

Record Group 9: Oral Histories

1952-2008

Plymouth Historical Museum, Plymouth, MI

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- Creator:** Plymouth Historical Museum
- Acquisition:** The Oral Histories were deposited in the archives beginning in 2005, with later additions in 2006-2012.
- Language:** Materials in English
- Access:** Records are open for research
- Use:** Refer to Archives Reading Room Guidelines
- Notes:** Citation Style: "Oral Histories," Record Group 9, Archives, Plymouth Historical Museum

Abstract

The Oral Histories collected for this record group were taken over a 50+ year span and conducted by volunteers of the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Scope and Content

The Oral Histories record group is composed of recorded and/or transcribed interviews about Plymouth related topics. These topics range from growing up in Plymouth to family histories, to prominent Plymouth residents. The oral histories were gathered from Plymouth residents, with one tape from a Historical Society Meeting.

Important Subjects

Great Depression
Genealogies – Michigan
Lifestyles -- 19th century
Lifestyles – 20th century
Village and City of Plymouth
World War II

Tape # Topics (indicating transcription and/or tape, interviewer, interviewee, date)

- 1 Historical Society Meeting, September 11, 1952 (transcription, 9p from tape)
Memories of lifestyles in the early days of Plymouth. Other names mentioned: Clara Patterson Todd, Howard Brown, Mrs. Fletcher Campbell, Alma Spicer, Pelman.

- 2 **Bessie Dunning (29 July 1871- 24 October 1956)** (transcription, 15p from 5 inch and 7 inch/ reel to reel) Interviewed on October 9, 1952; Table of Contents included. Youth, e.g., school, home remedies, planting, generally girlhood life on a farm.
- 3 **George Burr (6 May 1896 – 24 January 1977)** (transcription, 30p from 3 tapes). Interviewed by Beth Simescu on June 24, 1974. Table of contents included. Reminiscences include history starting in 1832 and into the 20th century, including civil war stories, schooling, politics, and family life. Other names mentioned: Custer, Dr. Cooper, Anna Smith.
- 4 **Ruth Shattuck Garlett (6 June 1905 – 7 December 1988)** (transcription, tape 1 = 20p, tape 2 = 5p) Interview by Joan Healy, July 22, 1976. Reminiscences and family history from about 1820 of the Shattuck family. Other names mentioned: Bennett, Streng.
- 5 **Mabel Penney (14 April 1870 – 8 April 1962)** (transcription, 14p from 5 inch/reel to reel) Interview by Karl and Mary Starkweather, December 13, 1961. Reminiscences up to 1961 when Mabel was 90 years of age. Other names mentioned: Anna Smith, Bennett.
- 6 **Margaret Dunning (26 June 1910 – 17 May 2015)** (transcription, 15p from tape) Interview by Beth Simescu, October 21, 1975. Family history, Plymouth Historical Society, downtown Plymouth. Other names mentioned: Dunning.
- 7 **Ernest Alison (6 July 1885 – 29 October 1979)** (transcription, 8p from 3 tapes) Interview by Beth Simescu, June 3, 1976. Family history, schooling and employment.
- 8 **Mary M. Fillmore (2 October 1895 – 14 June 1989)** (transcription, 23p from tape) Interview by Charles Childs, October 5, 1983. Reminiscences of schooling, personal history, roads and travel, downtown commercial Plymouth, early residents. Other names mentioned: Burr, Markham, Durfee, McClumpha.
- 9 **Clarence Moore (14 July 1890 – 18 September 1976)** (transcription, 18p from 2 tapes). Interview by Charles Childs, April 20, 1983. Family history, farming, life in a lumber camp, Plymouth from 1932-1983, list and description of several farm tools held by the museum.
- 10 **Louis Norman (7 June 1915 – 2 August 2006)** on 1) Recollections of the Occupancy of the Plymouth Historical Museum (7p) November 1, 1995; 2) Recollections of the Middle Rouge (6p) November 27, 1996; 3) Reminiscences on Wells June 15, 1995. List of contents and some brief descriptions for all three.
- 11 **Czar (12 January 1870 – 21 January 1956) and Mrs. Mabel Penney** (transcription, 28p from 5 inch reel to reel tape) Interview by Karl Starkweather,

May 2, 1953. Plymouth downtown, early residents, depression days. Other names mentioned: Huston, Miller, Penniman, Lapham.

