

# Norfolk Women's Oral History Project

Norfolk Women's Oral History Project  
circa 1971-1974

---

## Title Statement

Norfolk Women's Oral History Project A Guide to the Norfolk Women's Oral History Project RG 17-28B2

**Author:** Mel Frizzell

## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** ODU University Archives

3000 Perry Library  
4427 Hampton Blvd.  
Norfolk, VA 23529  
Telephone: 757-683-5350  
libspecialcollections@odu.edu  
URL: <https://www.odu.edu/library/special-collections>

---

00/00/2013

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-25 07:01:42 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Finding aid written in English.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

RG 17-28B2

### Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/52

### Unit Date

circa 1971-1974

### Language

English

### Abstract

The Norfolk Women's Oral History Project was conducted between 1971 and 1974 as a project of the newly formed ODU Women's Studies program. The project was headed by Jean E. Friedman, instructor in the History Department at ODU. The project was initiated to explore women's sexual attitudes in the 1930s.

### Creator

Old Dominion University. Department of Women's Studies

### Extent

0.40 Linear Feet

### Extent

1 Hollinger document case boxes

### Repository

ODU University Archives

# Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

Open to researchers without restrictions.

## Conditions Governing Use

Before publishing quotations or excerpts from any materials, permission must be obtained from Special Collections and University Archives, and the holder of the copyright, if not Old Dominion University Libraries.

## Source of Acquisition

Unknown

## Method of Acquisition

Transfer.

## Processing Information

The collection was processed and finding aid created by Mel Frizzell, Special Collections Assistant, in 2015.

## Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Box [insert number], Folder [insert number and title], Norfolk Women's Oral History Project, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

# Biographical or Historical Information

The Norfolk Women's Oral History Project was conducted between 1971 and 1974 as a project of the newly formed ODU Women's Studies program. Organizers included Tania Modleski, a well-known professor of feminist theory at the University of Southern California and Nadia Coiner. Numerous faculty members, mainly instructors, team-taught a course in Women's Studies. The Course provided material for the development of additional courses in women's literature, history, and other topics.

The project was headed by Jean E. Friedman, instructor in the History Department at ODU. The project was initiated to explore women's sexual attitudes in the 1930s. The period was chosen because the subject was especially taboo during the Great Depression. Students who took the Women's Studies course, and also women associated with the feminist movement on campus, volunteered to interview women on the subject. Volunteers were asked to read background material and use the questions on the questionnaires provided. Students went with Friedman to learn interviewing techniques; other volunteers such as Irene Roughton were adults.

Two groups of women were interviewed to compare their attitudes regarding marriage and career, birth control, and dating habits. The two groups of women were elite women identified in newspapers of the 1930s for their charity efforts on behalf of a Norfolk hospital and working-class women associated with a local factory. The questions asked of both groups somewhat parallel the Kinsey and Hamilton questionnaires of the 1930s.

Note written by Mel Frizzell

# Scope and Contents

This collection contains oral history transcripts, interview questions, and other material from the Norfolk Women's Oral History Project, a project conducted by the Women's Studies Program from 1971 to 1974. The project was initiated to explore women's sexual attitudes in the 1930s.

The transcripts of the oral histories have been digitized and are available in the Old Dominion University Libraries Digital Collections.

# Keywords

Sex--1930-1940

Old Dominion University. Department of Women's Studies

# Description of Subordinate Components

## Box 1

Unit ID Box 1

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival\_objects/11778

## **Mixed Materials 1 (box)**

### **Folder 1: Project Overview**

**Unit ID** Folder 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/11779

**Unit Date** circa 1971-1974

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

#### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 1, Project Overview, circa 1971-1974, Norfolk Women's Oral History Project, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

### **Folder 2: List of Interviewees and Interviewers**

**Unit ID** Folder 2

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/11780

**Unit Date** circa 1971-1974

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

#### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 2, List of Interviewees and Interviewers, circa 1971-1974, Norfolk Women's Oral History Project, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

#### **Scope and Contents**

Lists a tape 18 but there is currently no tape 18 in the collection.

### **Folder 3: Typed Interview Questions**

**Unit ID** Folder 3

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/11781

**Unit Date** circa 1971-1974

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

#### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 3, Typed Interview Questions, circa 1971-1974, Norfolk Women's Oral History Project, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

### **Folder 4: Handwritten Interview Questions and Notes**

**Unit ID** Folder 4

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/11782

**Unit Date** circa 1971-1974

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

#### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 4, Handwritten Interview Questions and Notes, circa 1971-1974, Norfolk Women's Oral History Project, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

### **Folder 5: Phone Inquiries**

**Unit ID** Folder 5

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/11783

**Unit Date** circa 1971-1974

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 5, Phone Inquiries, circa 1971-1974, Norfolk Women's Oral History Project, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 6: Transcribed Interviews Focusing on Sex Roles of the 1930s, as Influenced by the Depression**

**Unit ID** Folder 6

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/11784

**Unit Date** circa 1971-1974

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 6, Transcribed Interviews Focusing on Sex Roles of the 1930s, as Influenced by the Depression, circa 1971-1974, Norfolk Women's Oral History Project, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 7: Transcribed Interviews Focusing on Sex Roles of the 1930s, as Influenced by the Depression**

**Unit ID** Folder 7

**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival\_objects/11785

**Unit Date** circa 1971-1974

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 7, Transcribed Interviews Focusing on Sex Roles of the 1930s, as Influenced by the Depression, circa 1971-1974, Norfolk Women's Oral History Project, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.