

COMPLETE COLLECTION HOLDINGS

Oral Histories of Tompkins County

Archival Finding Aid

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COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The *Oral Histories of Tompkins County* contain over 200 interviews collected from Tompkins County residents between the years of 1984-2021. We are in the process of transcribing* all interviews, and updating the collections to be more accessible for the public. The majority of our interviews were recorded as part of specific initiatives or class projects. In 2021 we created a new category of Oral History Collections within our holdings to group interviews that share gender, racial, ethnic, and cultural themes within their narratives. Interviews in this Finding Aid and in our archives may be listed in multiple places as selections of their original project, and other broader themed collections. Collections are listed alphabetically, projects are listed by the year in which they were recorded.

Individuals interested in listening to interviews*** are invited to visit our Research Library during open hours or make an individual appointment. Select interviews are also available to listen to for free at New York Heritage Digital Collections (<https://nyheritage.org/collections/oral-histories-tompkins-county>), on SoundCloud (<https://soundcloud.com/tompkinshistory>), and in the Story Vault Exhibit at The History Center in Tompkins County on the Ithaca Commons.

**An asterisk next to a name indicates that a transcription of the interview exists in our files.*

***This document is being updated and may not include recent acquisitions to our Oral Histories of Tompkins County Audio Archives*

****Not all interviews are available for public listening or research at this time. Please reach out with the details of the specific interview you are interested in and we can share whether it is public access or if there are any limitations on use per request of the interviewee or their family.*

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

The following collections were created from the *Oral Histories of Tompkins County* in 2021 as part of the *Building Capacity, Creating Sustainability, Growing Accessibility* grant from the Museum Association of New York and the Institute of Museum & Library Services. This two year grant (2020-2022) created opportunities for museums to develop programs from stories in their collections that reveal and highlight cultural and racial diversity in their communities. Each collection includes recorded interviews from various projects and oral history initiatives spanning back to 2008, with shared themes, gender, racial and/or ethnic identities of the subjects, and/or shared cultural experiences. These collections will continue to expand as our oral history archives continue to grow.

Asian Diaspora in Tompkins County: Oral History Collection

The *Asian Diaspora in Tompkins County Oral History Collection* was established in 2021 to highlight interviews and stories in our archives that explore the experiences of Asian, Asian-American, Pacific Islander, and South-Asian people living in Tompkins County. The topics of these interviews explore a wide range of experiences, community, and culture, and the stories shared may have been guided by the specific project the interview was recorded for. This collection will continue to expand as our Oral History archives continue to grow.

Trigger warning(s): violent imagery.

Interviews with:

- Amy Somchanhmvong (2019)*
- Recorded as part of the *Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019*.
- Baldev & Kamaldeep Sekhon (2019)*
- Recorded as part of the *Immigration & Food Project in 2019*.
- Ooy & Bonner Herren (2019)*
- Recorded as part of the *Immigration & Food Project in 2019*.
- Dr. Abdul Jalil (2019)*
- Recorded as part of the *Immigration & Food Project in 2019*.
- Mimi Melegrito (2018)*
- Recorded as part of the *Generation to Generation Project in 2018*.
- Mimi Melegrito (2017)*
- Recorded as part of the *Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2017*.

Black Experience in Tompkins County: Oral History Collection

The *Black Experience in Tompkins County Oral History Collection* was established in 2021 to highlight interviews and stories in our archives that explore the experiences of Black, African-American, African diaspora, and African people living in Tompkins County. The topics of these interviews explore a wide range of experiences, community, and culture, and the stories shared may have been guided by the specific project the interview was recorded for. This collection will continue to expand as our Oral History archives continue to grow.

Trigger warning(s): systemic racism, antisemitism, sexism, descriptions of state sanctioned violence, child abuse, child sexual abuse, anti-Black sentiment, white supremacy.

