



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

A Directory of Oral History in the National Park Service

Third Edition

March 2015

Lu Ann Jones

Staff Historian

Park History Division

Table of Contents

1. Preface	2-6
2. Acknowledgements	7-8
3. Directory of Oral History Projects	9-84
4. Oral History Publications	84-85
5. NPS Oral History on the Web	85-86

Preface

People make history, and their stories are among the most valuable resources that the National Park Service preserves and protects for future generations. Scores of parks use oral history interviews to document the people and events they commemorate and to capture the history of individual parks. People who have shared their stories include Civilian Conservation Corps members, the families, friends, and neighbors of former presidents, immigrants who stepped ashore at Ellis Island, veterans of World War II, foot soldiers and leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, native elders in Alaska, and park personnel. Interviews bring history alive for visitors as they enrich interpretative programs and exhibits. They also inform management decisions as they contribute to historic resource studies, cultural landscape reports, and administrative histories.

This directory is an effort to describe the oral history projects that have been completed or are under way throughout the Park Service and to illustrate how parks are using interviews. It builds upon the work of Janet A. McDonnell, former bureau historian, who in 2001 conducted a survey of oral history in the Park Service. More than a hundred parks responded, describing the scope and scale of their projects and the

myriad ways they were used.¹ I hope that this compilation will showcase oral history research within the Park Service, encourage communication among oral history practitioners, and generate support for the work.

The method that I used to compile directory entries combined serendipity and system. Rather than conducting another survey that placed the burden on park personnel, I chose instead to begin with descriptions from the 2001 survey, information that I could find via Web searches, and references from colleagues in the field. After I drafted a description of a park's oral history projects I then contacted the historian, ethnographer, curator or archivist in charge of oral history and asked for corrections and amplifications. A key benefit of a one-on-one approach was the opportunity to meet many colleagues engaged in oral history throughout the Park Service, to learn more about their projects and to understand the challenges they face when resources of time and money are slim.

For over half-a-century, the Park Service has used oral history to expand its knowledge of cultural and natural resources and to share that knowledge with visitors. As early as the 1930s, a curator at the Thomas Edison National Historical Park recorded conversations via

¹ Janet A. McDonnell, "Documenting Cultural and Historical Memory: Oral History in the National Park Service," *Oral History Review*, 30/ 2 (2003): 99-109. See also J. Todd Moye, "The Tuskegee Airmen Oral History Project, and Oral History in the National Park Service," *The Journal of American History* 89/2 (September 2002): 580-587. These articles and other oral history resources are available [here](#).

telephone as he spoke with several former Edison employees. The forty-one Ediphone brown wax dictation cylinders are in the park's collection. The Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site pioneered oral history in the United States. Between 1947 and 1951 George A. Palmer, ROVA's superintendent, and Frederick D. Rath, Jr., park historian, made wire recordings with friends, neighbors, local political advisers, staff and associates of the families of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Frederick W. Vanderbilt. Palmer and Rath anticipated the use of oral history by social and labor historians when they interviewed President Roosevelt's secretary, chief telephone operator, tenant farmer, outdoor handyman, and an estate gardener and his wife. They also interviewed a Roosevelt family houseman and butler and Mr. Vanderbilt's butler.² Interviewing projects have continued apace, and in 2003, Donald A. Ritchie, a veteran oral historian in the federal government, estimated that the Park Service had "the most ongoing oral history projects" of all federal agencies.³

Even as the Park Service has created thousands of oral history interviews, interviewing efforts have sometimes been undermined by a

² For more about the earliest collecting efforts, see: Frederick L. Rath, Jr., "Oral History: The Hyde Park Project," *CRM*, vol. 16, no. 10 (1993): 1, 3-6; and W. D. Urbin, "Wards of the Hyde Park Project," *CRM*, vol. 16, no. 10 (1993): 12. Read about the Hyde Park Project [here](#).

³ Donald A. Ritchie, *Doing Oral History, A Practical Guide*, 2nd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press), p. 42. During a July 2009 conversation Ritchie speculated that the U. S. military now outpaces the Park Service's oral history efforts.

lack of training and insufficient resources to process and protect recordings. As a result, use of some collections described below may be limited. Some might not have necessary legal release forms that make public use possible. Others might have been recorded in formats or on technologies that are no longer viable. In many cases, transcripts do not exist.⁴

As the National Park Service approaches its Centennial, oral history offers many opportunities to contribute to the commemoration. What better time than now to preserve the memories of superintendents, rangers, and other personnel who can tell the Park Service story from the inside out? What better time to use the stories of Park Service elders to help educate a new generation of leaders? What better time to document how humans shape and are shaped by different environments and advance our understanding of both natural and cultural resource stewardship? What better time to record the recollections of visitors whose stories about how they experienced, used, and found meanings in parks might inform planning for future generations?

This oral history directory contains brief descriptions of projects organized alphabetically by park. Also included are a list of published

⁴ On the uneven nature of Park Service oral history collections, see McDonnell, "Documenting Cultural and Historical Memory: Oral History in the National Park Service."

oral histories and Web sites where one can listen to interviews and read entire transcripts.

Have projects in your park been overlooked? Please send a description of your projects to luann_jones@nps.gov and we will continue to update the directory.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the many people who took time from busy schedules to edit and write directory descriptions. They include:

Todd Arrington at JAGA; Christy Baker at APIS; Patti Bell at MEVE; Brandon Bies of GWMP; Gail Bishop at GUI5; Barbara Black at Flight 93; John Branson of LACL; Jane Bryant of DENA; Kelly Cahill at NOCA; Joel Cadoff at FOPU; Colette Carmouche at PRWI; Ed Chamberlain at HUTR; Brooke Childrey at MORA; Alan Chilton at FOSC; Judith Collins at INDU; Leslie Courtright at ZION; Bryan Culpepper at OZAR; Gregory Cunningham at PUHE; Janine da Silva at NEBE; Carol Dage at HSTR; Carola DeRooy at PORI; Henry Duffy at SAGA; Gerald Fabris at EDIS; Tom Farrell at WICA; Amalin Ferguson at WASO; Kate Funk at JICA; Dustin Fuqua at CARI; John R. George at STRI; David Guerst at NERI; Karl Gurcke at KLG0; Susan Haake at LIHO; Robyn Harris at SEMO; Annette Hartigan at GRSM; Carol Hegeman of EISE; Lana Henry at GWCA; Lenora M. Henson at THRI; Jack Herlihy at LOWE; Mark Hertig of AGFO; Patricia Hodge of INDU; Kate Hogue at BIBE/FODA; Taylor Horton at SAFR; Jackie Holt at BLRI; Michelle Huff at NICO; Bill Hulslander at COSW; Gay Hunter at OLYM; Colleen Hyde at GRCA; Willie R. Johnson of KEMO; Suzanne R. Johnson at BISO; Jason Jurgena at HOME; Eric Leonard at CHIC; Dave Kayser at SAMA; David Kayser at CAVE; Virginia Kilby at LYJO; Shannon Kovic at KEFJ; Janis Kozlowski at AKSO; Eric Leonard at CHIC; Anne Lewellen at TIMU; Maria Malo at AMIS; Rose Manibuson at WAPA; John McDade at ACAD; Alex McKenzie at SPAR; Jennifer McKinney at LAMR; Pat McKnight at STEA; Robert Manasek at SCBL; Stephen R. Marks of CRLA; Alan Marsh of ANDE; Zane Martin at MORU; Kathryn Meyers of LACL/KATM/ANIA/ALAG; Laura A. Miller at CHSC; Dorothy Moon at UPDE; Bob Moore at JEFF; Kandace Muller at SHEN; Robert Munson at CABR; David P. Ogden at GUI5; Diana Pardue of STLI; Richard Potashin at MANZ; Jason G. Powell at CAHA; Laura J. Quackenbush at SLBE; Charissa Reid at YELL; Ed Roach at DAAV; Veronica Rodriguez of RORI; Vivien E. Rose at WOR1; Thom Rosenblum at BRVB; Nancy J. Russell of Southern Florida Collection Management Center, EVER; Sue Rutman at ORPI; Pam Sanfilippo at ULSG; Jean M. Schaeppi at SACN; Jeanne Schaaf at LACL; Peggy Scherbaum at HFC; Gail Sears at HOSP; Timbo

Sims at BOWA; Linda Slater at MOJA; Carol Sperling at GRSA; Doug Stover at CAHA; Ashely Tate at CARL; Steve Theus at JICA; Klydie Thomas at MAWA; Jo Urion at KEWE; Liz Valencia at ISRO; Linda Valois at SAMO; Jennie Vasarhelyi at CUVA; Matthew Virta at GWMP; Terrie Wallace at MIMA; Vicki Webster at CANY; Hannah Nyala West at JOTR; Meris Westberg at NACE; Scott M. Whitesides at GOGA; Martha Wiley at CUGA; Amanda Williford at GOGA; Ahna Wilson at CHOH.

For help with proofreading and final editing, thanks to Brianne Cassetta, an intern with the Park History Program during the spring of 2009. For help updating the directory in 2015, thanks to another intern, Lilli Tichinin. For guidance and support, thanks to Robert K. Sutton, chief historian of the National Park Service.

Oral History in the National Park Service

Acadia National Park (ME): The park's oral history collection features twenty-nine interviews with former members of the Civilian Conservation Corps who were stationed at ACAD. In addition, there are some thirty interviews with long-time neighbors of the park who discuss fishing, boatbuilding, tending the St. Croix Lighthouse and other maritime topics, and interviews with former park employees, including a naturalist, an administrative assistant, and a museum curator whose father founded the park's museum. Oral histories are used by interpretative staff and researchers.

African Burial Ground National Monument (NY): In February 2009 StoryCorps offered monument visitors an opportunity to share and record their most memorable stories and experiences of visiting the African Burial Ground with loved ones and friends. More information is available [here](#).

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument (NE): For a 2008 historic resource study of the park, "Centuries along the Upper Niobrara," Gail Evans-Hatch conducted six oral histories with area ranchers and descendants of James Cook, whose land and American Indian artifact collection were the basis of the national monument. An older set of interviews (which have not been transcribed) are with people who discuss the Cook Collection (American Indian artifacts in the park's museum collection); visits to the Agate Springs Ranch in the early 20th century; early ranching stories; and creation of the park.

