3 transcripts, 4 CDs, 3 cassette tapes

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Partial; 3 transcripts, 4 CDs, 3 cassette tapes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes

**Is this collection available to the public?** Yes, by appointment

**Permissions and Uses:** Signed waiver included. Written permission of NCHGS is needed “to quote, cite, or reproduce” this material.

**Further notes on the collection:** This is actually a series of interviews. This includes a talk from February 21, 2014 that has been recorded and transcribed. (Cassette tape and 2 DVDs, paper transcript); there is another talk that she gave on February 7, 2014 on a cassette tape, along with a transcribed copy and audio CDs. She was interviewed on November 12, 2004 (there is a transcript for this interview, original audio file needs to be located. This also includes a cassette tape, April 25, 2008 on Silk Mills (it is unclear if this is a talk or interview and no known transcript exists.). Interview collected for an exhibit on Northampton County for an exhibit at the Sigal Museum.

**Name of Narrator:** *Jeffrey Feather*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society Archives and Jane S. Moyer library at the Sigal Museum

**Brief Biography:** Former CEO and Chairman of SunGuard Pentamation Inc.

**Date of the interview(s):** June 27, 2006

**Interview themes:** Corporate History, Educational Software, Entrepreneur

**Description:** Former CEO and Chairman of SunGuard Pentamation Inc., He was a graduate of Lafayette College and joined the IBM corporation. He attended Lehigh University for graduate courses in Management Science. He then founded Pentamation Enterprises which specializes in the development and sale nationally of administrative software for the K-12 Education and Local Government vertical markets.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Easton, Nazareth, Lehigh Valley

**Interview Format:** 4 cassettes, 1 floppy disk, 3 CDs

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes, CD

**Are there transcripts of the interview?** Yes

**Is this collection available to the public?** Yes, by appointment

**Permissions and Uses:** Yes, signed waiver. Written permission of NCHGS is needed “to quote, cite, or reproduce” this material.

**Name of Narrator:** *John Goldsborough*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** Stanford Oral History Project interviews, Stanford Digital Repository

**Brief Biography:** Lehigh graduate, engineer, worked at Spectra-Physics.

**Date of the interview(s):** January 18, 1984

**Interview themes:** Spectra-Physics, Lasers, Engineering

**Description:** Laser specialist. Received his B.S. from Lehigh University in 1956, and Ph.D. in Physics from Stanford University in 1961. Research staff member, 1960-1966, Director of

Research, 1966-1968, and Senior Project Engineer, 1968-1974 at International Business Machines Corporation; Engineering Department Manager, Spectra-Physics, Inc. Has conducted research on Magnetic Resonance, photo conductivity, and low temperature physics.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lehigh University, Bethlehem

**Interview Format:** 2 sound files, available online

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No

**Is this collection available to the public?** yes

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**

<https://purl.stanford.edu/hn857wq9391>

**Permissions and Uses:** The materials are open for research use and may be used freely for non-commercial purposes with an attribution. For commercial permission requests, please contact the Stanford University Archives ([universityarchives@stanford.edu](mailto:universityarchives@stanford.edu)).

**Name of Narrator:** *Larry Holmes*

**Archive or institution housing the interview** Muhlenberg College

**Brief Biography:** WBC and IBC heavyweight champion between 1972 and 2002

**Date of the interview(s):** August 22, 2007

**Interview themes:** family, boxing, giving back to the community, graciousness as a life-way,

**Description:** Larry Holmes' family moved from his birthplace in Georgia, out of poverty, to Easton, PA. With interrupted education, but a mentor in boxing, he worked his way up to WBC heavyweight champion in 1978. Our conversation with Larry Holmes was candid. It was a life interview that is interesting, honest, and gracious. We called his restaurant in Easton to see if he would let us interview him, but it was hard to set up a date since he was very busy. However, we were told when he would be giving a brief and if we showed up, he would be happy to talk with us. He took us back to his office for a significantly personal interview.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Easton

**Interview Format:** DVD-R 6"

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No

**Is this collection available to the public?** Yes.

**Permissions and Uses:** No known restrictions

**Further notes on the collection:** Contact Susan Clemens@Muhlenberg College 484-664-3530

**Name of Narrator:** *Lawrence Kish*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** Lower Saucon Township Historical Society

**Date of interview:** December 2013

**Interview themes:** Life around Lower Saucon

**Description:** Mr. Kish gives an informal interview including a quick talk about his life in front of guests to the Lutz Franklin Schoolhouse. Guests then ask questions and discuss his life with them.