Interviews with:

- Akua Akyea (2019)*
- Recorded as part of the *Immigration & Food Project in 2019*.
- Candace Edwards (2019)*
- Recorded as part of the *Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019*.
- Addisu Gebre (2019)*
- Recorded as part of the *Immigration & Food Project in 2019*.
- Dr. Nia Nunn (2019)*
- Recorded as part of the *Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019*.
- Leslyn McBean Clairborne (2019)*
- Recorded as part of the *Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019*.
- Marcia Fort Baum (2019)*
- Recorded as part of the *Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019*.
- [Karen Yearwood](#) (2018)*
- Recorded as part of the *Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2018*.
- [Kirby Edmonds](#) (2018)*

- Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2018.
[Millicent Clarke-Maynard](#) (2018)*
- Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2018.
Jenny Graham (2017)*
- Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2017.
James L. “Jim” Gibbs, Jr. (2015)*
- Jackie Melton Scott (2008)*

Gender and Sexuality in Tompkins County: Oral History Collection

****Working Title****

The *Gender and Sexuality in Tompkins County Oral History Collection* was established in 2021 to highlight interviews and stories in our archives that explore sexuality, gender identity, expressions of love, and activism in these areas. This collection does not include interviews from everyone in our oral history collections who identified as LGBTQIA+ but only those interviews that discuss these identities and experiences. The topics of these interviews explore a wide range of experiences, community, and culture, and the stories shared may have been guided by the specific project the interview was recorded for. This collection will continue to expand as our Oral History archives continue to grow.

Trigger warning(s): Gender-erasure, sexually explicit, sexual assault, death, AIDS epidemic, drug use, homophobia.

We are still processing this collection, and are creating accompanying transcripts and listing details for each interview.

Interviews with:

- Ned Asta (2019)*
- Recorded as part of the HERstory Project in 2019.
- Nancy Bereano (2019)* (2020)*
- Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019 and 2020.
- Candace Edwards (2019)*
- Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.
- Yvonne Fisher and David Hirsch (2019)
- Recorded as part of the Communes of Upstate New York Project in 2019.
- Rod Howe (2019)
- Recorded as part of the Howe Family Project in 2019.

Indigenous Experience in Tompkins County: Oral History Collection

The *Indigenous Experience in Tompkins County Oral History Collection* was established in 2021 to highlight interviews and stories in our archives that explore the experiences of Native American, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and people from Indigenous communities and cultures around the globe living in Tompkins County. Tompkins County is located in the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:nq' Nation (generally known as the Cayuga Nation) one of the Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Our oral history efforts have focused on recording the stories of Haudenosaunee community members whose ancestors have lived on this land for time immemorial, but this collection will also include narratives from Indigenous peoples not part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The topics of these interviews explore a wide range of experiences, community, and culture, and the stories shared may have been guided by the specific project the interview was recorded for. This collection will continue to expand as our oral history archives continue to grow.

Trigger warnings: modern colonial trauma, Indigenous erasure, drug and alcohol addiction.

****We are still processing this collection, and are creating accompanying transcripts and listing details for each interview.****

Interviews with:

- Steve Henhawk (Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga) Nation) (2019)*
- *Per request of the interviewee, this oral history is only available for listening in person at our Research Library.*
- Audrey Cooper (Sand Hill Band of Lenape and Cherokee Indians) (2019)*
- *Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.*
- Sachem Sam George (Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga) Nation, Bear Clan) (2018)*
- *Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2018.*
- *Per request of the interviewee, this oral history is only available for listening in person at our Research Library.*
- Yen Ospina (2019)* (Indigenous Colombian)
- *Recorded as part of the HERSTORY Project in 2019.*

Religion & Belief in Tompkins County: Oral History Collection

****Working Title****

The *Religion & Belief in Tompkins County Oral History Collection* was established in 2021 to highlight interviews and stories in our archives that explore the themes of religious belief and practice. This collection includes interviews with subjects from multiple faiths and religious practices. The topics of these interviews explore a wide range of experiences, community, and culture, and the stories shared may have been guided by the specific project the interview was recorded for. This collection will continue to expand as our Oral History archives continue to grow.