Alagnak Wild River (AK): The park has used interviews to document how tourism has affected traditional activities and to complete its 2008 resident users study. In addition, an interview with Alex Tallekpalek, a native resident of the Katmai village of Levelock, was recorded in 2001 as part of research completed before an NPS- led archeological survey was done along the banks of the Alaska river.

Aleutian World War II National Historic Area (AK): Since 1991 the staff has recorded more than one hundred interviews that forward the park's mission of documenting and preserving the memories of those who lived through the war. Narrators include military personnel who

served in Alaska; local people who lived through the war in Alaska; and Unangax (Aleut people) interned in the U.S. and Japan. Park staff members have incorporated personal stories from the oral history interviews in the park's interpretive documents (annual calendar, brochures, rack cards, and books), permanent and traveling exhibits, and its management plans. The interviews are currently being incorporated into a Web-based jukebox that includes audio/video clips, transcripts, photos, and short podcasts.

Alibates National Monument (TX): The Alibates National Monument and the Lake Meredith National Recreational Area are in the process of transcribing an oral history from park ranger and volunteer Ed Day. He was one of the first rangers at the park when it was established in 1965, and his extensive knowledge of the Texas Panhandle and the Alibates National Monument contribute greatly to the history of this area. His interview was recorded and park employees are working to transcribe the interviews and put together a complete oral history. In addition to the interviews, our volunteers have videotaped his demonstration as a master flint knapper and the video will be added to his oral history. Future projects with other National Park Service employees, volunteers, and archeologists will be added to this collection.

Amistad National Recreation Area (TX): In April 2010 Amistad will begin recording oral history stories of the area for "Family of Voices: Telling the Untold Stories," a project funded by the National Park Foundation's 2010 American's Best Idea Grant. The park will set up a sound recording booth and recording equipment in the visitor center and make it available to local community members, students, visitors, and current and retired employees. There are plans to have student members of a multimedia club interview two local residents who are over a hundred years old. Stories will be archived and some will be broadcast on a local radio station. Once an archive is established, visitors will be able to listen to stories at the visitor center by selecting them from a computer listing.

Andersonville National Historic Site (GA): The site's oral history program, led by Alan Marsh, consists of 953 interviews. Most are with former prisoners of war from World War II, the Korean War, the

Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War. Narrators discuss capture, the journey to prison, living conditions in captivity, torture, death of comrades, survival strategies, and liberation. A few interviews are with civilian internees and family members of POWs. Eight hours of interview footage are incorporated into thematic exhibit areas at the National Prisoner of War Museum. Visitors can access computers in an exhibit room (News and Communication, for example), select a war, choose an individual and play video-audio from an interview related to the exhibit room theme. Interviews have also been incorporated into a community theater play and Persian Gulf interviews have been featured on C-SPAN. A review that praises the museum's use of oral history interviews is Timothy J. Crimmins, "National Prisoner of War Museum," The Public Historian, vol. 24, no. 4 (Autumn 2002): 143-147.

Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve (AK): For an ethnographic overview and assessment, between 1967 and 1993 researchers from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and the NPS collected thirty-six tapes that documented the history of ANIA. Topics explored include residence and family history, resource use, stories and other subjects from both Native and non-Native interviewees. Many of the UAF interviews were in Alutiiq and were translated for the overview and assessment. In 2002 and 2003, ANIA gathered twenty-five taped interviews for a traditional use and user group identification study. In 2005 and 2006, as part of its historic resource study, the national monument also used oral history interviews to document its history and resource use. ANAI holds three tapes of the subsistence resource committee from 1985.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (WI): In the 1970s and 1980s the park collected some 140 audiotapes that guided restoration of facilities, provided information for interpretive programming and publications, and established baseline information on park resources. Among the most common topics or themes discussed were commercial and recreational fishing, logging, farming the Islands, tourism and recreation, Ojibwa uses of Islands resources, and lighthouse keepers. Narrators also talked about boatbuilding, food ways, schools, churches, and the history of various communities and families. Lakeshore interpreters have used the oral histories to

develop interpretive panels and exhibits at the Manitou Fish Camp and the Hokenson Fisheries, both of which include historic buildings and museum collections. The oral histories have also been used as sources for historical landscape and cultural landscape reports for six lighthouses and for Jane C. Busch's historic resource study, "People and Places: A Human History of the Apostle Islands" (Omaha: National Park Service, 2008).

Assateague Island National Seashore (VA): Since the 1980s the seashore has built a collection of interviews with farmers, coast guardsmen, market hunters, fishermen, conservationists, developers, beach vacationers, and former government employees whose stories help document the history of Assateague Island. Interviews with hunters, hunting shanty owners, hunting lodge managers, and participants in the 2000 Shantyboat Documentation Project were among the sources that Ralph E. Eshelman and Patricia A. Russell used for "Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland and Virginia," July 21, 2004. The study is available [here](#). The seashore is using oral histories in exhibits in a new visitor center.

Big Bend National Park & Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River (TX): For a description of oral history interviewing, archiving, and use see "Preserving Big Bend's Oral Legacy," "In the Beginning . . . Interviews Document Park's Creation and Growth," "Memories of La Coyota," and "Holding Hands with History," all in The Big Bend Paisano, vol. 24, no. 1 (Winter 2003): 5, 7, and at [the NPS Web site](#). According to the newsletter, Big Bend "is committed to preserving some of the most colorful memories" of the ranchers, farmers, cowboys, goat herders, miners, school teachers and government officials who have lived in the region. Since 1975 some 175 people who played a role in Big Bend history and the development of the national park have been interviewed. Some forty to fifty oral histories have been transcribed. Most recently, a park volunteer completed five interviews that focused on Mexican American families who settled and farmed the southwestern portion of the park and whose stories had gone largely untold. Staff members use oral history materials when developing interpretive programming.

Big Cypress National Preserve (FL): Between 1994 and 1997, members of the Student Conservation Association tape recorded and videotaped sixty current and former residents of the South Florida area. Topics discussed include Native American history; logging, sawmilling, cattle ranching, and agriculture; migrant farm labor and migrant labor camps; crop dusting; the history of Collier County and community institutions such as churches and schools; leisure activities such as hunting and fishing; the building of the Tamiami Trail; the proposed Jetport; and the development of the Preserve. A detailed finding aid for the collection (BICY 9763) is available.

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (KY, TN): The Big South Fork's oral history collection contains over 290 cassette tapes compiled from several different oral history projects conducted between 1976 and 2005 by the McCreary County Library, researchers with the Tennessee State Parks, and researchers from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Most of the interviewees live or once lived on land now contained within the park's boundaries and their stories offer a snapshot of daily life in the area of the Big South Fork. Narrators discuss economic opportunities in logging, the Blue Heron mine, and life in a mining community. The oral history collection contains valuable information that is slowly disappearing with the elderly residents of the area. As of 2010 not all of the oral histories housed at the Big South Fork have been transcribed but a transcribing project is underway.

For oral history projects completed in the 1980s, 1991, and 2004-2005, summary reports, tape recordings, tape logs or transcripts are housed at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Reports include "A Survey of Folklife Along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River" by Benita J. Howell with contributions by Susan S. Duda and Robert B. Tincher (Report of Investigations No. 30, Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1981); "Some is Better Getters": The 1991 Big South Fork Oral History Project" by Anne Malanka; and "Big South Fork Oral History Project, 2004/2005" by Dr. Kim McBride.

Blue Ridge Parkway (NC, VA): During the past four decades, the parkway has undertaken several oral history projects. Between 1965

and 1980 the park collected interviews with residents or former residents of areas along the parkway corridor; these areas included Peaks of Otter, Spruce Pine, Little Switzerland, Moses Cone Estate and Mabry Mill. Former parkway employees were also interviewed. Because release forms do not accompany these interviews they are available only to park interpretive staff. In 1978-1979 the American Folklife Center, in collaboration with the NPS, surveyed folk cultural traditions along the parkway, especially between Rocky Knob, VA, and Doughton Park, NC. Charles K. Wolfe of Middle Tennessee State University was the project's field director. Taped interviews, photographs, and field notes are housed at Virginia Tech libraries, Ms #86-009. For a collection description, click [here](#) .

In 1996 BLRI curator Jackie Holt conducted the Blue Ridge Parkway Oral History Project, comprised of some fifty interviews that documented the experience of people who built the parkway. Narrators included veterans of the Civilian Conservation Corps, NPS staff, employees of the Works Projects Administration, and conscientious objectors. In 2006 the parkway began an ethnographic assessment project that has generated some fifty interviews with community members and parkway employees.

Twenty to thirty of the parkway's oral history interviews will be featured on a Web site, "Driving through Time: The Digital Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina." Developed by historian Anne Mitchell Whisnant and the Carolina Digital Archive and Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the site will debut in 2010, the 75th anniversary of the parkway.

Booker T. Washington National Monument (VA): The monument has conducted two modest oral history projects. In 1964 interviews were conducted with Peter and Grover Robertson, members of the family that bought the Virginia piedmont farm from the family that owned Washington and his mother. The memories of the Robertson brothers helped establish placement of many of the present-day reconstructed buildings in the park's historic area. More recently, the monument has used oral history interviews to explore the history of the Booker T. Washington School, which now serves as park headquarters but

may one day be reverted to its original state and used for educational and interpretive programs.

Boston National Historic Park (MA): The park has fifty-six interviews relating to Boston Naval Shipyard employees and thirty-two interviews with US Navy veterans who served aboard the USS *Cassin Young*. Shipyard workers discussed their shops or offices, the nature of their work, the feeling of community, the opening of jobs to women during World War II, and the feeling of “mission,” especially during the war years. Many of the *Cassin Young* sailors and officers had served in WWII and focused on those experiences. Veterans who served after the war talk more about the nature of Navy life in peacetime. In addition, the park collected thirty-four oral histories at a Boston Naval Shipyard workers’ reunion held in 2000. Most were individuals who had worked in the navy yard after WWII; they discussed the same topics as earlier interviewees but without the home front emphasis that characterizes the war years.

Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site (KS): The Brown v. Topeka Board of Education Oral History Collection is housed at the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) in Topeka as well as at the NHS. According to the KSHS finding aid, the collection is comprised of transcripts and audiotapes of eighty interviews conducted between 1991 and 1996. Narrators included individuals involved with the Brown case in Kansas and companion cases that challenged racial segregation of public schools in Delaware, the District of Columbia, South Carolina, and Virginia. The collection looks at the background surrounding the landmark 1954 case of Brown from the perspective of the people who were involved in or affected by the cases before they reached the Supreme Court. Those interviewed included former students, community leaders and activists, plaintiffs, attorneys, expert witnesses, judges, and others affected by the outcome of the case. The finding aid for the oral history collection—including biographies of each interviewee and indexes to individual interviews—can be found at [the KSHS Web site](#). Since completion the oral histories have helped site interpreters convey the human dimension of the desegregation struggle and the complex connections among the several cases that led to the Brown decision.

More information on the Brown project can be found in Jean Van Delinder, “Oral Histories Capturing Forgotten Moments in Civil Rights History,” CRM Magazine, vol. 19, no. 2 (1996): 13-15; or at the [CRM Web site](#).

Buffalo National River (AR): In the 1980s and the early 1990s the park’s oral history program conducted interviews intended to record the history and folk life of the area while knowledgeable informants were still alive. One project targeted Boxley Valley, a historic district within the Arkansas park and an active community of private homes, farms, and churches. Interviews documented the community’s ethnographic life ways and how the park affected its residents. Oral history was also used to record information about park historic sites and structures, acquire information for a future administrative history, and conduct interviews of older residents for a park publication about the history of an ethnographic landscape in the park. The oral history collection includes more than 240 audiotapes and ten videotapes.

Cabrillo National Monument (CA): The monument’s oral history interviews have focused on veterans who were stationed in southern California coastal defenses during World War II. The park’s first historian, F. Ross Holland, did a number of interviews related to World War II and four related interviews have been added more recently. Oral history was done primarily to support interpretation. See “Bringing History Alive at the Lighthouse” [here](#).

Cane River Creole National Historical Park (LA): The Louisiana park, sometimes in collaboration with Cane River National Heritage Area (CRNHA) and Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, has conducted and supported a variety of oral history and ethnographic projects.

“The St. Matthew School Project” used interviews to document the school’s history. The school, founded in 1916 by the church of the same name, educated the descendants of enslaved laborers, tenant farmers and sharecroppers. In 1940 the church transferred St. Matthew to the Natchitoches Parish School Board for use as a public school, whose student body was primarily African American and Creole of Color. The oral histories contain rich information about

segregation, the Civil Rights Movement, and local cultural taboos. Rehabilitation of the historic school is discussed in Sarah Prud'homme, "The Resurrection of St. Matthew School," Heritage Matters: News of the Nation's Diverse Cultural Heritage, National Park Service (Fall 2009): 1-2.

"An Investigation of the Oral and Documentary History of Oakland/ Bermuda Plantation and Its Associated Families" included interviews with descendants of the planter class, enslaved and tenant farmers, and overseers of Oakland Plantation. The study focused primarily on the period between 1850 and 1960, and topics covered included agricultural practices, tenant life, the plantation commissary and store, family legends and local historical lore. Information gathered for this project was used to develop several CARI management documents including those dealing with historic furnishings and cultural landscapes. Ann Patton Malone's "Oakland Plantation, Its People's Testimony" (August 31, 1998) is at [the NPS Web site](#).

Researchers for the "We Know Who We Are" project completed in the 1990s conducted ethnographic interviews with members of the Cane River Creole community to document and analyze life ways. Information collected helped to develop CARI interpretive models for explaining Cane River Creole culture within the context of Louisiana Creole culture and greater United States heritage.

The collection of the late Muriel "Miki" Crespi, NPS ethnographer and principal fieldwork investigator for "A Brief Ethnographic Overview of Magnolia Plantation: Planning for Cane River Creole National Historical Park" (Archeology and Ethnography Program, National Center for Cultural Resources, National Park Service, 2004) consists of interview transcripts as well as field notes and other handwritten data. To read the report, go [here](#).

"The African American Oral History Project" focused on heritage documentation and interviews that documented African American life in Natchitoches Parish and the Cane River National Heritage Area (CRNHA). Several local organizations, including church societies and philanthropic organizations, contributed personnel and in-kind services to assist with the interviews, documentation, and interview transcription. Funded by CRNHA, the collection is housed at CARI.

Other projects conducted during CARI's period of establishment in the 1990s documented the cultural heritage of the peoples of the Cane River area. Interviews helped to develop the park's themes and scope of interpretation and to determine significant historical eras. Narrators were chosen because of their knowledge of local history, architecture, material culture, education, cultural practices, food ways, sites, civil rights and other subjects germane to the park's mission. The park also has recordings of interviews conducted during the Northwestern State University-Natchitoches Folklife Festival which discuss Louisiana culture and folklife.

Canyonlands National Park (UT): The park has conducted about twenty-five interviews to gather historical information about park cultural history or to research park administrative history. Recordings and transcripts are housed in the Southeast Utah Group museum collection in Moab. The park's Web site features transcripts of two lengthy oral history interviews. One is with Ned Chaffin, whose family ran cattle and owned a ranch in an area now included in the park and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Among the topics that Chaffin discussed are the landscape, origins of place names, grazing history, the daily routines of cowboys, the history of his own family, and the early history of scientific research in the area. Some 130 Chaffin family photographs illustrate the 245-page transcript, available at [as a PDF](#) or on the [NPS Web site](#). The interview with Bates Wilson, superintendent of Arches National Monument from 1949-1972, explores his role as the chief advocate for the creation of Canyonlands as a national park and his work as the park's first superintendent. The interview first appeared in Western Gateways Magazine-Canyonlands in the fall of 1967. Read it [here](#).

Cape Hatteras National Seashore (NC): Since its founding in the 1950s, the North Carolina seashore has conducted several oral history projects. In the 1960s and 1970s park employees recorded interviews with aging Outer Banks natives and documented local folklore and music. In 1988 the park initiated a more focused oral history project, "Lifeways: A Human History of the Outer Banks." The collection is housed at the Museum Resource Center at Ft. Raleigh National Historic Site in Manteo, NC. More recently, interviews conducted with

some forty community members for the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Oral History Project were crucial sources for a two-volume, 1,200-page publication, “Ethnohistorical Description of the Eight Villages Adjoining Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Interpretive Themes of History and Heritage Study,” released in 2006. This study grew out of the seashore’s recognition that it was important to understand the social, cultural, and economic histories of communities affected by its policies and actions. An overview of the project can be found at the [Cape Hatteras Web site](#). An interview with the son of the last principal keeper of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse describes family and community life there from 1919 to 1936; it can be found [here](#). In 2009 CAHA began a video oral history project focused on twenty-three former employees of the US Weather Bureau who were stationed at its Hatteras station between 1930 and 1950. Project partners included the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, East Carolina University, and the NC Department of Cultural Resources.

Cape Lookout National Seashore (NC): The seashore has acquired oral histories under various auspices. Before the park’s formal establishment, NPS personnel conducted some interviews and park staff and volunteers did some as the opportunity arose. In the 1980s the seashore sponsored a more formal oral history program. The interviews cover a number of topics of interest to the park: the Life Saving Service/ US Coast Guard, the Cape Lookout Ferry, Shackleford Banks, and Portsmouth Village. Most interviews, especially those dating from the 1980s, center on Portsmouth Village. Original tapes, transcripts, and tape summaries of seventy-two interviews were placed on permanent loan to the Outer Banks History Center, a branch of the NC Division of Archives in History, in Manteo, NC, with copies remaining at the national seashore. Finding aids to the collection can be found at Outer Banks History Center.

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site (NC): The poet’s biographer, Penelope Niven McJunkin, began the Carl Sandburg Oral History Project in 1980 with grants from Eastern National and the National Endowment for the Humanities. To document the memories of the many friends and family of Sandburg, the project initially interviewed people who were represented in the writer’s papers,

especially his correspondence. Interviewees included Sandburg's colleagues in literature and folk music, television hosts, Lincoln scholars, and his family and friends. These include Steve Allen, Gene Kelly, Gregory d'Alessio, Joseph Wershba, Olga Steckler and Joanna Steichen. Many of the interviews discuss the interviewee's relationship with and to Sandburg, and Sandburg as a person. There are a few, however, that discuss Sandburg as a poet, folk musician, Lincoln scholar and his place in American letters. Others interviewed include the friends and colleagues of Lilian Steichen Sandburg, the poet's wife who owned and operated a premier goat dairy at Connemara Farms from 1935 to 1965. The collection consists of cassette tapes, photographs, correspondence, release forms, and notebooks containing transcriptions of most of the interviews. Copies of the sixty cassette tapes, release forms, forty-four transcripts, and computer disks are at CASA and the University of Illinois, the repository of the Carl Sandburg Papers.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park (NM): Retired park historian Bob Hoff and other personnel at the New Mexico park have conducted about sixty interviews with long-time residents of the area and with people central to Carlsbad's exploration and development as a park. Longtime NPS employees, rangers, concessionaires, and local residents discuss cave exploration, bats and swallows, serving in the Civilian Conservation Corps, civil engineering projects, guano mining, and the history of local ranches. Discussion of or excerpts from two interviews can be found at: "Ed Greene Oral History Interview," [CAVE History Update: A Newsletter from CAVE Cultural Resources in the Resource Stewardship and Science Division](#), (August 29, 2003): 1; and "Cave Explorer Jim Goodbar Recounts *Spirit World* Explorations," [CAVE History Update: A Newsletter from CAVE Cultural Resources in the Resource Stewardship and Science Division](#), CHU #8 (December 15, 2003): 2-8. PDF versions of [Ed Greene's](#) and [Jim Goodbar's](#) interviews are also available. Hoff has posted accounts of interviews with cave explorers and former NPS employees at the [BlogSpot Web site](#).

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (MD): The park's oral history collection is comprised of interviews from the 1970's until 2009. The oral histories of the 1970's and 1980's are interviews with

people that had direct connections with the operating years of the C&O Canal. They include the families of boatmen, lock keepers and people who lived in the communities along the canal. More current oral histories include interviews with retired NPS employees about the early years of the park as well as management decisions made during their tenure. Some of the interviews have been used by the Washington County Historical Library (WHILBR) Web site for use by the public for research; they can be found ([here](#)). Most of the interviews are saved digitally on CD as well as in their original cassette tape form. The oral history collection is part of an ongoing volunteer project that focuses on transcribing materials within the parks library and archives collections.