- 12 **E. J. Penniman (12 April 1804 – 12 August 1890) Night** by Karl Starkweather, narrator, 1952. (transcription, 8p) On the life and times of Ebenezer Jenks Penniman 1804-1890. Other names mentioned: Starkweather, Samuel, Abraham Lincoln. **(tape missing)**
- 13 **Sanford Paul Burr (13 July 1926 – 11 February 2016)** (transcription, 5p from tape) July 21, 2003. Genealogy chart included. Other names mentioned: Caleb Lynden, Bennett, Robinson. **(tape missing)**
- 14 **Mike (10 November 1899 – 23 July 1995) and Nancy Tanger (30 April 1900 – 1 November 1995)** (transcription, 33p from tape) interviewed by Beth (last name not given). Early life, schooling, life style, jobs, Masons, hospital. Other names mentioned: Anna Smith, Millard band, Nellie Bird.
- 15 **Roy A. Fisher (4 April 1897 – 10 January 1977)** (transcription, tape 1 and part of 2 = 25p; tape 2 = 17p). Interviewed by Beth Simescu April 26, 1976. Early life style, family, business organizations school experiences, employment. Second interview focuses on railroads and some other businesses in Plymouth. Some other names mentioned: Starkweather, Brado, Brownelle, Schaddock, Anna Smith, Kate Allen.
- 16 **Helen Smith Goodman (12 June 1894 – March 1983)** (transcription 12p from tape). Interviewed by Pat Thomas on October 26, 1975. Family history from about 1818 in the Plymouth, Wixom, Detroit areas, summery of her life, early Plymouth airport, voting, interurban. No particular additional names.
- 17 **Milton (23 November 1926 – 4 July 2010) and Bea Laible (21 May 1926 – 24 May 2016)** (transcription 11p from tape) Interviewed by Alexandre Clerk on September 11, 2003, at the Plymouth Historical Museum. Growing up around Plymouth and Detroit, teaching in Detroit and Plymouth. Other names mentioned: Smith.
- 18 **Helen Gilbert (25 August 1910 – 19 May 2004)** (transcription A) Quebec, 7p; B) Chautauqua 11p from tape) Interviewed by Elizabeth Folger on October 10, 1975. A story of the march to Quebec in 1775, Benedict Arnold, G. Washington, General Schuyler, General Montgomery, Colonel Colson and others. B contains memories of living in Plymouth and Northville, Chautauqua from about 1920, teaching in Melvindale High School. Other names mentioned: Smith.
- 19 **Margaret (8 February 1916 – 21 December 2007) and Walter (6 May 1913 – 30 April 2006) Hall** (not transcribed) Interviewed by Darrin Silvester on July 31, 2003. Looks like the interview was not completed or conducted.

- 20 **Jack Wilcox (12 June 1917 – 30 June 2000)** (transcription 9p from tape)
Interviewed by Beth Simescu on July 9, 1975. Table of Contents included, Wilcox Mills, Henry Ford, Colonel Markham and the Markham/Wilcox house.
- 21 **Russell Maxwell (29 October 1931 – 15 January 2015)** (transcription 18p, 2 copies, from tape) Interviewed by Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens on December 20, 2001. Table of contents included. Growing up in Plymouth, school experiences, travel on old Joy Road, Mettetal Airport, and early stores. Other names mentioned: Charlie Thun.
- 22 **Howard Schryer (27 March 1914 – 14 April 2004)** (transcription 19p from tape). Interviewed by Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens on February 21, 2002. Early personal history in Plymouth, starting in 1898. Other names mentioned: Dan Blue, Dr Johnson, Penniman, Schrader.
- 23 **Doris (10 October 1921 – 13 February 2013) and Bruce Richard (10 December 1919 – 18 March 2006)** (transcription 22p from tape) Interviewed by Darrin Silvester on September 16, 2003. Growing up in Plymouth, jobs, Depression, some genealogical data going back to 1620, World War II memories, Henry Ford's soybean project, family life. Other names mentioned: Clarence Moore.
- 24 **Clara Gayde Alexander (27 September 1899 – 6 October 2003)** (transcription 59p from 3 tapes). Interview data missing. Family history going back to 1854 with some genealogical data, life styles and family life, St Peter's Lutheran Church, early stores, holiday celebrations, 1916 burning down of the Plymouth high school and other school memories, Armistice Day 1918, Depression, ends a few years after 1966. Other names mentioned: Starkweather, Gayde, Michael, Wolf, Steeler, Beyer, Chapman, Fisher, Smith, Hanford, Carol.
- 25 **Grace Van Dyke (30 July 1916 – 14 June 2008)** (transcription, 14p 1 tape). Interviewed on September 3, 2003. Life history, other names mentioned: Craigie.
- 26 **Myrilla Schrader (15 October 1918 – 19 April 2014)** (transcription, 15p 1 tape). Interviewed by Darrin Sylvester on September 9, 2003. Life history, downtown Plymouth, other names mentioned: Savery.
- 27 **Frank Henderson and George Burr** (3 tapes)
- 28 **Perry Richwine** (4 tapes)
- 29 **Marion Bernash** (1 tape)
- 30 **Cass Hough** (1 tape)
- 31 **Dunbar Davis** (1 tape)