**Geographical focus of interview:** Lower Saucon Township, world.

**Interview format:** DVR-R

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No

**Is this collection available to the public?** Yes.

**Website or information on the collection:** All interviews are on DVD-Rs and are free to view in the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society office.

**Permissions and Uses:** Free Access

**Name of Narrator:** *Mary and Gil Raudenbush*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** Hellertown Historical Society

**Brief Biography:** Hellertown Residents

**Date of the interview(s):** May, 1989

**Interview themes:** Life in Hellertown

**Description:** This interview covers life history and daily life in Hellertown from 1907-1989.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Hellertown

**Interview Format:** 8mm video

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** No.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No.

**Is this collection available to the Public?** Yes

**Permissions and Uses:** Permission forms were not used for these interviews. Must seek permissions from the Hellertown Historical Society.

**Name of Narrators:** *Peggy Fluck and Rose Seasholtz*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Lower Saucon Township Historical Society

**Date of interview:** Sept 30, 2010

**Interview themes:** One room Schoolhouse, Lutz Franklin, The Great Depression,

**Description:** Sue Horiszny interviews Peggy Fluck and Rose Seasholtz about their school experiences in Lutz-Franklin one room schoolhouse. They also discuss their childhoods, including riding bikes, their siblings, and their childhood homes and chores.

**Interview format:** DVD-R

**Is this collection digitized?:** Yes.

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?:** No.

**Is this collection available to the Public?:** Yes.

**Website or information on the collection:** All interviews are on DVD-Rs and are free to view in the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society office.

**Permissions and Uses:** Free Access

**Name of Narrator:** *Raymond Bartolacci*

**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society Archives and Jane S. Moyer library at the Sigal Museum

**Brief Biography:** Founder of Laneco, a Lehigh Valley based supermarket chain.

**Date of the interview(s):** November 8, 2007

**Interview themes:** Lehigh Valley, Supermarket, Migration, Entrepreneur,

**Description:** Raymond Bartolacci Sr. was the founder of Laneco, a Lehigh Valley based supermarket chain. He migrated with his family from Italy when he was five and he started a small grocery store on Easton's Southside. In the interviews he discusses the growth of his grocery store into a chain that eventually included non-food items.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Lehigh Valley

**Interview Format:** Cassette tapes (2), CDs (2), transcript

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** Yes

**Is this collection available to the**

**Public?** Yes, by appointment

**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**

**Permissions and Uses:** No waiver could be found. Written permission of NCHGS is needed "to quote, cite, or reproduce" this material.

**Name of Narrator:** *Robert Freeman*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society Archives and Jane S. Moyer library at the Sigal Museum

**Brief Biography:** State Representative of the 136th District, Democrat

**Date of the interview(s):** February 3, 2011

**Interview themes:** Politics, Life History

**Description:** Robert Freeman talks about his life history and political career. The interview packet contains a brief description, interview notes and the audio file of the interview, no transcript.

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Easton

**Interview Format:** CD

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** Yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No.

**Is this collection available to the public?** Yes, by appointment

**Permissions and Uses:** Yes, signed waiver. Written permission of NCHGS is needed "to quote, cite, or reproduce" this material.