Chickasaw National Recreation Area (OK): The park oral history collection consists of over fifty oral history interviews recorded on cassettes and transcribed in Word documents. The interviews were collected in the late 1990s by NPS ethnographers Jacilee Wray and Alexa Roberts. The focus of the interviews was to document the changing relationship between the historic Platt National Park (the present-day Platt Historic District in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area) and Sulphur, OK, during the twentieth century. Interviewees include Chickasaw tribal members, Civilian Conservation Corps men, community members and park staff. Topics include the historic use and development of Platt National Park and perceptions of the park by community members and others. These interviews were used in the 2004 report, “An Ethnohistory of the Relationship between the Community of Sulphur, Oklahoma and Chickasaw National Recreation Area” by Jacilee Wray and Alexa Roberts. Interview transcripts are available for use by park staff and outside researchers.

Congaree Swamp National Park (SC): In 2009 the park received funding to conduct interviews with long-time residents of land adjacent to what is now the park, former owners of land within the park, and members of the citizen action campaign that worked to establish the park. People to be interviewed include descendents of formerly enslaved African Americans and tenant farmers who farmed, reared families, and worshipped in the South Carolina coastal plain, and

first- and second-generation activists who lobbied for the park's founding.

Crater Lake National Park (OR): Begun in 1987, the park's oral history series contains about eighty interviews, some taped and transcribed and others notes only, with former employees and people associated with the Oregon park for a long time. Interviewees included superintendents, rangers, naturalists, biological and forest technicians, maintenance workers, some of the first divers at Crater Lake, concession employees, and engineers. In 2000 park historian Stephen R. Mark wrote a guide to the oral history series that explains its origins and development, provides brief descriptions of people interviewed and topics covered, and includes a detailed index of interview subjects. The oral histories have been used for the park's administrative history and general research purposes.

Formal and informal interviews with members of the Klamath Tribes, the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma, the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Pit River Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indian Reservation, and federally unrecognized American Indian communities were central to the research and writing of Douglas Deur, *In the Footprints of Gmukamps: A Traditional Use Study of Crater Lake National Park and Lava Beds National Monument* (National Park Service, Pacific West Region, 2008). The study originated as "an effort to help two National Parks and the tribes associated with those parks to better understand one another's values and concerns." (5) Themes addressed in ethnographic interviews included plant gathering, hunting and fishing, ritual use of lands, how tribal members assess their relationship with the NPS, and how Indians and agency representatives might better communicate and cooperate in the management of resources. (5)

Cumberland Gap National Historic Park (KY, TN, VA): The park used interviews conducted for the Hensley Settlement Project to help plan, restore, preserve and interpret the Hensley Settlement cultural landscape, which includes the cultural and biotic remains of an isolated, early twentieth century, self-sufficient mountain community on the Virginia-Kentucky border. The oral history project includes interviews from March 1960 through May 1971 with former Hensley

Settlement residents who discuss farming, buildings, and furnishings. Recorded on eighty-seven reel-to-reel tapes, the interviews have now been transferred to CDs. Interview transcripts are bound into fourteen volumes, and the fifteenth volume is an index of the collection.

More recently, when the park observed the 50th anniversary of its dedication on July 4, 1959, historian Martha Wiley interviewed early park employees, descendants of people instrumental in purchasing land for the park and others central to lobbying for the park and organizing its dedication. Wiley recorded some fourteen interviews.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park (OH): The park has conducted a number of oral history projects. In the 1980s the park interviewed members of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Also, Ron Cockrell conducted oral history interviews with citizens, state, local, and federal officials, elected representatives and park managers as he researched A Green Shrouded Miracle: The Administrative History of Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Ohio (National Park Service, 1992)

More recently CUVA, in collaboration with Cleveland State University, incorporated oral history research in a Teaching American History project called “Rivers, Roads, and Rails.” Teachers from elementary through high school focused on park history (from its founding in 1974 to 2008) and the heritage of Cuyahoga Valley. Interviewers focused on the development of the park and other locations in the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway. Among the narrators who shared their stories were long-term NPS staff (including retirees), long-term partner staff and volunteers, and community leaders and residents, all of whom had seen the park change over time. After the interviews, teachers created minute-by-minute logs of digitized recordings, making them easy to index and search. Interpreters have used interviews to create an audio tour which is presented aboard an excursion railroad, Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.

CUVA is also using oral history to document farm practices, farm labor, and industrial labor in the region. Interviews with a farm hand and members of a family who farmed in the area for several generations have been completed. The farm hand, Clyde Davis,

worked in the valley in the early 1920s. His oral history was videotaped by students in the media program at Cuyahoga Valley Career Center. Students from the University of Akron interviewed more than twenty people who once worked at Jaite Mill, a paper mill located on the banks of the Cuyahoga River, and lived in Jaite Company Town, which now serves as park headquarters.

In spring 2009 Western Reserve Public Media filmed interviews with fifty park visitors who shared memories of living near and using the park and, in some cases, shared memorabilia, photographs, and home movies. Western Reserve used the oral histories in its production, “Generations: Cuyahoga Valley National Park,” aired in fall 2009 to coincide with “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea,” a Ken Burns production. To watch “Generations,” click [here](#). To listen to excerpts of interviews with a park superintendent, a nature photographer, a co-founder of Friends of the Crooked River, and a congressional representative who sponsored legislation creating the park, go [here](#).

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park (OH): Park historians have conducted oral history research to support its historic resource study and its administrative history. The HRS-related oral histories yielded twenty-four transcripts. Narrators included relatives of Wilbur and Orville Wright, family acquaintances, and neighbors who lived in the vicinity of the bicycle shop; they provided information on Wright family history and the context in which the Wrights lived and worked. In preparation for a park administrative history, park historian Ed Roach has conducted some ten interviews. Narrators include early park supporters, founders, and managers--groups and individuals who lobbied for the park’s establishment and its first two superintendents—who discuss the challenges they faced and addressed. Recordings await transcription.

Death Valley National Park (CA, NV): Park ranger Peggy Scherbaum conducted an interview with Lenore Dunlop of Chicago, who with her husband visited Scotty's Castle in 1939. The transcript is located at park headquarters in Death Valley, CA. Excerpts from this interview were used to develop first-person living history programs.

Denali National Park and Preserve (AK): Denali collaborated with University of Alaska Fairbanks Project Jukebox, the digital branch of the university's oral history program, to produce its largest collection. According to the digital collection's introduction, the Denali Mountaineering Jukebox "is an interactive computer program featuring audio and video clips, photographs, maps, and texts of the people that have made history in the mountains encompassed by Denali National Park and Preserve." The mountaineering interviews offer "a broad spectrum of mountaineering experiences, from climbers to bush pilots, from park rangers to concessionaires." The oral histories preserve "first person accounts of mountaineering and related activities. Interviews focus on the changing role and importance of climbing in historical, scientific, recreational, commercial, and management perspectives" and "provide an important record of the people and events that have shaped the history of the park as one of the world's premier mountaineering venues. Interviews offer a glimpse into the challenges, dangers, and rewards of climbing on Denali and the surrounding area." The Denali Mountaineering Jukebox site features interviews with forty-two narrators. Among the themes they explored were climbs and routes; accidents and rescues; climbing philosophy, technology, and management; mountaineering transportation and access; mountain physiology; mountain science; guiding; and freighting. For more information, see [here](#).

A series of audio recordings conducted before 1990 includes nineteen interviews with park elders. More recently, park cultural anthropologist Jane Bryant has recorded more than thirty-five oral histories with elders, and continues to conduct interviews as time and resources allow. Narrators have discussed various aspects of park history, early rangers, subsistence, science in the park, wildlife management, mining, early transportation, and visitor activities. Interviews have been used for interpretive and educational programs, and some were conducted to answer specific questions posed by maintenance activities or management plans. In some cases informants were visiting the park and available only briefly, while other interviews represent multiple conversations with local elders.

Dry Tortugas National Park (FL): Narrators have described various dimensions of the park's history. One woman, who left Cuba and landed at the park, described her life and experiences in her country of origin, the journey to the United States, and her experiences upon landing. A former park ranger discussed daily life at Fort Jefferson, Cuban migrants, relations with the US Coast Guard, and especially his experiences with and knowledge of ghosts and other unusual phenomena at Fort Jefferson and Loggerhead Key.

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve (WA): The reserve's oral history collection is comprised of some seventy interviews with community elders who have first-hand knowledge and recollections of the Central Whidbey Island history, community, economy, and culture, and twenty interviews conducted in 2001 for the Washington park's administrative history.

Eisenhower National Historic Site (PA): The Eisenhower Oral History Project consists of over two hundred hours of interviews with friends, family and associates of General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Mrs. Mamie D. Eisenhower. The project's goal is to document all aspects of the Eisenhowers' life in Gettysburg and how their farm and home changed over time. The interviews cover the evolution of the farm from before the Eisenhowers bought it, through their renovations, the presidential era and their retirement. Interviews also addressed the years Mrs. Eisenhower lived at the farm after her husband died, and the experiences that employees, friends, and family members had while visiting or living at the farm. A few interviews are related to General Eisenhower's year in Gettysburg in 1918 as commander of Camp Colt. This information is used to support the interpretive program and has been essential to two historic furnishings reports that documented the home and farm and the cattle barns and farm operations. The site's cultural landscape report used oral history extensively to fill in gaps not evident through primary source research. The earliest oral histories were done by Ed Bearss, NPS chief historian emeritus, and served as the basis for the site's historic resource study. Conversion of the recordings from tape to digital format on audio CDs or DVDs is nearing completion.

Everglades National Park (FL): Park staff has conducted interviews with former residents of Old Flamingo, three servicemen stationed at Nike missile base HM-69 inside the park, a former farmer in the so-called Hole-in-Donut area of the park, and long-time NPS staff members. Interviews with an invertebrate biologist, a ranger and fire management officer, a wildlife biologist, a marine biologist, and an information technologies specialist include discussions of research conducted on a variety of species (including copepods, midges, crawfish, and exotic invasive fish; eagles, ospreys and alligators); also discussed were commercial and recreational fishing, estuarine and water quality studies, fire management issues, and development of a biological database. Other topics addressed were ecological and human health concerns associated with mosquito spraying in the park; drug running in Flamingo, and the effects of hurricanes Andrew, Katrina, and Wilma.