- 32 **George Lawton** (1 tape)
- 33 **Mrs. Zehra Clark** (1 tape)
- 34 **All Rozian** (1 tape)
- 35 **Msgr Hickey** (1 tape)
- 36 **Joe Hudson** (1 tape)
- 37 **Joseph Wlosinski** (2 tapes)
- 38 **Karl Starkweather** (1 tape)
- 39 **Harry Krumm** (2 tapes, list of topics)
- 40 **Steve Veresh** (2 tapes, list of topics)
- 41 **Maude Cooper** on 5 inch/reel to reel, label says transcribed
- 42 **Robert M. Warner** on 5 inch/reel to reel
- 43 **Janet Wears** (1 tape). Interviewed by Darrin Silvester on September 30, 2003. Talks about ancestor in Civil War.
- 44 **Gerta Burnside** (handwritten transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Erica Stoney and Erica Ahrens on June 9, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 45 **Mike Gallmeier** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Jennifer Early and Jeremy French in June 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 46 **Vivian Zajac** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Jessica Johnson and Rahul Mehta on June 7, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 47 **Fred Libbing** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Adam Balluff on June 9, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 48 **Al Dvorsky** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Chris Stover and Ryan Harrison in June 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 49 **Deb Trapp** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Julie Darow and Rhea Algar on June 12, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 50 **Dodi Hodgins** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Andrea Martin and Malissa Shankus on June 7, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.

- 51 **Marianne Wright** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Jason Rose on June 7, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 52 **Art Durow** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Alicia Sundquist in June 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 53 **Sue Schneider** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Stefanie Greenwald on June 8, 2002. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 54 **Bob Bartlett** (handwritten transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Melissa Bochenek and Tiffany Bray in June 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 55 **June Swartz** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Maria Higgins and Amanda Wright in June 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 56 **Gloria Banks** (transcription, no tape). Interviewed by Elizabeth Lynch and Matt Wielechowski in June 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 57 **John Bulmer** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Andy Ray and Dain Fordell in June 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 58 **Mike Gordon** (handwritten transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Sarah Matteny and Scott Franke on June 8, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 59 **Barb Brownlie** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Charles Kemp and Kathryn McLean on June 7, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 60 **Deb Cocoros** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Amy Geick and Amanda Bell on June 7, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 61 **Scott Beaman** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Derek Baggot and Ryan Chambers in June 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 62 **Craig Bell** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Paul Potacki and Asad Karim on June 6, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 63 **Dave Seemann** (transcription 1 tape). Interviewed by Matt Poniotowski and Mike Horgan on June 7, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 64 **Gloria Logan** (handwritten transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Ryan Welsh and Adam Gerlach. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 65 **John Kontos** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Joel Charlefour and Katelyn Sigworth on June 7, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.

- 66 **Bob Kroeger** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Samantha Bird and Laura Renee Lara on June 8, 2000.
- 67 **Steve Barnard** (transcription, no tape) Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 68 **Mrs. Koehler** (transcription, no tape). Interviewed by Betsey Lynch and Matt Wielechowski in June 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 69 **Mr. Dekiere** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Ryan Chambers and Derek Baggot on June 12, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 70 **Mrs. Jesters** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Meghan Symons on June 13, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 71 **Ron Krueger** (handwritten transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Justin Groesbeck and Nic Singleton in June 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 72 **Larry Greenway** (transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Kyle Mattson and Ryan Fougner on June 8, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 73 **Diane Matsumoto** (no transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed in June, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 74 **Peg Gall** (no transcription, 1 tape). Interviewed by Garrett Brink and James Carrol on June 7, 2000. Teaching experiences are discussed.
- 75 **David W. Gates** (transcription, no tape). Interviewed by Elizabeth Kerstens on August 21, 2003.
- 76 **Teddy Jayson** (transcription, CD). Interviewed by Mike Aldini. Talks about WWII experiences.
- 77 **Betty Barber** (no transcription, tape) Interviewed on July 23, 2003.
- 78 **E. David Reitzel (27 April 1932 – 16 August 2022)** (transcription) Interviewed by Liz Kerstens on Jan. 16, 2008.
- 79 **David Bisbee** (transcription) Interviewed by Joyce Thompson on September 6, 2007.
- 80 **Margaret Dunning (26 June 1910 – 17 May 2015)** (1 disc) Interview by Pam Yockey. Talks about how “Old Bill,” the horse, was acquired.
- 81 **Weldon Petz**
- 82 **The Model T: A Year of Celebration** (1 DVD) 2008.