

Hidden History: The Black Experience in the Roanoke Valley Cassette Tapes and Transcripts

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1992



Title Statement

Hidden History: The Black Experience in the Roanoke Valley Cassette Tapes and Transcripts
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Revision Description

2020-09-18	Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags
2022-08-18	changed numbers of transcripts and interviews to 36 and "approximately" 55. (mdb)
2025-11-11	Zoe Brooks updated the finding aid notes and added the separate boxes and their contents from the collection to the finding aid.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1992.049

Unit Date

1992

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This oral history project was an agreement between University Libraries and The Harrison Museum of African American Culture. It contains oral history interviews with forty African American people from the Roanoke Valley. The interviews are mostly biographical in nature.

Extent

2.5 Cubic Feet 10 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

This oral history project was an agreement between University Libraries and The Harrison Museum of African American Culture. Researchers should contact the appropriate organization for assistance in determining the use of these materials. Copyright restrictions may apply. Reproduction or digitization of materials for personal or research use can be requested using our reproduction/digitization form: <http://bit.ly/scuareproduction>. Reproduction or digitization of materials for publication or exhibit use can be requested using our publication/exhibition form: <http://bit.ly/scuapublication>. Please contact Special Collections and University Archives (specref@vt.edu or 540-231-6308) if you need assistance with forms or to submit a completed form.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection was acquired by Special Collections and University Archives prior to 1992.

Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

The Harrison Museum of African American Culture first opened in 1985 in the Harrison School, a historically Black school in Roanoke, Virginia. The institution later relocated to downtown Roanoke in 2013, where it stood for twelve years before it moved once more to the Melrose Plaza Community Center in 2025. According to The Harrison Museum of African American Culture's website, the museum is a cultural and educational institution that is dedicated to preserving and displaying the history of African Americans and their contributions.

The oral history interviews were done in 1992, twelve years after the museum's opening, in partnership with Virginia Tech University Libraries. According to the museum's website, the interviewees were elders in the Roanoke Valley community. Their interviews ranged from biographical to detailed recollections of the Black communities in the Roanoke Valley and their significance to the history of Roanoke.

External Sources:

Harrison Museum of African American Culture, <https://harrisonmuseum.com/about/>, accessed on November 18, 2025.

Scope and Contents

Oral history project designed to interview African American residents of the Roanoke Valley in Virginia. The interviews cover the African American cultural, social, and political history in the Valley. Collection consists of approximately fifty-five interviews. Transcripts are available for forty of the interviews.

Related Materials

These oral history interviews were taken in conjunction with the Harrison Museum of African American Culture. The museum itself contains a plethora of artifacts, manuscript collections, and exhibits about the history of African American life in the Roanoke Valley.

Keywords

Keywords

Roanoke (Va.)
African Americans -- History
Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Women -- History

Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Hidden History: The Black Experience in the Roanoke Valley Cassette Tapes and Transcripts by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

Arrangement

The interview transcripts are arranged in alphabetical order by last name within each box. Box one contains forty oral history interview transcripts. Box two contains thirty-seven copies of those transcripts. Boxes three through ten contain the cassette tapes.

Description of Subordinate Components

Transcripts

box 1

Paul B. Adams Interview Transcript

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Robert and Mary Andrews Interview Transcript

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

James Henry Leslie Beane Interview Transcript

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Kelsy Brown Cooper Beshears Interview Transcript

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Eliza Louise Brown Interview Transcript

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Edward T. Burton Interview Transcript

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Wendell H. Butler Interview Transcript

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Ernest Calloway Interview Transcript

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Container 8 (folder)

Richard Chubb Interview Transcript

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 9 (folder)

Herbert Davis Interview Transcript

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Container 10 (folder)

Beulah M. Dennis Interview Transcript

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Container 11 (folder)

A. Beatrice Hackley Interview Transcript

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 12 (folder)

Charles Raymond Hale Interview Transcript

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Container 13 (folder)

George Heller Interview Transcript

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 14 (folder)

Wendell C. Hipkins Interview Transcript

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Container 15 (folder)

Alphonso Holland, Sr. Interview Transcript

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Container 16 (folder)

John Holland Interview Transcript

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Container 17 (folder)

Veron Holland Interview Transcript

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Container 18 (folder)

Howard B. Hopkins Interview Transcript

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Container 19 (folder)

Lynburn M. Hylton Interview Transcript

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Container 20 (folder)

Jessie P. Jones Interview Transcript

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Container 21 (folder)

Sandra Smith Jordan Interview Transcript

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Container 22 (folder)

Margie M. Jumper Interview Transcript

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Container 23 (frame)

Barbara Otey Keeling Interview Transcript

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Container 24 (folder)

Catherine Morris McCain Interview Transcript

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Container 25 (folder)

Dorothy Mendenhall Interview Transcript

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Container 26 (folder)

Rosa W. Miller Interview Transcript

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Container 27 (folder)

J. Rapier Mosley Interview Transcript

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Container 28 (folder)

Leslie Polk Interview Transcript

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Container 29 (folder)