Flight 93 National Memorial (PA): Oral histories are central to planning and developing the memorial in Pennsylvania. Curator Barbara Black and project oral historian Kathie Shaffer have recorded some five hundred interviews related to Flight 93 and the events of September 11, 2001. Interviews allow family members of Flight 93 passengers and crew to share memories of their loved ones. According to memorial staff, “The interviewee’s personal story of the events of the day is recorded to understand the shock and initial grief of the family member, and the impact that this act had on 40 family groups.” Other interviewees include people who witnessed the crash of Flight 93, first responders, Federal Aviation Administration supervisors, state troopers, Red Cross and Salvation Army personnel, clergy, mental health counselors, and students who were in the Shanksville-Stonycreek School near the crash site on September 11. See “Saving the Story,” in “Planning for the Flight 93 National Memorial,” [Flight 93 National Memorial Newsletter](#), no. 5, July 2006, pp. 5-6, or [online here](#); and Barbara Black, “NPS Approaches 300 Oral Histories for Flight 93 Archives,” April 24, 2007, “Inside NPS,” <http://inside.nps.gov/>.

Fort Larned National Historic Site (KS): In the 1970s and 1980s the Kansas site conducted oral history interviews with previous owners of

the fort and people who worked at the fort during its ranch period. The collection was comprised of six audiotapes and six transcripts.

Fort Pulaski National Monument (GA): The park has obtained interviews that professors from Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, GA, conducted with former members of Camp 460 of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The CCC enrollees were stationed at and worked on the restoration of Fort Pulaski in the 1930s. A park archeologist also interviewed three former CCC members in 1999. In addition, the park has videotaped an interview with the former chief of maintenance, and the maintenance division has used the tapes as a guide to preservation efforts.

Fort Scott National Historic Site (KS): The site's oral histories have focused on its restoration and reconstruction before it became a unit of the NPS. The primary purpose of the seventeen interviews collected was to provide information for FOSC's administrative history.

Gateway National Recreation Area (NY, NJ): The Fort Hancock Oral History Program consists of over one hundred interviews with people who either lived or worked at Sandy Hook. Most worked for the US Army, the US Coast Guard, the US Lighthouse Service, and the US Life-Saving Service. These people also had families who lived, shopped and attended school within the peninsula. Gateway has posted transcripts of selected interviews on its [Web site](#). Interviews are divided among four categories: "Fort Hancock Between the Wars"; "World War II at Fort Hancock"; "Cold War at Fort Hancock"; and "The Children of Fort Hancock." Photographs of narrators enhance the transcripts.

Other oral histories are with a local legislator and local supporters who helped create the NRA; people who were stationed and worked at Floyd Bennett Field from World War II through the Vietnam War era (including women who worked at the field during WWII); and a few employees of the NRA.

George Washington Carver National Monument (MO): The monument has collected interviews in three phases. Its oral history program began in the 1950s to help tell the story of Carver, his family, and his surroundings in southwestern Missouri in the 1870s. Most of the

approximately one hundred taped interviews are with individuals who knew Carver in his formative years. About half of these interviews have been transcribed. In the 1980s, the George Washington Carver Birthplace Association funded a video oral history project that focused primarily on Carver's years at Tuskegee Institute; most of the interviews were done on the Tuskegee campus. Several of Carver's former students were among the some thirty narrators interviewed by Dr. Gary Cremer, a Carver scholar and the director of the State Historical Society of Missouri. In 2005 the Carver Birthplace Association sponsored another project which yielded forty-eight videotaped interviews, primarily with people who knew Carver at Tuskegee and others who befriended the scientist during his travels.

George Washington Memorial Parkway (VA, MD, DC): Parkway staff members have conducted interviews on a range of subjects. Most notable of the oral history projects are interviews with dozens of World War II veterans who served in what is now Fort Hunt Park but was known as PO Box 1142 during the war. The Army and Navy veterans assigned to the mission engaged in some of the most classified programs of WWII, interrogating prisoners of war and monitoring them secretly. Among those questioned were some of Germany's and Japan's highest ranking generals and submariners, and scientists such as Werner von Braun, who later made major contributions to US technology, and Heinz Schlicke, inventor of infrared detection. Many of the men stationed at PO Box 1142 were Jews whose families had fled Germany in the late 1930s. Their language proficiency and cultural background as well as basic science knowledge proved useful during interrogations. Veterans who served at PO Box 1142 were sworn to secrecy and began to share their experiences in the early 21st century. Much of this history is unwritten so the interviews are critical to understanding the secret programs which once took place at Fort Hunt. Transcription of the videotaped interviews is under way, and the collection will be available when processing is complete. For more about the serendipitous origins of the project, its development and plans for the future, see Heidi Ridgley, "P. O. Box 1142: World War II: The Lost Chapter," National Parks: The Magazine of the National Park Conservation Association vol. 84, no. 1 (Winter 2010): 42-49. The [online version](#) is also available.

Other GWMP oral history projects include interviews with immigrant stone quarry workers who lived and worked along the Potomac River and US Marine Corps veterans who were involved in the USMC War Memorial.

Glen Echo Park (MD): Ranger Sam Swersky has conducted interviews with former patrons of Glen Echo Park who remember the amusement park during the era of racial segregation and civil rights protests in the 1950s and 1960s.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (CA): The two hundred interviews in GOGA's collection cover a variety of topics and support interpretation programs, special resource and planning studies, park administrative history, and research needs of the general public. Oral histories include: accounts from military staff, prisoners and correctional officers from Alcatraz, including those involved with the Indian occupation on Alcatraz; interviews with former soldiers who were stationed at the various seacoast fortifications/Nike missile sites within the park who describe military life (particularly during World War II) and actions when placed on alert; Coast Guard staff and individuals who lived or worked at the lighthouses within the park; people formerly involved in ranching, dairying and farming on park lands; Nisei soldiers who discussed the Military Intelligence Language School; and visitors, employees and owners of the Sutro baths.

Oral history interviews with former soldiers stationed at Nike Site SF-88L were among the resources that John A. Martini and Stephen A. Haller used for "What We Have, We Shall Defend: An Interim History and Preservation Plan for Nike Site SF 88L, Fort Barry, California, Part 1," (San Francisco: NPS, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, February 1998), [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov).

Other oral histories document the history of the national recreation area. For example, interviews with several members of People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area reveal how the ad-hoc committee fought to establish the GGNRA and then continued to oversee the park's expansion and the enabling legislation's implementation. Interviews also trace changes the park has made to some buildings and its acquisition of lands, the transition of the Presidio Army base to the NPS and then to the Presidio Trust.

Golden Spike National Historic Site (UT): The park's oral history project consists of interviews with three people who were familiar with Promontory Station when it was an active Utah farm community in the early 20th century and with three others who were familiar with early efforts to commemorate the Golden Spike Ceremony, the establishment of the national historic site in 1965, and the centennial celebration of 1969. A description of the project can be found at the [Western National Parks Association Web site](#) . A 1974 interview with Wallace A. Clay, born at Promontory in 1884 and known as Old Pappy "Sage of the Sagebrush" Clay, is at [nps.gov](#).

Grand Canyon National Park (AZ): The park has used oral history interviews to capture the memories of former superintendents, rangers, interpreters, concession workers, hikers, and Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees who served there. Many of the one hundred interviewees were recorded in 1994 as part of the park's 75th anniversary reunion. Among the oral history narrators are Horace Albright, NPS director between 1929 and 1933, who was interviewed in 1981 and 1985; Jean Tillotson Anderson, daughter of Miner Tillotson, park superintendent between 1927 and 1938; Mike Harrison, the park's chief clerk from 1922 to 1931; L. B. "Tex" Worley and Warren Hamilton, rangers at GRCA in the 1920s and 1940s; Claude "Bru" Wagner, assistant forester who made vegetative type maps for the park in 1935; Al Maxey, a ranger in the 1950s; Kathy Williams, an NPS interpreter on the North Rim in the 1970s; Marianne Karraker, who was born and lived in the park 1964-1966, returned in 1980-1982, and worked as an interpreter there in the early 1990s; Bruce Shaw, assistant superintendent between 1970 and 1983; and Richard Marks, GRCA superintendent from 1980 to 1988. Former employees of concession owners Fred Harvey and Ernest and Emery Kolb discuss what it was like to work in lodges, restaurants, and photography studios in the 1920s and 1930s. People who grew up in the Grand Canyon are also well represented in the park's oral history collection.

Great Basin National Park (NV): The park in collaboration with its foundation sponsored an oral history project that focused on interviewing local residents who were eighty years old or older. Some interviews have been transcribed. The park also videotaped local

residents who presented programs during a series of 10th anniversary programs.

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (CO): The park has conducted a series of interviews with women and men who have early family ties to the Great Sand Dunes area. Many of these people were raised within sight of the sand dunes where they spent countless mornings in the shadows of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Others grew on nearby ranches and earned a living despite the exceedingly harsh climate. A few worked for the National Park Service during the mid 20th century. To sample some of the stories and find other resources on “The Memory Oasis,” click [here](#).

Great Smoky Mountains National Park (NC, TN): The park’s oral history collection dates to the time of its founding. In the mid-1930s a graduate student in linguistics from Columbia University, Joseph Hall, recorded the speech patterns and characteristics of Appalachian natives who still lived in the park or had recently left. In the process he gathered stories about logging, farming, education, and features of rural life in the early 20th century, including folk tales, folk history and folk song. Hall’s collecting efforts spanned six summers and subsequent visits. In the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, park staff and volunteers continued to conduct interviews with local residents who understood old-time “mountain ways” and park personnel, including those involved in the land acquisition process, early wardens, and Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees who got jobs with the NPS. In the 1980s the park contracted with a local television personality to conduct interviews about Appalachian lifestyles; the interview series was similar to the Foxfire model pioneered in the 1970s by Eliot Wigginton in Rabun County, GA. More recently, anthropology students at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville conducted interviews with descendants of residents of the area, who discussed memories of family and place.

The entire collection is comprised of more than five hundred interviews; some have been digitized. The Joseph Hall collection contains 170 interviews, many of which are very short. There are one hundred interviews in the videotaped series. Some 340 interviews have been transcribed.