Trigger warning(s): child abuse, child sexual abuse, violent imagery, gender-erasure, descriptions of anti-Black racism, police brutality, antisemitism.

Interviews with:

- Nancy Bereano (2019)* (2020)*
- *Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019 and 2020.*
- Barry Derfel (2018)*
- *Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2018.*
- Sachem Sam George (Cayuga Nation, Bear Clan) (2018)*
- *Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2018.*
- *Per request of the interviewee, this oral history is only available for listening in person at our Research Library.*
- Rabbi Scott Glass (2019)*
- Steve Henhawk (Cayuga Nation) (2019)*
- *Per request of the interviewee, this oral history is only available for listening in person at our Research Library.*
- Dr. Abdul Jalil (2019)*
- *Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.*
- *This transcript is awaiting verification.*
- Mimi Melegrito (2018)* (2017)*
- *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2018 and the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2017.*
- Yen Ospina (2019)*
- *Recorded as part of the HERstory Project in 2019.*

- Martha Preston (2017)*
 - Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2017.
- Baldev and Kamaldeep Sekhon (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.
- Mitch Weiss (2019)
 - Recorded as part of the Communes of Upstate New York Project in 2019.

Stories of Immigration to Tompkins County: Oral History Collection

The *Stories of Immigration to Tompkins County Oral History Collection* was established in 2021 to highlight interviews and stories in our archives that explore the experiences of first generation immigrants to Tompkins County and the United States, and their descendants. The topics of these interviews explore a wide range of experiences, community, and cultures. The stories shared may have been guided by the specific project the interview was recorded for. This collection will continue to expand as our Oral History archives continue to grow.

Trigger warning(s): violent imagery, war, descriptions of state-sanctioned violence, poverty, antisemitism, Holocaust, Nazis, death, gun violence, starvation, white supremacy.

We are still processing this collection, and are creating accompanying transcripts and listing details for each interview.

Interviews with:

- Akua Akyea (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.
- Abner Argueta (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.
- Rose Bethe
 - Recorded as part of the Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Project.
- Tal Oron Cohen (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.
- Ann Erlich (2017)
 - Recorded as part of the Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Project.
- Eniko Farkas (2017)*
 - Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2017.
- Addisu Gebre (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.
- Kurt Gottfried (2016)
 - Recorded as part of the Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Project in 2016.
- Adil Griguihi (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.
- Ooy & Bonner Herren (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.
- Roald Hoffmann (2017)
 - Recorded as part of the Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Project in 2017.
- Dr. Abdul Jalil (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.
- Katherine Karakantas (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.
- Noemi Kraut (2017)
 - Recorded as part of the Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Project in 2017.

- Bill Manos* (2017)
 - Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2017.
- Gus “Dino” Marinos (2017)*
 - Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2017.
- Louise Matosich (2016)
 - Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2016.
- Edward & Michael Mazza (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.
- Leslyn McBean-Clairborne (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.
- Mimi Melegrito (2018)* (2017)*
 - Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2018 and the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2017.
- June Morse (2018)*
 - Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation and Cornell Anthropology 1900 Projects in 2018.
- Martha Preston (2017)*
 - Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2017.
- Maria Rabb (c. 2015)
 - Recorded as part of the Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Project in 2014 or 2015 (date unknown).
- Patricia Rodriguez (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.
- Mary Salton (2016)
 - Recorded as part of the Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Project in 2016.
- Baldev & Kamaldeep Sekhon (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.
- Rachel Siegel (2015)
 - Recorded as part of the Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Project in 2015.
- Amy Somchanhmvong (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.
- Fred Voss (2015)
 - Recorded as part of the Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Project in 2015.
- Ilse Voss (2015)
 - Recorded as part of the Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Project in 2015.
- Marion Wimpfheimer (2016)
 - Recorded as part of the Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Project in 2016.