**Name of Narrator:** *Robert Rodale*

**Archive or institution housing the interview:** US Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library, Alternative Farming Systems Information Center, Beltsville, MD

**Brief Biography:** "Father" of the Organic Farming Movement

**Date of the interview(s):** 1989

**Interview themes:** Organic farming, Robert Rodale, International Publishing

**Description:** Rodale family history, development of organic farming techniques and international publishing

**Geographic focus of interviews:** Emmaus, Kutztown

**Interview Format:** VHS tape, approx 69 minutes

**Is the collection digital/digitized?** yes

**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** No  
**Is this collection available to the public?** yes  
**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**  
<https://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/robert-rodale>  
**Permissions and Uses:** No known restrictions

**Name of Narrator:** *The Honorable J. Michael Schweder*  
**Archive or institution housing the collection:** Pennsylvania House Of Representatives  
Bipartisan Management Committee Oral History Project  
**Brief Biography:** (Democrat)135th District. Northampton County, 1975-1980  
**Date of the interview:** January 9, 2009  
**Interview themes:** Immigration, Politics, Steel, Life History  
**Description:** SCHWEDER, J. Michael, a Representative from Northampton County; born in Bethlehem, Northampton County, Pa., May 31, 1949; attended Liberty High School; B.A., Lycoming College, 1971; teacher, Salisbury High School; elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1974, 1976 and 1978; not a candidate for reelection to the House (1980); unsuccessful campaign, United States Congress (1980); government affairs, Air Products and Chemicals (1980-1983); government affairs and management, AT&T (1983-2000); elected, council, Bethlehem (1998-2009); president, AT&T New Jersey and Pennsylvania (2000-present).  
**Geographic focus of interviews:** Bethlehem  
**Interview Format:** Written transcript  
**Is the collection digital/digitized?** yes  
**Are there transcripts of the interviews?** yes  
**Is this collection available to the public?** yes  
**Website or link to interviews or information on the collection:**  
<http://www.house.state.pa.us/bmc/archives/transcripts/Schweder.pdf>  
**Permissions and Uses:** No known restrictions

### III. POSSIBLE INTERVIEWS & COLLECTIONS

The above lists are not exhaustive of the Lehigh Valley's Oral History collections but they are exhaustive of what our research team was able to document during our summer project. We know or suspect that there are (in some cases, additional) Oral History Collections and Interviews at the following locations:



- The Emmaus Historical, 218 Main St, Emmaus, PA 18049
- PBS39- WLVT Lehigh Valley, 839 Sesame St, Bethlehem, PA 18015
- WDIY- 88.1FM, 301 Broadway, Bethlehem , PA 18015
- Historic Catasauqua Preservation Association, 8 Race St, Catasauqua, PA 18032
  
- America On Wheels Museum, 5 N Front St, Allentown, PA 18102
- Cressman library, Cedar Crest College, 100 College Dr, Allentown, PA 18104
  
- Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites, 74 W Broad St #310, Bethlehem, PA 18018
- Lehigh University Special Collections, Linderman Library, Lehigh University
  - Prof. Bob Thornton interviews with College of Business and Economics faculty (Prof. Nicholas Balabkins)
  - Alumni Oral History Inventory, Alumni Association, Janet Norwood (Permissions secured - 126 recordings, name, date, etc. on a spreadsheet)

Through our investigation we discovered that some interviews had been documented or individuals in institutions remembered conducting them or knowing about them but were unable to locate the interviews. In hopes that they may be found in the future, we include a list of such interviews below.

- Interview with a rural postal carrier, Hellertown Historical Society
- Interview with a trailer engineer, The National Canal Museum, a Program of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.
- Interview with Louise Rhoads (conducted January, 5, 2008), Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society Archives and Jane S. Moyer library at the Sigal Museum

## IV. ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

**Project name:** *Forging Community: The Changing Landscape of South Bethlehem*

**Institution/Organization:** National Museum of Industrial History Oral History Project

**Project focus & scope:** The experiences of individuals belonging to the many ethnic groups that made South Bethlehem home during the industrial era.

