

Oral Histories of Tompkins County

Archival Finding Aid

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2016 - Generation to Generation - Oral History Project

The *2016-Generation to Generation Oral History Project* connected Tompkins County teenagers with elders from Tompkins County. Interviews discuss their lives and experiences in Tompkins County during the second half of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. Includes conversations about experiences of World War II, and narratives of the rural townships of Tompkins County as well as the City of Ithaca. Nine interviews were collected in 2016. Project was supervised and coordinated by History Center staff, and History Center trustees Cindy Kramer and Robert “Bob” Kibbee. *A project of The History Center Youth Ambassadors.*

Interviews with:

Hazel Brill Brampton (70 minutes)

Hazel Brill Brampton discusses her experience growing up in the Ithaca community, including forming a family and seeking higher education in the region. Brampton explains the impact of World War II in the region, including drafts and rationing of supplies, and Cornell University. Brampton also goes into the sexism she faced as an undergraduate and then graduate student, and how life was for women in that time period.

- *Recorded 2016*
- *Name of Interviewer: Madeline Turner*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2016_Brampton-Hazel-Brill*
 - *Digital Format: MP3*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2016_Brampton-Hazel-Brill_Transcript*
 - *Digital Format: Microsoft Word & PDF*
- *Recorded as part of the 2016 - Generation to Generation Oral History Project*

Alan “Al” Chaffee (51 minutes)

Alan “Al” Chaffee shares stories about Newfield and its inhabitants as far back as the Civil War. Chaffee explains his own experience in the community, while also referencing his grandmother’s stories and memories. Chaffee focuses on the effect of agriculture on the community and how that impacted their connection to Ithaca.

- *Recorded 2016*

- *Name of Interviewer: Thea Clarkberg*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2016_Chaffee-Alan*
 - *Digital Format: MP3*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2016_Chaffee-Al_Transcript*
 - *Digital Format: Microsoft Word & PDF*
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Elizabeth “Betty” Conger (54 minutes)

Elizabeth “Betty” Conger describes her experience growing up in Groton. Conger goes into her childhood years, including her education and hobbies, and explains her family’s roles in and out of the home. Conger also demonstrates how Groton has changed throughout the years, and shares her opinion on current Groton living.

- *Recorded 05/07/2016*
- *Name of Interviewer: Francesca Chu*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2016-5-7_Conger-Elizabeth (Betty)*
 - *Digital Format: MP3*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2016-5-7_Conger-Elizabeth (Betty)_Transcript*
 - *Digital Format: Microsoft Word & PDF*
- *Recorded as part of the 2016 - Generation to Generation Oral History Project*

Margaret Ebersold (105 minutes)

Margaret Ebersold explains her family’s role in Tompkins County, including Number Fives Fire and managing the Cayuga salt mine, as well as more national events, like Pearl Harbor. Ebersold also describes her experience living through World War II, and the invasion of Africa, especially having family members deployed to both wars.

- *Recorded 2016*
- *Name of Interviewer: Sarah Skervin*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2016_Ebersold-Margaret*
 - *Digital Format: WAV*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2016_Ebersold-Margaret_Transcript*
 - *Digital Format: Microsoft Word & PDF*
- *Recorded as part of the 2016 - Generation to Generation Oral History Project*

Elsie Gutchess (74 minutes)

Elsie Gutchess describes growing up in Dryden during World War II, including rationing and the role of children in supporting war efforts. Gutchess reflects on her experience as a Girl Scout and her relationship to other children in the area. Gutchess also explains her role as a historian in the Town of Dryden and how her experiences have helped document the history of the area.

- *Recorded 2016*
- *Name of Interviewer: Erin Root*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2016_Gutchess-Elsie-Erin*

- *Digital Format: WAV and MP3*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2016_Gutchess-Elsie-Erin_Transcript*
 - *Digital Format: Microsoft Word & PDF*
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Louise Matosich (52 minutes)

Louise Matosich gives an intimate account of being a first generation Italian-American citizen in Ithaca New York, from the 1930s to twenty-first century. She goes into great detail how Ithaca has changed over the years both structurally and socially. She discusses her experience of Ithaca during multiple wartimes and the changes that the colleges and schools went through during World War II.

- *Recorded 2016*
- *Name of Interviewer: Thea Clarkberg*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2016_Matosich-Louise*
 - *Digital Format: WAV & MP3*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2016_Matosich-Louise_Transcript*
 - *Digital Format: Microsoft Word & PDF*
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Everett Morse (101 minutes)

Everett Morse details about his action packed life throughout the majority of the 20th century. He talks about his travels, harrowing experiences during World War II, and the numerous careers he has taken up during his lifetime. This account extensively goes into Everett's life around the world, but also his many shared experiences in Ithaca too.

- *Recorded 2016*
- *Name of Interviewer: Eli Zhang*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2016-Morse-Everett*
 - *Digital Format: WAV & MP3*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2016-Morse-Everett_Transcript*
 - *Digital Format: Microsoft Word & PDF*
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Robert “Bob” Nobles (152 minutes)

Robert “Bob” Nobles, an Ithaca native, delves into his experience as a paratrooper during World War II including his time captured by the Germans and those he lost along the way. Nobles also reflects on how his family was impacted by the Great Depression, and the jobs he has held throughout his life besides serving in the army.

- *Recorded 2016*
- *Name of Interviewer: Aiden Peck*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2016_Nobles-Robert(Bob)*

- *Digital Format: WAV*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2016_Nobles-Bob_Student Transcript*
 - *Digital Format: Microsoft Word & PDF*
- *Recorded as part of the 2016 - Generation to Generation Oral History Project*

Ruth Scott (64 minutes)

Ruth Scott, a resident of Ithaca/Trumansburg, NY for the past 60 years leading up to 2016, talks about her life within the area. Ruth describes the hardships and good times of raising a family and working within the Trumansburg Central School District. She also shares personal stories that shed light on what living a long life here has been like, and all the change she has seen, as well as what has remained the same in the area.

- *Recorded 07/06/2016*
- *Name of Interviewer: Cindy Kramer*
- *Audio File: OHTC_2016-7-6_Scott-Ruth*
 - *Digital Format: MP3*
- *Transcript File: OHTC_2016-7-6_Scott-Ruth Transcript*
 - *Digital Format: Microsoft Word & PDF*
- *Recorded as part of the 2016 - Generation to Generation Oral History Project*

CITATION FOR THE COLLECTION

“2016 - Generation to Generation” Oral History Project, 9 oral histories recorded in 2016 by The History Center in Tompkins County Youth Ambassadors, The History Center in Tompkins County. Oral Histories of Tompkins County Audio Archives, Ithaca NY, 2023.

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