Gulf Islands National Seashore (FL, MS): In the Florida district of GUIs, between 1984 and 1991 rangers interviewed veterans who served in the Coast Artillery Corps of the US Army at Pensacola during the 1930s and 1940s. Rangers conducted most of the forty-seven interviews in “The Fort Barrancas Oral History Project” at annual reunions of the 13th Coast Artillery Regiment. Interviewees opened new interpretive possibilities as they shared memories of how they came to join the Coast Artillery; life on post at Fort Barrancas during peacetime and wartime; working, loading, unloading, and triangulating batteries of heavy artillery; accidents that occurred around high explosives and heavy machinery; and the closing of the post in 1947. Veterans also discussed serving as medics, clerks, regimental band members, and motor pool drivers and described off-duty activities such as movies, concerts and dances. The oral histories were vital sources for park ranger David P. Ogden’s Frontline on the Homefront: The 13th Coast Artillery at Pensacola, 1930-1947 (Eastern National Parks and Monument Association, 1991), reprinted as Soldiers’ Story (Eastern National, 2006).

A more recent oral history project has concentrated on Rosamond Johnson Beach, the historically black beach on Perdido Key, FL. Ranger Ogden collaborated with Joseph Herring, a GUIs fee collector who grew up in the local community, suggested the project and helped to carry it out.

The Mississippi district of GUIs had interviews with the former Ship Island Lighthouse keeper; a Cat Island World War II dog trainer, and the first naturalist at Glacier National Park, interviewed after he retired to the US Navy Home in Gulfport, MS. Two of these interviews may have been destroyed when Hurricane Katrina flooded the Davis Bayou Visitor Center was flooded in 2005.

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument (ID): The monument conducted interviews with eight people who discussed the history of the excavation at the site known as the Hagerman Horse Quarry or Smithsonian Horse Quarry. The Smithsonian made the initial excavations between 1929 and 1934. Narrators included an early rancher; a local teacher; a paleontologist who excavated for fossils at

the site in 1931; the son of a fossil discoverer; and others associated with the excavation of the site.

Hampton National Historic Site (MD): In 1998 the site began working in collaboration with Dr. Elaine Eff, director of cultural preservation for the State of Maryland, to identify candidates for oral history interviews and to establish interviewing priorities. Among those who were interviewed are descendents of enslaved African Americans and other workers on the estate, former residents, employees of the park, and members of cooperating groups. Among the interviewees were members of the Ridgely family, who originally owned the estate, and their intimates; business associates of the Ridgely family; and the architect in charge of Hampton during its transition to NPS management. The oral history collection has provided resource-based information, supported interpretive and ethnographic programs, and contributed to a park administrative history.

Harpers Ferry Center (WV): The National Park Service archive holds some 800 interviews, many with key personnel who served in the middle of the 20th century. The collection falls into three primary collections: interviews conducted by S. Herbert Evison in 1962-1963 and the early 1970s before and after the Park Service historian retired; interviews conducted in 1978 and 1979 by Dorothy Huyck, a freelance journalist interested in the history of women in the Park Service; and interviews done by Polly Welts Kaufman as she conducted research in the 1980s for National Parks and the Woman's Voice: A History (University of New Mexico Press). The archive has an index of people who have been interviewed.

Harry S Truman National Historic Site (MO): The site began its oral history program in 1983, when NPS realized it knew little about the Truman family's private life and family members' activities in the Independence, MO, community. Interviews have continued to focus on Truman family home life and community ties. There are 120 taped interviews, totaling more than 190 hours. Oral history informants included neighbors, Secret Service agents, medical personnel, shopkeepers, relatives, friends, household staff and other Truman contemporaries. The broad range of people interviewed helps paint a more complete picture of the Truman family's life. The park has also

collected oral histories with people familiar with the park's formation. Many interview transcripts are available on the [NPS Web site](#). Interviews inform exhibits, interpretive programs, and the park's administrative history.

Homestead National Monument of America (NE): Monument historians have interviewed a number of individuals important to the story of homesteading and to the administrative history of the park. Interviews with descendants of homesteaders were conducted primarily in two locations: Custer County, NE, the location of the most famous Solomon D. Butcher photos of homesteaders taken in the 1870s-1890s, and Bozeman, MT, where park personnel worked with the Montana Historical Society. Former park historian Todd Arrington completed a major project in 2001 when he traveled to Alaska to interview the nation's last documented homesteader—Kenneth W. Deardorff, a young Vietnam War veteran and native Californian who filed a homestead claim in Alaska in 1974. Deardorff figures prominently in the monument's 2007 exhibits and 2008 interpretive film. The oral history collection also contains interviews with descendants of Daniel Freeman, who was among the first people to file a claim under the Homestead Act of 1862 and whose claim is the site of the national monument; former teachers and students at Freeman School, which was a working one-room school from 1872 to 1967; former park employees; and narrators related to various aspects of homesteading. The park has also sponsored the Living Homestead Project in an effort to locate and record the knowledge and experiences of many of the remaining homesteaders before the opportunity is lost. The project sought to interview successful and unsuccessful homesteaders who filed claims under the Homestead Act of 1862, in effect from 1863 to 1986. More information about the project can be found [here](#).

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park (OH): Among the park's collections are oral history interviews conducted in 1980 with former soldiers and community members who had direct experience with Camp Sherman, a World War I training camp from 1917 to 1920. Camp Sherman encompassed a vast stretch of land along the Scioto River north of Chillicothe, OH, including the land where the Native American earthwork and mounds of Hopewell Culture National

Historical Park are located. The original reel-to-reel tapes have been digitized and the digital sound files saved on multiple formats. The park has also conducted interviews with local residents who shared their knowledge of the area's archeology, the development of the park, and early archeology research.

Hot Springs National Park (AR): In the early 1980s interpretive rangers began documenting the history of the bathhouses by recording oral accounts of some of the bathing attendants and other bathhouse employees. Many bathhouse employees were African American women and men who worked as maids, porters, masseuses, and mercury rubbers who applied mercury to syphilis sufferers. Other African Americans helped manage black-owned bathhouses. The documentary collection is comprised of recorded interviews, transcribed texts, and photographs of the attendants. Listen to audio recordings and read text transcriptions of sixteen interviews [here](#).

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site (AZ): The park's collection of more than 250 oral history interviews were completed between 1965 and the present and address subjects central to the history of Hubbell Trading Post, the Hubbell family, and Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site. Particular topics of interest include: the history of the post and trading practices while the post was owned and operated by John Lorenzo Hubbell, the administrative history of the historic site, the ethnography of the local Navajo community, and the history and art of Navajo weaving. Many interviews conducted in the Navajo language have been translated and transcribed. Interviews offer first-hand accounts of value to researchers, park management, and local Navajo people. Oral histories have been used in exhibits and by researchers, including Navajo people seeking information about their heritage. Narrators also discuss the park's tangible and intangible assets, providing baseline information that aids in monitoring the condition of furnishings, structures, and other resources. An inventory of the oral history collection is at NPS's [museum collections Web site](#).

Independence National Historical Park (PA): Three oral history projects have documented the history of the park and its administration. In 1969 and 1970 interviews were conducted with park historians and

superintendents and housed at the Oral History Research Office, Columbia University. For a list of interviewees, click [here](#).

The “Bicentennial Independence Oral History Project” includes interviews completed with some seventy-five people between 1966 and 1983 that document the park’s staff members’ experiences during the years surrounding Bicentennial events. George A. Palmer, deputy regional director of the Mid-Atlantic Region from 1955 to 1973, oversaw the project.

Constance M. Greiff conducted a series of interviews as part of the research for Independence: The Creation of a National Park (Heritage Studies, Inc., 1985). She interviewed George A. Palmer and others long associated with the park.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (IN): The park has conducted oral histories to obtain information about a variety of topics and places. They include archeology; Swedish immigration and settlement in Porter County; memories of the Swedish settlement of Bailletown and its founders; the history of communities in or adjacent to the park; tales of winters past, holidays, and everyday life; Diana of the Dunes, a local resident who became infamous living on the dunes; the members of the environmental movement that created the park; operation of the park since its establishment; and various historic sites including the Chelberg Farm, home of a Swedish immigrant family at the turn of the 20th century.

Isle Royale National Park (MI): The park has ninety-five indexed oral history tapes. Subjects covered in the interviews included commercial fishing, light houses, boating, boat building, wilderness, research, resorts and summer vacationing in the Michigan park. Interviews provide information for interpretive programs and administrative history. Some were done in conjunction with a vernacular boat research project.

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (LA): The park has completed several focused projects. The “Isleno” project interviews describe the cultural heritage, lifestyle and folklore of the Isleno people in St. Bernard Parish, LA. Some of the ninety-seven videotapes recorded in 1984 and 1985 have been transcribed. The “Black Pearl

Project” is comprised of nine audiotaped interviews with African American members of the Black Pearl neighborhood in Uptown New Orleans. They were recorded between 1991 and 1994. The “Bucktown” project is fifteen videotaped interviews, conducted in 1985, that record the heritage and folklife of residents living in a community that borders the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

The “German American” interviews, twenty-three on videotapes and twenty-two on audiotapes, describe the heritage and folklife of residents in the New Orleans and Gretna areas. Recorded in 1997, the interviews have been transcribed. For the “Isle Brevelle” project, sixteen audiotapes recorded in 1995 document the cultural history, folk life, Creole identity and race relations of this Creole of Color community in Natchitoches, LA. Some interviews have been transcribed.

The “Oakland/Bermuda Plantation” project is comprised of eighty-one audiotapes recorded in 1997 that describe the ethnographic/cultural history and life of individuals associated with the plantation in the Natchitoches, LA, area. All interviews have been transcribed. The “Magnolia Plantation” project recorded thirty-eight audiotapes in 1996 that describe the ethnographic/cultural history and life of people associated with the plantation in the Natchitoches, LA, area. They have been transcribed.

In 1998 the park prepared “A Guide to the Archival Holdings of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, a Finding Aid.”