**Project format:** As yet undetermined mixed of audio, video & interview transcripts

**Contact:**

**Project name:** *The Black Experience in Bethlehem*

**Institution/Organization:** Bethlehem Area Public Library

**Project focus & scope:** Interviews with members of the black community in Bethlehem, inclusive of African Americans and folks from the African diaspora

**Project format:** Still undetermined

**Contact:** Rayah Levy, 610-867-3761 Ext. 212, [rlevy@bapl.org](mailto:rlevy@bapl.org)

**Project name:** *Silk Workers Oral histories*

**Institution/Organization:** Northampton Community College

**Project focus & scope:** Interviews with former workers in the Silk Mill Industry

**Project format:** Still undetermined

**Contact:** Brian Alnutt, Northampton Community College, [balnutt@northampton.edu](mailto:balnutt@northampton.edu)

**Project name:** *R.K. Laros Oral History Project*

**Institution/Organization:** The Laros Foundation

**Project focus & scope:** The history and impact of the R.K. Laros Silk Company on the region.

**Project format:** Unknown

**Contact:** Sharon Jones Zondag,

**News article:** <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-bc-pa--exchange-silk-mill-legacy-20180109-story.html>

## V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the course of collecting information on over 835 Oral History interviews in the Lehigh Valley, we learned about what difficulties have been encountered in previous collection building. For example, many interviewers or institutions failed to use release forms or even if they did, they did not archive them with the collection and therefore they have no written documentation to clarify the permissions of the Oral History interviews that they have. This poses a significant challenge for any plans to create a digital archive or public-facing exhibit. Additionally, most collections were not accompanied by summaries/abstracts or even a list of themes to better help researchers know what topics would be covered in the interviews/collections. In some cases, collections were simply a box of cassette tapes with no further documentation. In a few cases, the Oral History collections were not catalogued at all and require someone within the institution to already possess the knowledge of where to find them.

In general, Oral History collections in the Lehigh Valley were found in three types of institutions: universities, museums, and historical societies. Each institution possessed its own strengths and challenges. At academic institutions, which had been repositories for numerous student projects and faculty-led research, there were many individual interviews that had not been archived as a discrete collection and therefore it was difficult to find each item, or understand their context(s). Museums tended to have Oral History collections that had been utilized for past exhibits but the full unedited tapes and collections mostly sit, uncatalogued, in storage. While museum's oral histories are theoretically available to the public, there is no simple way to access them and very few members of the public would know to look for them there. The historical societies are largely volunteer-run organizations that lack the labor and resources to keep track of, catalogue, and maintain Oral History collections and yet, they have often done just that. And while the public libraries have staff and cataloging systems, and longer hours in which they are open to the public, there were virtually no Oral History collections at any public libraries in the Lehigh Valley, with the exception being one collection at the Bethlehem Area Public Library.

Born-digital and to some degree, digitized projects posed particular challenges. As digital files are transferred from researcher to archivist, with each adopting a different protocol for preservation, problems can arise: at worst, whole digital collections can be lost, and some, in fact, seem to have disappeared. So while universities are, in many ways, best equipped to handle the complexity of an Oral History collection, the wide array of offices, protocols and bureaucracy at larger institutions (compounded with the rushed pace of semester-long OH projects) create weaknesses that can put collections at risk, or may simply bury them on a hard drive, never to be listened to again.

In terms of the topics and communities covered by the Oral History collections listed above, one of the largest gaps is of the Latinx communities throughout the Lehigh Valley. There are no collections focused on Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Mexicans or more broadly- Latinx communities. Some Latinx narrators can be found within collections on labor and industry, as well as in the Welcome Neighbor! Exhibit and some of the South Bethlehem collections. Other groups of people that do not appear in the Oral History interviews listed above are the Lenape (indigenous peoples of the Lehigh Valley), people with disabilities, people struggling with mental health issues or addiction, people who are or have been incarcerated, artists and farmers.

**Based on these findings we recommend that LVEHC, academic institutions and museums collaborate to:**

- Encourage joint-grants to ensure the longevity of existing collections by assisting smaller institutions in digitizing and cataloguing their collections, and when possible, making them publicly available in a digital format.
- Encourage the use of best practices (including the use of signed waiver forms) by offering free Oral History trainings; especially for local historical societies and volunteer-run organizations.
- Create one central repository for Oral History collections, even if they remain in their home institutions as well. This could be a brick-and-mortar institution, like a public library, or a public-facing digital archive that houses or links to all digital collections on the Lehigh Valley. There could also be central repositories on the major cities; Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton.
- Bring more stakeholders to the table: Important stakeholders moving forward include local historical societies, K-12 schools, public libraries and community leaders that can help connect Oral History project coordinators with communities that are currently under-represented in the Lehigh Valley's Oral History collections.