Women’s Voices in Tompkins County: Oral History Collection

The *Women’s Voices in Tompkins County Oral History Collection* was established in 2021 to highlight interviews and stories in our archives that explore the experiences of women in Tompkins County. The topics of these interviews explore a wide range of experiences, community, and culture, and the stories shared may have been guided by the specific project the interview was recorded for. This collection will continue to expand as our Oral History archives continue to grow.

Interviews with:

- Amy Fuhr (2020)
 - Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project
- Beth Krause (2020)
 - Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project

Beth Pallace
 - *Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project*

Bruce & Heather Lane
 - *Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project*

Colleen Ledley
 - *Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project*

Elizabeth “Liz” Klohmann
 - *Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project*

Jennifer Tavares
 - *Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project*

Jessica Wickham
 - *Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project*

Johanna Anderson
 - *Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project*

Juliana Garcia
 - *Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project*

Kara Frost Clapp
 - *Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project*

Kathy Schlather
 - *Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project*

Samantha Hilson
 - *Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project*

Sandra Sorenson
 - *Recorded as part of the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project*

Emma Loiacono (2020)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Students Discuss COVID-19 Project in 2020.*

Jessica Scheidler (2020)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Students Discuss COVID-19 Project in 2020.*

Candace Edwards (2019)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.*

Dr. Nia Nunn (2019)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.*

Leslyn McBean Clairborne (2019)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019 and the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project in 2020.*

Marcia Fort Baum (2019)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.*

Nancy Bereano (2019) (2020)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.*

Patricia Rodriguez (2019)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.*

Karen Friedeborn (2019)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.*

Marcia Fort Baum (2019)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.*

Amy Somchanhmvong (2019)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Local Sisters of Change Project in 2019.*

Yen Ospina (2019)*
 - *Recorded as part of the HERSTORY Project in 2019.*

Ned Asta (2019)*

- Recorded as part of the HERSTORY Project in 2019 and the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project in 2020.

Cory Foster (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the HERSTORY Project in 2019.

Elaan Greenfield (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the HERSTORY Project in 2019.

Melissa Tuckey (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the HERSTORY Project in 2019.

Liz Ryan Bogel (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the HERSTORY Project in 2019.

Betsy Darlington (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the HERSTORY Project in 2019.

Yvonne Fisher and David Hirsch (2019)
 - Recorded as part of the Communes of Upstate New York Project in 2019.

Christianne White (2019) (2018)*
 - Recorded as part of the Agricultural Imaginaries and THE WARMEST YEARS ON RECORD Projects in 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Anne Rhodes (2019)
 - Recorded as part of THE WARMEST YEARS ON RECORD Project in 2019.

Krys Cail (2019)
 - Recorded as part of THE WARMEST YEARS ON RECORD Project in 2019.

Alexandra Moore (2019)
 - Recorded as part of THE WARMEST YEARS ON RECORD Project in 2019.

Ingrid Zabel (2019)
 - Recorded as part of THE WARMEST YEARS ON RECORD Project in 2019.

Anna Kelles (2019)
 - Recorded as part of THE WARMEST YEARS ON RECORD Project in 2019 and the COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project in 2020.

Marie McRae (2019)
 - Recorded as part of THE WARMEST YEARS ON RECORD Project in 2019.

Noa Shapiro Tamir (2019)
 - Recorded as part of THE WARMEST YEARS ON RECORD Project in 2019.

Ooy & Bonner Herren (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.

Tal Oron Cohen (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.

Akua Akyea (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.

Baldev & Kamaldeep Sekhon (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.

Katherine Karakantas (2019)*
 - Recorded as part of the Immigration & Food Project in 2019.

Karen Yearwood (2018)*
 - Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2018.

Millicent Clarke-Maynard (2018)*
 - Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2018.

Poppy Singer (2018)*
 - Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2018.

June Morse (2018)*
 - Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 and Generation to Generation Projects in 2018.