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Oral History Project (MO):

According to park historian Bob Moore, the oral history program focuses on people who have knowledge of the architectural competition of 1947-48; the design and construction of the Gateway Arch, visitor center, museum and landscape plan; the preservation of the Old Courthouse; the administrative, maintenance, interpretive, and law enforcement personnel who worked for the memorial; and the personnel of city, government, state and local agencies who worked with the National Park Service over the years to create and maintain the memorial. Audiotapes and transcripts are available at JNEM park library. A list of interviewees and their affiliations are at the [JNEM Web site](#). As Moore has commented, “Oral history

interviews are essential in an age in which fewer and fewer people use the written word in keeping diaries or writing letters. They can explain mountains of government paperwork in a single phrase, and describe behind-the-scenes deals and verbal agreements which were never set down on paper. They can also bring a ‘you were there’ quality to history, adding color, detail, and anecdote to mundane events and facts. Oral histories, despite the fact that the mind and memory are selective and fallible, can be indispensable tools for the modern historian.” The park used oral histories for administrative histories, interpretive and ethnographic programs and “to add the human dimension to the story of the park.”

Jewel Cave National Monument (SD): The park has conducted oral histories with Herb and Jan Conn, important long-term explorers who began to investigate and map the South Dakota cave in 1959.

Jimmy Carter National Historic Park (GA): Oral history interviews conducted with President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalyn Carter between 1985 and 1990 helped park planners and interpreters understand the importance of the president’s childhood home in Archery in the development of his political and human rights ideologies. For a discussion of the Carter interviews, see Jim Small, “A Visual Recording,” *CRM Bulletin*, vol. 13, no. 2 (1990); and Edwin C. Bearss, “Oral History A Challenging and Provocative Experience,” *CRM Bulletin*, vol. 13, no. 2 (1990), which can be found [online here](#). The Plains Project Oral Histories include interviews with residents of Plains, GA, the pastor of President Carter’s home church, Maranatha Baptist, school classmates, former teachers, relatives and neighbors. Names of interviewees are at the [Jimmy Carter Library Web site](#). The park’s Web site features podcasts that use interviews with the president and first lady, and friends from Plains High School telling stories about Carter’s boyhood farm, life in Plains, and education in a small southern town. To listen to podcasts, click [here](#).

In the summer of 2007 two students from the Center for Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, conducted seventeen interviews with people from Plains, GA, and vicinity who had association with President and Mrs. Carter. Topics explored included race relations, school integration, farming, food ways,

holiday celebrations, participation in Carter's presidential campaign, changing demographics of Plains, and the community's future. In 2009 JICA began an ethnographic profile of the historic African American community of Archery, location of President Carter's boyhood home. The profile includes oral history interviews.

Joshua Tree National Park (CA): In 2009 the park launched a multi-year oral history project to capture the stories of people who have helped shape, and whose lives have been shaped by, the southern California desert. The project has two goals: to use information not otherwise available in the documentary record to deepen and enrich historical understanding of human interactions with the desert environment over time; and to create a high-quality audio-visual oral history collection for use by researchers and staff in future interpretive efforts such as museum exhibits, programs, and podcasts. Historian Hannah Nyala West and trained volunteers will conduct interviews with people who have had long-term, significant interactions with the desert lands: native peoples, miners, cattle ranchers, homesteaders, residents of neighboring communities, employees who worked at JOTR when it was a monument and then a park, National History Association employees, volunteers such as members of Search and Rescue teams, and recreationists such as climbers and campers. Themes to be explored are emerging from conversations with the narrators themselves as well as the management and interpretive needs of the park. These themes include land use and management, work and leisure, technological and environmental change, the development of park operations and administration, and community interactions. Nyala West is building on sixty-three interviews conducted between 1966 and 1995, which gathered information on mining activities, grazing, homesteading, and how family and local histories intersected with the history of the NPS.

Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park (HI): For "A Collection of Family Traditions Describing Customs, Practices and Beliefs of the Families and Lands of Kaloko and Honokohau, North Kona, Island of Hawai'i," researchers conducted oral history interviews with ten individuals between 1996 and 2001 whose families had lived in the area for generations. Interviews focused on the historic use and

maintenance of the Kaloko-Honokohau fishponds, efforts to restore and stabilize the fishponds, care of ilina (burial features), and land use. The report and interview excerpts are at the [Kaloko-Honokohau Park Web site](#).

Katmai National Park and Preserve (AK): Oral history/ethnography projects have documented memories of the 1912 eruption of Mt. Novarupta, the history of trapping in the park, and the life history of the first ranger to work there. The Mt. Novarupta eruption project spanned from 1961 to 1972 and produced twelve taped interviews as well as summaries of several interviews that were not taped. These interviews focused on natives who were living in villages along the Katmai coast that were abandoned due to the eruption and on people who were living on Kodiak Island when Mt. Novarupta erupted. Many of the interviewees were children or young adults in 1912 and had to be evacuated from their homes because of falling ash. A trapping history project, conducted between 1972 and 1977, documented in three interviews the early trapping history of European Americans and Native peoples in and around Katmai. The interview with Bill Nancarrow, the first ranger to work at Katmai, took place circa 1976 and depicts his first season at the park. The park also has recordings of professional presentations about the prehistory and archeology of the park; of General Management Plan meetings and other meetings in different communities that date from the late 1970s to the mid 1980s; and of a radio program about the changes at Brooks Camp circa 1962.

In addition, between 1995 and 2002 a number of residents of Igiugig, Naknek/South Naknek, Levelock, Kokhanok, and King Salmon were interviewed about their lives and experiences related to the park. Of particular interest was subsistence living in the area, how the park's establishment affected access to subsistence resources, and the use of All-Terrain Vehicles. Many interviews and photographs are available on the Katmai National Park Project Jukebox, the digital branch of the oral history program at the [University of Alaska Fairbanks](#).

Kenai Fjords National Park (AK): Oral histories have served as the basis for the park's historic resource study, administrative history, and an

ethnographic overview and assessment of Port Graham and Nanwalek, Alutiiq villages with ancestral ties to lands within the park boundaries. Currently Kenai Fjords is conducting an oral history project to document the uses of the Exit Glacier area as a means of determining if traditional activities--such as hunting, fishing, and recreation as well as the use of snow machines, planes and dog teams--occurred in the area between 1950 and 1980. These interviews will be included in Project Jukebox and available to the public online through the University of Alaska Fairbanks Web site.

Kenai Fjords curates interviews documenting the life histories and events associated with local personalities. These include Josephine Sather who moved to Nuka Island in 1921 and with her husband Pete (who was involved with mining, fishing and running passengers, freight, and the mail to the Nuka Bay area) operated a blue fox farm, the only farm on the Kenai Fjords coast; and Yule Kilcher and Bill Babcock, who in 1968 participated in the first documented crossing of the Harding Icefield by trekking from Chernof Glacier eastward to Exit Glacier, completing the crossing in eight days. The park also houses meeting minutes of the Seward Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group relating to the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (GA): In the 1980s park staff completed interviews with eighteen men who joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. Members of Company 431, Camp GA NM 3 (Camp Brumby) served at the newly created Kennesaw Mountain NBP between 1938 and 1942. Tapes and transcripts are housed in the park's research library.

Keweenaw National Historical Park (MI): The park's oral history program was designed to explore the heritage of hard rock copper mining in the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan and the history of peninsula communities; to provide information to park staff engaged in managing structures and landscapes; to document the park's administrative history; and to inform interpretative programming.

The park has conducted 150 interviews with former mining company employees (miners, hoist engineers, timber men, pattern makers, clerks, accountants, mill workers, and more) and other people in the

community (teachers, pastors, barkeepers, local government officials, nurses, musicians, and others). Most interviews have been conducted locally, but others have taken place in Wisconsin, California, and New York. People have shared first-hand accounts of mining, explosions, air blasts, and other accidents; and other aspects of working underground. Surface workers have explained milling and reclamation, casting copper, and managing the corporate side of mine operations. People have provided personal perspectives of immigration and ethnicity, recreation, military service, and many other topics. Interviews can inform research on local culture and language as well as mining. Oral history research is used in interpretive exhibits and guided tours of Calumet's industrial and commercial cores and in school programs.

Oral history projects completed and catalogued include:

--"Founding and Administering Keweenaw National Historical Park Oral History Collection," which features interviews with former staff and others involved with the founding and administration of the park.

--"William Ivey Italian Hall Disaster Oral History Project Transcripts," a donated collection of ten interviews which discuss the so-called Italian Hall disaster. This accident occurred in 1913 when more than seventy people enjoying a Christmas social rushed down the steps of the hall, heeding a false cry of "Fire!" and perished after being trampled because they could not open locked doors. The deaths punctuated the fifth month of a bitter strike that pitted organized miners against management.

--"Copper Country Hockey Oral History Project Collection," which explores the history of professional and amateur hockey on the Keweenaw Peninsula and was done in collaboration with the City of Houghton.

The park has two ongoing projects: "KNHP Oral History Project," which documents the community and mining industry's history, and the "KNHP Administrative History Project," which documents the park's history.

Park historian Jo Urion describes the oral history program in “Collecting Copper Stories,” The Ingot: The Official Paper of Keweenaw National Historical Park and Cooperating Sites (2004): 1; available [online](#). The park is designing a [Web site](#) that will allow visitors to listen to oral history interviews.

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (AK): Park staff, regional staff and contractors have conducted interviews to support an administrative history, archeological compliance, archeological reports, buildings restoration projects and other large projects. An ethnographic overview and assessment included interviews with native elders. The oral history projects have contributed to a number of publications about the archeology, ethnography, history and management of the park.

In addition, among the thousands of visitors to Skagway each year are those whose relatives participated in the gold rush stampede to the Klondike. These visitors rarely give advance notice that they are coming and are often surprised that park staff members are interested in their family stories. The park has developed a system that captures contact information so that staff members can connect with them in the future and discuss possible donation of historical materials that they may have. Park staffers have also developed a rapid response oral history team that sometimes allows them to conduct an oral history interview within minutes of a knowledgeable visitor’s arrival. Another oral history collection is comprised of Skagway locals who have participated in panel discussions about life in a small Alaska town for groups such as Elderhostel.

In 2010 the park, in consultation with community members, inaugurated an oral history project that will include twenty oral history interviews with long-time residents of Skagway and visitors to the community that have important knowledge and information of value to the park.

Lake Clark National Park (AK): In the past thirty years the Alaska park has conducted a variety of oral history projects.

In the 1980s then park historian Sarah Hornberger interviewed thirteen people, primarily native people from LACL and surrounding

areas, about family and residence history, trails, schools, village life, skin sewing, boating, berry picking, cooking, language, trapping, gardening, and historical interactions.