**Addendum.**

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project  
Oral History Interviews with Individuals in Lehigh Valley

Interviewee: Joe Burns

Interviewer : Lonna Malmsheimer

Date of Interview: May 24, 2013

Location of Interview: Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania

Abstract:

From the time Joe Burns came out as gay at around 27 years of age, he was involved in gay activism. He was a part of many organizations that have helped to move gay rights forward, including the Mattachine Society and Le-Hi-Ho. He donated his entire library of gay-related books to Le-Hi-Ho before retiring from his activism career, and he donated books to the LGBT archives at the Waidner-Spahr Library at Dickinson College as well. This interview focuses on his memories of activism in the early years of the Gay Liberation Movement just before and just after the Stonewall riots of 1969.

Interviewee: Joe Burns

Interviewer: Unknown, "I" stands for "Interviewer"

Videographer: Lonna Malmsheimer

Date of Interview: October 15, 2014

Location of Interview: Unknown

Abstract:

Joe Burns is an LGBT activist who actively participated in LGBT organizations, marches, and protests especially throughout the 70s, 80s, and 90s. In this interview, Joe discusses his involvement in several of those LGBT and women's rights organizations, including Berks County, Allentown NOW, the Gay Line, and Le-Hi-Ho, of which he was a founding member. He also recalls his involvement in attempting to have a gay rights ordinance passed through the Human Rights Commission and Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus for the Lehigh Valley area, which unfortunately failed. Additionally, in this interview Joe considers the importance of talking and listening to women in order to promote inclusive activism. In terms of his personal life, Joe briefly talks about his relationships with two of his lovers, both which sadly ended in divorce. In the future, Joe hopes to learn about what happened to the Le-Hi-Ho library and his fellow activists from Berks County.

Interviewee: Amanda Porter

7/13/2018

Interviewer: Liam Fuller

Date: August 16, 2017

Place: Telford, Pennsylvania

Abstract:

Amanda Porter was born in 1950 in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. Amanda Porter is a trans woman and transgender rights educator and activist. In this interview, Amanda repeats her goal of wanting to make transgender people visible everywhere. She discusses her time in the Air Force and in college, during which she thought of herself as “cross-dressing.” She then later explains how she began to learn the word “transgender” and ultimately identified as such. Amanda also explains her relationship with her wife, children, and friends before her coming out to them, but also elaborates on her time hiding her true identity. Furthermore, she touches on her current life being retired and owning a business. Finally, Amanda expands on how being a part of a transgender support group gave her the courage to be comfortable with herself as a woman, in addition to how it eventually led to her presenting on public speaking platforms and wanting to support others who struggle with the implications of being transgender in society.

Interviewee: Joe Christ

Interviewers: Liam Fuller, Barry Loveland

Date: August 8, 2018

Location: Coopersburg, Pennsylvania

Abstract: Joe Christ was born in 1927 with Klinefelter syndrome and assigned male at birth. The seventh of eight children, Christ was placed into an orphanage during the Great Depression where they stayed until age 18. Two weeks later, Christ was drafted into the Army and fast-tracked to work as a stool pigeon in a secret German Prisoner of War camp in Richmond, Virginia due to their fluency in German, Pennsylvania Dutch, and English. Following World War II, Christ got their degree in education from Moravian College, going on to teach English, German, and Social Studies while building and driving racecars, motorcycles, and flying planes as a hobby. In 1974, Christ went to Germany to teach American English on a Fulbright fellowship, where they met their second wife, Liz, a Fulbright scholar who was in Germany teaching British English. While working there, Christ helped improve the English skills of a

German cytogeneticist to allow her to participate in the World Health Organization, and it was through this connection that Christ discovered they have XXY chromosomes. Christ had occasionally started presenting as a woman before learning they were intersex following the end of their first marriage in 1973, but never formally came out, electing to present as masculine or feminine selectively. Christ expresses comfort in being able to present as either/or, while not particularly identifying with the LGBT community.