Nancy Leeming (2018)
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2018.*

Anne Dimock (2018)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2018.*

Dooley Kiefer (2018)
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2018.*

Mimi Melegrito (2018) (2017)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation and Cornell Anthropology Projects in 2018 and 2017, respectively.*

Monika Roth (2018)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Agricultural Imaginaries Project in 2018.*

Erica Frenay (2018)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Agricultural Imaginaries Project in 2018.*

Marion Nobles Howe and Bob Nobles (2018)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Agricultural Imaginaries Project in 2018.*

Fred Howe and Pat Howe (2018)
 - *Recorded as part of the Agricultural Imaginaries Project in 2018.*

Sophia Jeleckles (2017)
 Carol Treman de Cagnet (2017)*
 Jenny Graham (2017)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2017.*

Martha Preston (2017)*
 - *Recorded as part of the Cornell Anthropology 1900 Project in 2017.*

Katie Prouty (2017)
 - *Interviews recorded as part of the Generation to Generation and Cornell Anthropology 1900 Projects in 2017.*

Irene Komor (2017)
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2017.*

Joyce McAllister (2017)
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2017.*

Phyllis McNeill (2017)
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2017.*

Ruth Scott (2016)
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2016.*

Margaret Ebersold (2016)
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2016.*

Hazel Brill Brampton (2016)
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2016.*

Louise Matosich (2016)
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2016.*

Elizabeth Conger (2016)
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2016.*

Elsie Gutchess (2016)
 - *Recorded as part of the Generation to Generation Project in 2016.*

Laura Almquist '56 (2016)*
 Ann Erlich (2017)
 - *Recorded as part of the Oral Histories of Holocaust Survivors Project in 2017.*

Marion Wimpfheimer (2016)
 - *Recorded as part of the Oral Histories of Holocaust Survivors Project in 2016.*

Ilse Voss (2015)
 - *Recorded as part of the Oral Histories of Holocaust Survivors Project in 2015.*

Rose Bethe
- Recorded as part of the Oral Histories of Holocaust Survivors Project.
Noemi Kraut
- Recorded as part of the Oral Histories of Holocaust Survivors Project.
Maria Rabb
- Recorded as part of the Oral Histories of Holocaust Survivors Project.
Mary Salton
- Recorded as part of the Oral Histories of Holocaust Survivors Project.
Rachel Siegel
- Recorded as part of the Oral Histories of Holocaust Survivors Project.
Jackie Melton Scott (2008)*
Barbara Hall

ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

2020-2021 Voices that Must be Heard: Oral History Project

Voices That Must Be Heard was a collaboration between Civic Ensemble's ReEntry Theatre Program and College Initiative Upstate. Sixteen interviews were recorded between 2020-2021. Members of Civic Ensemble's ReEntry Theatre Program and College Initiative Upstate conducted oral history interviews with each other, exploring life histories. Narrators speak to experiences of incarceration and court involvement, substance abuse and harm reduction, family, education, work, and their hopes and dreams for the future. The narrators in these interviews all lived in Tompkins or Cortland Counties at the time of recording, and all their narratives intersect with Tompkins County.

Interviews with:

Leroy Barrett*
Khalil Abdullah Bey*
Brian Briggs*
Melissa Cady*
Regina DiOrio*
Danielle Drake*
Ricardo Escobedo*
Sunshine Fox*
Lucas Hahn*

- Per request of the interviewee, this oral history is only available for listening in person at our Research Library.

Jo-Louis Hallback*
Amy Heffron*
Michael James*
Latoya Peterson*
Casandra Ponton*
Edwin Santiago*
Antony Sidle*

2020-2021 - COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project

The *COVID-19 Oral History Fellowship Project* collection includes 26 interviews recorded between 2020 and 2021. This project was a joint collaboration of The History Center in Tompkins County and the Cornell Public History Initiative. The fellowship was funded through an Engaged Curriculum Grant from Engaged Cornell and from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Seven Cornell sophomores and juniors received the fellowship to conduct oral history interviews with community members and leaders in Tompkins County about their ongoing responses to social and economic challenges related to COVID-19.