Rev. Dr. Alfred S. Prunty Interview Transcript

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Container 30 (folder)

Ruth B. Scott Interview Transcript

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Container 31 (folder)

Rebecca Stewart Interview Transcript

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Container 32 (folder)

Dorothy Brooks Stuart Interview Transcript

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Container 33 (frame)

William Taborn Interview Transcript

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Container 34 (folder)

Juanita Taylor Interview Transcript

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Container 35 (folder)

Lucy Taylor Interview Transcript

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Container 36 (folder)

Claudia Whitworth Interview Transcript

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Container 37 (folder)

Mary Williams about her husband C.C. Williams Interview Transcript

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

Leonard Williams Interview Transcript

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Container 39 (folder)

Dorothy Witten Interview Transcript

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Container 40 (folder)

Duplicate Transcripts

box 2

Copy of the Robert and Mary Andrews Interview Transcript

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Container 1 (folder)

Copy of the James Henry Leslie Interview Transcript

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Container 2 (folder)

Copy of the Kelsy Brown Cooper Beshears Interview Transcript

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Container 3 (folder)

Copy of the Eliza Louise Brown Interview Transcript

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Container 4 (folder)

Copy of the Edward T. Burton Interview Transcript

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Container 5 (folder)

Copy of the Ernest Calloway Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Richard Chubb Interview Transcript

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Container 7 (folder)

Copy of the Herbert Davis Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Beulah M. Dennis Interview Transcript

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Copy of the A. Beatrice Hackley Interview Transcript

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Container 10 (folder)

Copy of the Charles Raymond Hale Interview Transcript

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Copy of the George Hellar Interview Transcript

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Container 12 (folder)

Copy of the Wendell C. Hipkins Interview Transcript

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Container 13 (folder)

Copy of the Alphonso Holland, Sr. Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Veron Holland Interview Transcript

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Container 15 (folder)

Copy of the Howard B. Hopkins Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Lynburn M. Hylton Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Jessie P. Jones Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Sandra Smith Jordan Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Margie M. Jumper Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Barbara Otey Keeling Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Catherine Morris McCain Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Dorothy Mendenhall Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Rosa W. Miller Interview Transcript

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Copy of the J. Rapier Mosley Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Leslie Polk Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Alfred S. Prunty Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Ruth B. Scott Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Rebecca Stewart Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Dorothy Brooks Stuart Interview Transcript

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Copy of the William Taborn Interview Transcript

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Copy of the Juanita Taylor Interview Transcript

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Container 32 (folder)

Copy of the Lucy Taylor Interview Transcript

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Container 33 (folder)

Copy of the Claudia Whitworth Interview Transcript

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Container 34 (folder)

Copy of the Leonard Williams Interview Transcript

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Container 35 (folder)

Copy of the Mary Williams Interview bout Her Husband C.C. Williams Transcript

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Container 36 (folder)

Copy of the Dorothy Witten Interview Transcript

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Cassette Tapes

box 3

Paul B. Adams Interview

Unit Date 1992

item 3 (box)

Container 1 (item)

Robert and Mary Andrews Interview

Unit Date 1992

item 3 (box)

Container 2 (item)

Alphonso Banks Interview

Unit Date 1992

item 3 (box)

Container 3 (item)

James Henry Leslie Beane Interview

Unit Date 1992

item 3 (box)

Container 4 (item)

Kelsy Brown Cooper Beshears Interview**Unit Date** 1992**item** 3 (box)**Container** 5 (item)**John H. Branson Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 3 (box)**Container** 6 (item)**Charlie L. Bratton Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 3 (box)**Container** 7 (item)**Eliza Louise Brown Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 3 (box)**Container** 8 (item)**Emma Brown Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 3 (box)**Container** 9 (item)**Vida Brown Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 3 (box)**Container** 10 (item)**Edward T. Burton Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 3 (box)**Container** 11 (item)**Wendell H. Butler Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 3 (box)**Container** 12 (item)**Ernest Calloway Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 3 (box)**Container** 13 (item)**Richard L. Chubb Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 3 (box)**Container** 14 (item)

John B. Claytor, Jr. Interview**Unit Date** 1992**item** 3 (box)**Container** 15 (item)**Walter Claytor Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 3 (box)**Container** 16 (item)**Cassette Tapes****box** 4**Theodore Holland Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 4 (box)**Container** 1 (item)**John Holland Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 4 (box)**Container** 2 (item)**Alphonso L. Holland Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 4 (box)**Container** 3 (item)**Wendell C. Hipkins Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 4 (box)**Container** 4 (item)**George Heller Interview Tape One****Unit Date** 1992**item** 4 (box)**Container** 5 (item)**George Heller Interview Tape Two****Unit Date** 1992**item** 4 (box)**Container** 6 (item)**Charles Raymond Hale Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 4 (box)**Container** 7 (item)

Reverend Charles T. Green Interview Tape One

Unit Date 1992

item 4 (box)

Container 8 (item)

Reverend Charles T. Green Interview Tape Two

Unit Date 1992

item 4 (box)

