

Antioch Piney Swamp Project records

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2024

Title Statement

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spcoll@wm.edu
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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00423

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/9998

Unit Date

2024

Language

English

Extent

140 Megabytes

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Content Description

Research files and oral history collection about the history of the Antioch Baptist Church in Gloucester, Virginia. Oral histories will be accessioned at the item level.

Keywords

African American churches

African Americans--History

African Americans--Virginia--Gloucester County

General

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Description of Subordinate Components

Crowell, Nathaniel Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647856

Unit Date 2024 August 4

Extent 743.2 Megabytes

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred to Jay Gaidmore, Director of Special Collections Research Center, via Microsoft OneDrive.

Scope and Contents

Nathaniel Crowell is a descendent of founding members of Antioch Baptist Church and current resident of New York City, NY. Crowell explains his relation to Piney Swamp community member, Florida Patterson, through his paternal grandmother's family, and relays information about her immediate family's lives in Piney Swamp. He relays information such as various family members' and community individuals' occupations, anecdotes about their day-to-day lives, and how many families eventually relocated to states such as New York and Pennsylvania.

Keywords

African American churches

African Americans

African Americans--Virginia--Gloucester County

Gloucester County (Va.)--History

Gloucester County (Va.)--Genealogy.

African Americans--History
Oral histories

Interview

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647857

Unit Date 2024 August 4

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647858

Unit Date 2024 August 4

Carter-Shamai, Sam Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/648001

Unit Date 2024 August 4

Extent 592.3 Megabytes

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred to Jay Gaidmore, Director of Special Collections Research Center, via Microsoft OneDrive.

Scope and Contents

Sam Carter-Shamai is a resident of Toronto and descendant of founding members of Antioch Baptist Church in Gloucester, VA. In this oral history, he recalls the lives of his family in Gloucester County before moving to Toronto. He describes his parents' and grandparents' struggles during the era of Jim Crow while living in the area, as well as his grandfather's involvement as a local chair of a branch of the NAACP. He goes on to relay details regarding the foundation of Antioch Baptist Church, such as it being the result of a schism from the members of the nearby First Baptist Church. Additionally, he describes the conditions which led to his family relocating to Canada.

Keywords

African American churches

African Americans

African Americans--History

African Americans--Virginia--Gloucester County

Gloucester County (Va.)--History

Gloucester County (Va.)--Genealogy.

Interview

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/648002

Unit Date 2024 August 4

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/648003

Unit Date 2024 August 4

Edith Townes and Marquis Townes Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647860

Unit Date 2024 August 4

Extent 1.58 Gigabytes

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred to Jay Gaidmore via Microsoft OneDrive.

Scope and Contents

Edith Townes, and her son, Marquis Townes, recount their family history with the Historic Antioch Church & Cemetery in Gloucester County. They resided between Baltimore, Maryland, and Virginia over the course of their lives, and speak about their upbringings, the relationship between First Baptist and Antioch, local history, and church events.

Keywords

Oral histories

Libraries -- Special collections -- Oral history
African American women--History--Sources
African American churches
Baptist Church--Virginia--History
Baptism and church membership

Interview

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647861

Unit Date 2024 August 4

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647862

Unit Date 2024 August 4

Lenora Davis and David Davis Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647847

Unit Date 2024 August 3

Extent 499.9 Megabytes

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred to Jay Gaidmore via Microsoft OneDrive.

Scope and Contents

Lenora Davis recounts the history of her family's involvement with the Historic Antioch Church & Cemetery in Gloucester County with the assistance of David Davis. Her great-grandfather John Allen helped establish the church, and her family has been involved in its' operation ever since. She also speaks about her life growing up in Maryland and Virginia, touching on topics such a desegregation, urban vs rural living, and religious ceremonies.

Keywords

Desegregation
Baptist Church--Virginia--History
Baptism and church membership
African American churches
African American women--History--Sources
Libraries -- Special collections -- Oral history
Oral histories

Interview

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647848

Unit Date 2024 August 3

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647849

Unit Date 2024 August 3

Cynthia Foster Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647853

Unit Date 2024 August 3

Extent 288.8 Megabytes

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred to Jay Gaidmore via Microsoft OneDrive.

Scope and Contents

Cynthia Foster speaks about growing up and living in Gloucester County, as well as her personal and familial relationship with The Historic Antioch Church & Cemetery. She recounts her father's experience as a preacher; a roll that she served later on.

Keywords

Oral histories

Libraries -- Special collections -- Oral history

Baptist Church--Virginia--History

Baptism and church membership

African American women--History--Sources

African American churches

Interview

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647854

Unit Date 2024 August 3

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647855

Unit Date 2024 August 3

Marble, Medina Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647850

Unit Date 2024 August 2

Extent 595.4 Megabytes

Scope and Contents

Medina Marble is a member of the Baptist ministry and community member of Antioch Baptist Church in Gloucester, VA. Marble describes her early life growing up in Clifton Forge and the role of Christianity in her upbringing. She describes her profession as a teacher at the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Hampton, VA and her later calling to become involved in the Baptist ministry in the 1980s. Marble goes on to describe her involvement with the community once she arrived in Gloucester and the importance Antioch Baptist Church had on her life. She describes the changing size and involvement of the congregation through periods of her life and major historical events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scope and Contents

Transferred to Jay Gaidmore, Director of Special Collections Research Center, via Microsoft OneDrive.

Keywords

African American churches

African Americans

African Americans--History

African Americans--Virginia--Gloucester County

Gloucester County (Va.)--History

Interview

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647851

Unit Date 2024 August 2

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647852

Unit Date 2024 August 2

Marsha Spencer Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647863

Unit Date 2024 August 3

Extent 451.7 Megabytes

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred to Jay Gaidmore via Microsoft OneDrive.

Scope and Contents

Marsha Green Spencer speaks about her childhood and her relationship with the Historic Antioch Church & Cemetery in Gloucester County. She names local residents that she met growing up, discusses an

encounter her father had with the Ku Klux Klan, and describes the school life of her parents under segregation.

Keywords

Race discrimination

Oral histories

Libraries -- Special collections -- Oral history

Baptist Church--Virginia--History

Baptism and church membership

African American women--History--Sources

African American churches

African Americans -- Segregation

Interview

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647864

Unit Date 2024 August 3

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/647865

Unit Date 2024 August 3

Smith, Timothy Oral History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/648004

Unit Date 2024 August 3

Extent 700.1 Megabytes

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred via Microsoft OneDrive to Jay Gaidmore, Director of Special Collections Research Center.

Scope and Contents

Timothy Smith is a resident of Gloucester County and member of the Antioch Baptist Church congregation. In this oral history, he recalls his family history and childhood growing up in the Piney Swamp area of Gloucester County, VA in the 1960s and 1970s. He goes on to describe aspects of Antioch Baptist Church's history, including events such as the wiring of the church for electricity in the 1970s and the tornado that struck the church in 2000. He also describes other developments in the church, such as renovations, the installation of air conditioning, and bell/steeple replacements. He explains that many of the stories he had heard regarding the church's building history were from former deacon, Donald Grimes.

Keywords

African American churches

Oral histories

African Americans--History

African Americans--Virginia--Gloucester County

Gloucester County (Va.)

Gloucester County (Va.)--History

Gloucester County (Va.)--Genealogy.

Interview

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/648005

Unit Date 2024 August 3

Transcript

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/648006

Unit Date 2024 August 3