Fellowship Supervisors:

- Stephen Vider - Assistant Professor of History and Director of the Cornell University Public History Initiative
- Ben Sandberg - Executive Director of The History Center in Tompkins County

Interviews with:

Amy Fuhr
Aneida “Ned” Asta
Anna Kelles
Beth Krause
Beth Pallace
Bruce & Heather Lane
Colleen Ledley
Dan Cogan
David Winitsky
Doug Levine
Dr. Douglas MacQueen
Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell
Elizabeth “Liz” Klohmann
George Tamborelle
Jennifer Tavares
Jessica Wickham
Johanna Anderson
Juliana Garcia
Kara Frost Clapp
Karl Graham
Kathy Schlather
Leslyn McBean-Clairborne
Samantha Hilson
Sandra Sorenson
Scot Vanderpool
Tom Knipe

2019 - HERSTORY: Women’s Oral History Project - Generation to Generation

Young women from the Tompkins County community explored local women’s history, and each interviewed an adult woman in the community about their lives and work. *A project of The History Center Youth Ambassadors.*

Trigger warnings: sexual assault, death, sexually explicit, child abuse, child sexual abuse, AIDS epidemic, drug use, drug addiction.

Interviews with:

Ned Asta*
Betsy Darlington*
Cory Foster*
Elaan Greenfield*
Yen Ospina*
Liz Ryan Bogel*
Melissa Tuckey*

2019 - Local Sisters of Change - Cornell Anthropology 1900 - Oral History Project

In collaboration with the Dorothy Cotton Institute and the Cornell Anthropology Department (Anthropology 1900 taught by Sofia Villenas), undergraduate students from Cornell University explored the racial and social justice work of nine local women through oral history interviews.

Trigger warning(s): anti-Black sentiment, domestic abuse, death, gender-erasure, white supremacy.

Interviews with:

Nancy Bereano*
Audrey Cooper*
Candace Edwards*
Marcia Fort Baum*
Karen Friedeborn*
Leslyn McBean Clairborne*
Dr. Nia Nunn*
Patricia Rodriguez*
Amy Somchanhmavong*

2019 - Communes of Upstate New York

Interviews with:

Yvonne Fisher and David Hirsch
Mitch Bobrow
Mitch Weiss

2018 - Agricultural Imaginaries - Cornell English 1158 - Oral History Project

The “Agricultural Imaginaries” Oral History Project includes sixteen oral histories recorded in 2018 by undergraduate students of the Cornell University English Department through the course “Cornell English Class 1158 – Agricultural Imaginaries: Farmers and Farmland in American Culture” taught by Professor Molly MacVeagh.

Interviews with:

Tyler Beck*
Jen Bokaer-Smith*
Brian Caldwell*
Dan Carey*
Gabriel Carpenter*
Steve Cummins*
Erica Frenay*
Fred and Pat Howe

Christianne White*
Joanna Green*
Skip Hardie*
Thor Oeschner*
Mark Renodin*
Monika Roth*
Eric C. Shatt*
John Wertis*

Fall 2017 - Cornell Anthropology 1900 - Oral History Project

College students conducted oral history interviews with local residents about their experiences in Ithaca for the course “Cornell Anthropology 1900”. The stated goal of the project was to "produce research that reveals some aspect of Ithaca's complex and diverse history...and the way that it reflects broader national and global trends." Project supervised by Professor Hayden Kantor in collaboration with History Center staff Carol West and Donna Eschenbrenner.

Interviews with:

Eniko Farkas*
Jenny Graham*
Bill Manos*
Dino Marinos*
Mimi Melegrito*
Martha Preston*
Katie Prouty
Josie Shug*

Fall 2018 - Global Engagements: Living & Working in a Diverse World - Oral History Project

College students conducted oral history interviews with local residents about their experiences in Tompkins County for the course “Cornell Anthropology 1900 – Global Engagements: Living & Working in a Diverse World.” Project supervised by Professor Sofia Villenas in collaboration with History Center staff Julia Taylor.