Container 9 (item)

Reverend Charles T. Green Interview Tape Three

Unit Date 1992

item 4 (box)

Container 10 (item)

Emerson Gilmer Interview Tape One

Unit Date 1992

item 4 (box)

Container 11 (item)

Emerson Gilmer Interview Tape Two

Unit Date 1992

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Container 12 (item)

Florine Taylor Fulford Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Beulah M. Dennis Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Herbert Davis Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Container 15 (item)

Sallye Coleman Interview Tape One

Unit Date 1992

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Container 16 (item)

Sallye Coleman Interview Tape Two

Unit Date 1992

item 4 (box)

Container 17 (item)

Cassette Tapes

box 5

Ulysses Randolph Interview Tape One

Unit Date 1992

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Container 1 (item)

Ulysses Randolph Interview Tape Two

Unit Date 1992

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Reverend Dr. Alfred S. Prunty Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Leslie Polk Interview

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Mr. Lewis Perry Interview

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Jo Rapier Mosley Interview

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Rosa W. Miller Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Dorothy Mendenhall Interview

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Katherine McCain Interview

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Barbara Keeling Interview

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Margie M. Jumper Interview

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Sandra Jordan Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Container 12 (item)

Jessie P. Jones Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Container 13 (item)

Mr. Lynburn Hylton Interview

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Howard B. Hopkins Interview

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Container 15 (item)

Ms. Veron Holland Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Container 16 (item)

Theodore Holland Interview Tape Two

Unit Date 1992

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Container 17 (item)

Cassette Tapes

box 6

Dorothy Witten Interview

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Mrs. C.C. Williams (Mary) Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Leonard Williams Interview**Unit Date** 1992**item** 6 (box)**Container** 3 (item)**Mrs. Claudia Whitworth Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 6 (box)**Container** 4 (item)**Lucy Taylor Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 6 (box)**Container** 5 (item)**Juanita Taylor Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 6 (box)**Container** 6 (item)**William W. Taborn Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 6 (box)**Container** 7 (item)**Mrs. Dorothy Brooks Stewart Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 6 (box)**Container** 8 (item)**Rebecca Stewart Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 6 (box)**Container** 9 (item)**A. Byron Smith Interview Tape One****Unit Date** 1992**item** 6 (box)**Container** 10 (item)**A. Byron Smith Interview Tape Two****Unit Date** 1992**item** 6 (box)**Container** 11 (item)**Evelyn B. Skipper Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 6 (box)**Container** 12 (item)

Anne F. Sheppard Interview**Unit Date** 1992**item** 6 (box)**Container** 13 (item)**Ruth B. Scott Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 6 (box)**Container** 14 (item)**Cassette Tapes****box** 7**Richard L. Chubb Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 7 (box)**Container** 1 (item)**Dr. Walter Claytor****Unit Date** 1992**item** 7 (box)**Container** 2 (item)**Ernest Calloway****Unit Date** 1992**item** 7 (box)**Container** 3 (item)**Wendell Butler Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 7 (box)**Container** 4 (item)**Edward T. Burton Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 7 (box)**Container** 5 (item)**Emma Brown Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 7 (box)**Container** 6 (item)**Eliza Louis Brown Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 7 (box)**Container** 7 (item)

Kelsy B. Cooper Beshears Interview

Unit Date 1992

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James Henry Leslie Beane Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Robert and Mary Andrews Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Paul B. Adams Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Cassette Tapes

box 8

Veron Holland Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Alphonso L. Holland Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Container 2 (item)

John Holland Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Wendell C. Hipkins

Unit Date 1992

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Mr. George C. Heller Interview Tape One

Unit Date 1992

item 8 (box)

Container 5 (item)

Mr. George C. Heller Interview Tape Two

Unit Date 1992

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Container 6 (item)

Charles Raymond Hale Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Beulah M. Dennis Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Herbert Davis Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Cassette Tapes

box 9

Reverend Dr. Alfred Prunty Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Leslie Jones Polk Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Jo Rapier Mosley Interview

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Rosa W. Miller Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Dorothy Mendenhall Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Catherine McCain Interview**Unit Date** 1992**item** 9 (box)**Container** 6 (item)**Barbara Keeling Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 9 (box)**Container** 7 (item)**Margie M. Jumper Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 9 (box)**Container** 8 (item)**Sandra Jordan Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 9 (box)**Container** 9 (item)**Jessie P. Jones Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 9 (box)**Container** 10 (item)**Mr. Lynburn Hylton Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 9 (box)**Container** 11 (item)**Howard B. Hopkins Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 9 (box)**Container** 12 (item)**Cassette Tapes****box** 10**Dorothy Witten Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 10 (box)**Container** 1 (item)**Leonard Williams Interview****Unit Date** 1992**item** 10 (box)**Container** 2 (item)

C.C. Williams (Mary) Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Mrs. Claudia Whitworth Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Juanita Taylor Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Lucy Taylor Interview

Unit Date 1992

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William W. Taborn Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Dorothy Brooks Stuart Interview

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Ruth B. Scott Interview

Unit Date 1992

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Rebecca Stewart Interview

Unit Date 1992

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