

# Stories of Segregation in Bluefield, Virginia Oral History Collection

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2023



## Title Statement

Stories of Segregation in Bluefield, Virginia Oral History Collection  
Stories of Segregation in Bluefield, Virginia Oral History Collection, 2023 Ms.2024.076

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## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

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2024

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-03-04 15:37:28 -0500.

**Language Usage:** English

## Revision Description

**2025-03-03** Ella Winterling added Existence and Location of Copies.

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.2024.076

### Unit Date

2023

### Language

The material of this collection is in English.

### Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet

### Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

### **Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is open for research, with the exception of some restricted materials that are not available to the public.

### **Use Restrictions**

Permission to publish material from the Bluefield Oral History Project must be obtained from Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech.

### **Source of Acquisition**

Interviews were acquired by Special Collections and University Archives in 2023. Additional oral histories will be added to the collection as they are conducted and processed.

### **Processing Information**

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Bluefield Oral History Project was completed in August 2024.

### **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Stories of Segregation in Bluefield, Virginia, MS2024-076, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

## **Biographical Note**

This collection began as a research project for how segregation changes over time in Bluefield, Virginia. Bluefield was established as a railway hub that served the Appalachian coalfields of southern West Virginia. The coal produced great wealth in the region, and Bluefield was the recipient. The railroad lines that served as its economic lifeline went down the middle of the valley with high mountains on both the north and south sides. The boundary of the railroad and mountain provided the physical limitations of the town, easing the establishment of segregated neighborhoods that faced each other across the valley.

## **Scope and Content**

This collection was donated as a research project on the personal significance of the historically segregated neighborhoods of Bluefield, West Virginia, and Bluefield, Virginia. Gregory Galford, Vonnia Davis, Micaela Appelbaum, and Jessica Taylor interviewed residents and former residents of these segregated neighborhoods to reconstruct a previously unrecorded history of how segregated space in this regional hub has changed over time.

## **Keywords**

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South  
African Americans -- History

## **Existence and Location of Copies**

Some of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

## **Description of Subordinate Components**

### **Joseph Bundy**

**Unit Date** 2023-05-04

### **William Connelly**

**Unit Date** 2023-05-10

### **Tyrone Curtis**

**Unit Date** 2023-06-21

### **Deloris French**

**Unit Date** 2023-02-24

**Alethia Gore**

**Unit Date** 2023-02-24

**Ray Hamlet**

**Unit Date** 2023-02-24

**Pamela and Cloyd Jeffries**

**Unit Date** 2023-02-24

**Harry Johnson**

**Unit Date** 2023-06-21

**Freddie Millner**

**Unit Date** 2023-02-24

**Tim Moore**

**Unit Date** 2023-02-24

**Cecilia Myers**

**Unit Date** 2023-05-03

**Anneka Perry**

**Unit Date** 2023-06-06

**Sarah Ponder**

**Unit Date** 2023-02-24

**James Robinson -- Restricted**

**Unit Date** 2023-06-21

**Vance Ross**

**Unit Date** 2023-06-21

**Sevealyn Smith**

**Unit Date** 2023-05-03

**Charles Thompson**

**Unit Date** 2023-02-24

**Angelia Whiting**

**Unit Date** 2023-05-10