Interviews with:

Millicent Clarke Maynard*
Barry Derfel*
June Morse*
Kirby Edmonds*
Sachem Sam George*
John Perko
Poppy Singer*
John Wertis*
Karen Yearwood*

2019 - Immigration & Food - Generation to Generation Oral History Project

Tompkins County youth explored the history of immigration in Tompkins County by conducting interviews with people who have immigrated to the United States, live in Tompkins County, and own a restaurant or food-related business (or whose parents/families owned the business). *A project of The History Center Youth Ambassadors.*

Trigger warning(s): poverty, war, descriptions of state sanctioned violence.

Interviews with:

Akua Akyea - Mama Loye's Cafe*
Abner Argueta - Argueta's Coffee Roasting*
Addisu Gebre - Enat Ethiopian Cuisine & Coffee*
Adil Griguihi - Casablanca Pizzeria*
Ooy & Bonner Herren - Ithaca Thai Basil*
Dr. Md. Abdul Jalil - Ithaca Halal Meat & Grocery*
Katherine Karakantas - Ithaca Diner*
Ed & Michael Mazza - Ithaca Bakery*
Tal Oron Cohen - Ba-Li Cravings*
Baldev & Kamaldeep Sekhon - New Delhi Diamonds*

2018 & 2019 - Howe Family Project

Interviews with:

Fred Howe (2019)
Pat & Fred Howe (2018)
- *Recorded as part of the 2018 - Agricultural Imaginaries Oral History Project*
Rod Howe (2019)
Marion Nobles Howe and Bob Nobles (2018)

2019 - The Warmest Years on Record

The Warmest Years on Record is an oral history project that collected audio-recorded interviews detailing people's perceptual, sensorial, emotional and psychological experiences of climate change. Since 2018, Brooklyn-based artist Rachel Garber Cole has been conducting interviews in New York City and State that seek to answer the question, "When you think about climate change, what do you think about and how does it feel?" The Warmest Years on Record project partnered with The History Center in Tompkins County to collect interviews from people living in and around Ithaca, New York on this topic from June 24th-July 1st 2019.

Interviews with:

Peter Bardaglio
Krys Cail
Rich DePaolo
Michael Smith
Noa Shapiro Tamir
Jeremy Jimenez
Anna Kelles
Marie McRae
Alexandra Moore
Mike Moritz
Gay Nicholson
Anne Rhodes
Rob Ross
Eric Schatt
Christianne White

Ingrid Zabel

2018 - Seniors - Generation to Generation

Youth from Tompkins County interviewed older adults about their experiences and memories of life in Tompkins County. *A project of The History Center Youth Ambassadors.*

Interviews with:

Anne Dimock
Eniko Farkas
Dooley Kiefer
Nancy Leeming
Mimi Melegrito*
June Morse*
Fluffy Saccucci

2017 - Generation to Generation

Youth from Tompkins County interviewed older adults about their experiences and memories of life in Tompkins County. *A project of The History Center Youth Ambassadors.*

This educational initiative sought to bring together local high school students with elders in the community to forge bonds and learn new skills, while capturing stories about living in Ithaca and Tompkins County. Specifically, this collection documents national and local events through social and economic changes that affected our community.

Interviews with:

Gene Endres
Irene Komor
Josie Leonardo Schug
Joyce McAllister
Phyllis McNeill
Katie Prouty

2016 - Generation to Generation

Youth from Tompkins County interviewed older adults about their experiences and memories of life in Tompkins County. *A project of The History Center Youth Ambassadors.*

Interviews with:

Hazel Brill Brampton
Al Chaffee
Elizabeth Conger
Margaret Ebersold
Elsie Gutchess
Everett Morse
Bob Nobles*
Ruth Scott
Louise Matosich

2013-2018 Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Who Settled in Tompkins County

Oral History of Holocaust Survivors Who Settled in Tompkins County includes 11 videos of families who escaped the Holocaust and settled in Tompkins County. This series of interviews was a project of the Holocaust Education Committee of the Ithaca Area United Jewish Community. The recordings were made between 2013 and 2018 in the Ithaca Jewish community and turned into classroom-length productions by students from the Ithaca College Park Scholars program.

Trigger warning(s): antisemitism, Holocaust, Nazis, violent imagery, death, gun violence, war.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CURRICULUM - In support of teachers in Tompkins and surrounding counties, a collection of seven of these oral histories were assembled into the Holocaust Education curriculum. These supporting materials include links to historical background material and suggested prompts for discussion, essays and further investigation. These links were made available to educators in 2020, and a virtual interactive lesson plan of the materials was made public in 2021.

Holocaust Education Curriculum Guides - <https://thehistorycenter.net/Holocaust-Education>

Interviews with:

Rose Bethe
Ann Erlich (2017)
Kurt Gottfried (2016)
Roald Hoffman (2017)
Noemi Kraut (2017)
Maria Rabb
Mary Salton (2016)
Rachel Siegel (2015)
Fred Voss (2015)
Ilse Voss (2015)
Marion Wimpfheimer (2016)

1984-1985 - Hungarian Immigrant Project

The *Hungarian Immigrant Project* was created from research for an exhibit on Hungarian immigrants living in Tompkins County in the 20th century. The resulting exhibit curated by the DeWitt Historical Society (now The History Center in Tompkins County) was on display in the late 1980s. Part of this collection includes materials from interviews with Hungarian immigrants living in Tompkins County. The documents included are not transcripts of the interviews but narratives written by Eniko Farkas and Betty Whipple, the interviewers. These interviews were not recorded, so the project notes are the only files on record of these interviews.

Interview Narratives & Notes:

Gabor Demeter
Mary Hancy
Esther Korik
Betty Whipple

Independent/Individual Oral History Recordings

Interviews with:

Laura Almquist '56 (2016)*
Bill Brothers (2017)
Nicole Carrier-Titti (2019)
Jim Gibbs (2015)*
Rabbi Scott Glass (2019)*
Steve Henhawk (2019)*
Sophia Jeleckles (2017)
Jackie Melton Scott (2008)*
Bishop Morris (2019)
Doug Robinson (2018)
Carol Treman de Cagnet (2017)*

STREAMING SERVICES & DIGITAL ARCHIVES

New York Heritage Digital Collections

New York Heritage is a research portal for students, educators, historians, genealogists, and anyone else who is interested in learning more about the people, places and institutions of New York State. The collections in New York Heritage represent a broad range of historical, scholarly, and cultural materials held in libraries, museums, and archives throughout the state. Collection items include photographs, letters, diaries, directories, maps, books, and more. The History Center in Tompkins County has been adding items from their archival collections to New York Heritage since the late 2010's. Find selected oral history interviews from our collections at Oral histories of Tompkins County:

www.nyheritage.org/collections/oral-histories-tompkins-county

The following interviews are available on New York Heritage Digital Collections:

Millicent Clarke-Maynard (2018)*
Barry Derfel (2018)*
Fred Howe and Pat Howe (2018)
June Morse (2018)*
Eric Shatt (2018)*
Poppy Singer (2018)*
John Wertis (2018)*
Karen Yearwood (2018)*

SoundCloud

Founded in 2007, SoundCloud is an artist-first streaming platform powered by a global community of artists and listeners. With over 250 million tracks from 30 million artists from 190 countries on SoundCloud, they are the largest audio discovery platform in the world. The History Center in Tompkins County began uploading interviews from their Tompkins County Oral History Archives to SoundCloud in 2021 to increase access and availability of these unique collections. These interviews are free and accessible at: <https://soundcloud.com/tompkinshistory>

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