In the 1980s the park completed a sociocultural study that included interviews with forty-six subjects, most of whom were native people. Topics addressed included place names, fish camps, villages, and residence history. The sociocultural study was designed to provide information on the ethnography, history and traditional places and practices of native and non-native Alaskans living in and around LACL. The various components of the project included ethnographic overview and assessment, ethnographic identification and field studies, historic photograph duplication, and video taping of native and non-native lifestyles. The project was conducted by Linda Ellana and Andrew Balluta, under the direction of Ted Birkedal, regional archeologist for the Alaska Region of NPS, with additional research conducted by Sarah Hornberger.

In the 1990s park historian John Branson interviewed sixteen people, primarily European American but some native Alaskans as well. Topics explored included the history of villages, towns and areas that are now in LACL as well as surrounding areas, residence histories, early homesteaders, placer mines, canneries, resident reaction to Hrdlika, places, and cabins.

The Coray family donated recordings from the 1950s that discuss local residents and pioneers, historic village life, and Dena'ina music. The park created a book out of the songs that continue to inspire and inform over half-century later.

"The Cook Inlet Historical Sites Project," sponsored by the Cook Inlet Native Association, interviewed five people about trails, villages, place names, and residence histories.

"The Cook Inlet Coast Oral History Project," conducted in the 1990s, interviewed fifty-three subjects, most non-native, about life along the west side of Cook Inlet, in LACL, and beyond; canneries, commercial fishing, people, trapping, guiding, volcanic eruptions, homesteading, air taxies, sawmills, mining, and historic photographs.

In the 1990s, park historian John Branson collaborated with University of Alaska Fairbanks Project Jukebox, the digital branch of the university's oral history program. Branson collected oral history narratives with thirty-one people to accompany fourteen photo albums that represent a variety of historical themes. According to the Lake Clark National Park [Project Jukebox Web site](#), "These themes include subsistence, early education, reindeer herding, park establishment, early industry, population transitions, exploration-guiding-sport hunting, landscape changes, old villages, people, transportation, trails, and Dena'ina tools-education." Most material addresses "the transitions that occurred when outside influence came into the Lake Clark area." Additional interviews with Nondalton elders explore "Native life in the region prior to outside influence," including discussions of "how children were instructed before schools came into the villages; what the Lake Clark National Park land was used for prior to the establishment of the park; the preservation of resources; transportation before airplanes, boats, and motors; and traditional values, which continue to be an important part of Native life in the area today."

"Place Names and Landscape Stories: Documenting Alaska Native Place Names and Geography in Southwest Alaska," was sponsored by the Alaska Native Language Center, which over the past three decades has interviewed native residents of the Lake Clark region about native place names, traditional stories revolving around land use and place names, subsistence activities, changes over time and material culture. As part of the project, six CDs containing audio clips of Dena'ina place names have been produced, as have six essays written by native residents from six different communities that discuss place names, Dena'ina language, contemporary land use and traditional values.

"The Life History of Mary Hobson" is comprised of five oral history recordings with a Dena'ina elder from a community located near LACL. In the narratives she discusses changes over time, trail routes, Dena'ina place names, material culture and methods, Dena'ina women's roles and traditional ways of life.

The park has a variety of interviews related to subsistence use around the Lake Clark area, including a 25-page group interview with residents of Nondalton.

Lincoln Home National Historic Site (IL): The park's oral history collection consists of audiotaped and videotaped conversations with people that had lived in or knew someone who lived in the park. This includes a gentleman who courted his future wife while she lived in the Lincoln Home, and a gentleman who lived across the street from the Lincoln Home in the early 1900s. In other interviews Ed Bearss, NPS chief historian emeritus, discusses his work creating the initial Lincoln Home Base Map and other histories of the neighborhood before the park was established and a local architect discusses planning the 1988 Lincoln Home restoration.

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site (AR): The site's oral history collection includes videotaped interviews conducted in partnership with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Thirty-two interviews were conducted between 2003 and 2007 with people associated with the 1957 desegregation crisis at Little Rock Central High School. Interviews include all members of the Little Rock Nine (the nine African American students who attended the historically white Central High School in 1957-58), some of their parents and siblings, soldiers in the Arkansas National Guard and US Army's 101st Airborne Division, white students from Central High School, neighboring business owners, members of the Women's Emergency Committee (the organization that worked to reopen the schools on a desegregated basis), and students who continued desegregating Central High in later years.

Topics of the interviews include the 1957 Central High desegregation events, race relations in Little Rock (before and after the crisis), "Jim Crow" segregation in Little Rock before 1957, court cases related to the crisis and desegregation, the role of the military and school officials in the crisis, and the role of citizen groups in resolving the crisis.

The interviews form a key element of the exhibits in the new visitor center at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site that opened in 2007 for the 50th anniversary of the events. Visitors can

watch segments of the interviews that cover key aspects of the 1957 events. The site frequently uses quotations from the interviews as part of interpretive programs, and makes the transcripts available to researchers upon request. In addition, park staff members are working with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to produce edited segments on different topics pertinent to the crisis to place on the park Web site. Members of the Little Rock Nine reflect on the challenges they faced during the 1957-58 school year [here](#).

Lowell National Historic Site (MA): Since 1997, the Center for Lowell History and the Lowell National Historical Park have collaborated on a series of oral history projects funded by Eastern National. The University of Massachusetts Lowell Libraries has posted the digital oral histories on [their Web site](#).

“Closing of the Merrimack Mill” focused on the first textile corporation established in Lowell and how its closing affected the community. Interviewers sought the perspectives of mill workers and managers, city officials and businesspeople involved in the mill’s demolition. Ten interviewees discussed workplace conditions and workers’ experiences in the Merrimack Mills in the 1940s and early 1950s, the textile business during this time, city planning efforts, and demolition and salvaging of the mill property. Transcripts can be found [here](#).

“Ethnic Solidarity and Fragmentation” explored two aspects of de-industrialization in Lowell: how mill closings affected residents in Lowell’s ethnic neighborhoods and how city officials and urban planners responded to the growing social and economic crises in Lowell. Interviewees included industrialists, labor leaders, and city officials. For transcripts of the nine interviews click [here](#).

“After the Last Generation, Part I,” explored the post-World War II textile industry in Lowell, a period of dramatic decline among the city’s textile producers. This project documented the changing structure of Lowell’s textile industry and how these changes affected workers and managers. Ten interviews and transcripts comprise this series are located [here](#).

“After the Last Generation, Part II” continued documenting Lowell’s post-World War II textile industry. These interviews focused on female textile workers and managers, women activists who responded to community needs of new immigrants in the textile workforce and to the needs of established ethnic communities in the city. Read eight interview transcripts [here](#).

“From Creation to Operation: Twenty-Five Years at Lowell National Historical Park” includes interviews with eleven people instrumental in the formation of the park. Transcripts can be found [here](#).

Other oral history projects sponsored by the Center for Lowell History that relate to the park include “Mill Workers of Lowell,” “Southeast Asians,” and “Working People of Lowell.”

The park uses oral history research to support ethnographic history and social history programs and to support exhibits and interpretive programs.

Lyndon Baines Johnson National Historical Park (TX): The LBJ Ranch Oral History Project, begun in the early 1970s, contains over five hundred audio interviews with Lady Bird Johnson and other Johnson family members, LBJ Ranch employees, and longtime friends and associates of the Johnson family in the Texas Hill Country. One interview is comprised of a five-day tour and documentation of the ranch with its long-time foreman. For a description of the first phases of the project, see Edwin C. Bearss, “Oral History: A Challenging and Provocative Experience,” [CRM Bulletin](#), vol. 13, no. 2 (1990); or [online](#).

Since 2000 the park has added about twenty filmed interviews to its collections. Among the people and places documented are Luci Baines Johnson inside the Texas White House at Christmas 2007, after her mother passed away, and Secret Service agents discussing their protection of the president and of Mrs. Johnson for 34 years after her husband died. Only after the first lady’s death would Secret Service agents discuss their duties and allow the inside of their command post to be filmed. Other narrators include one of LBJ’s doctors, the park’s ranch manager who started working at the LBJ Ranch while Johnson was in the White House, the Johnsons’

grandson, LBJ's pilot after he left office, Mrs. Johnson's hair dresser at the ranch, one of the builders who helped construct the LBJ Texas White House Office in 1958, and early park staff. Most interviews have been transcribed, and original recordings in multiple formats have been copied to CDs.

Maggie Lena Walker National Historic Site (VA): The site has conducted interviews with Walker family members (including four of her grandchildren) and close family friends who describe family gatherings and celebrations, everyday life, and how rooms of her house looked and were used when the entrepreneur and reformer was alive. Other narrators include people who lived and worked in Jackson Ward, the Richmond, VA, neighborhood where Mrs. Walker lived. Interpreters rely on the interviews for tour information.

Manzanar National Historic Site (CA): Since 1999, the Manzanar Oral History Project has collected more than 500 accounts of Manzanar's past and of Japanese American removal and confinement. Most of the oral history interviews document the World War II experiences of Japanese Americans confined at Manzanar, the nine other War Relocation Authority confinement sites, and additional government-run confinement facilities. Interviews also record the memories of civilian staff members and their children, Army personnel assigned to the confinement facilities, local Owens Valley residents who interacted with residents and staff at Manzanar, Japanese Americans who did not go into confinement, and supporters and opponents of Japanese Americans. The project also documents stories of other eras at Manzanar, including its identities as Paiute homeland, an orchard community, a water source for Los Angeles, and a unit of the National Park Service. All original recordings are housed at the site's archival facility at Death Valley National Park. A list of narrators is available on [Manzanar's website](#).

The park relies heavily on its oral history collection for site management and interpretation. Oral history interviews have aided in uncovering ornamental gardens at the site. Oral history participants are the narrators in the orientation film *Remembering Manzanar* shown in the visitor center every 30 minutes, and oral history figures heavily in the visitor center exhibits. Exhibits installed in 2015 in two

replica barracks also rely heavily on oral history content, and include listening stations and audio-visual clips from interviews. Interview excerpts add historical context and personal meanings to artifacts displayed in a virtual museum available through Manzanar's website. Staff and volunteers have condensed content from some oral history interviews into short biographies called ID Booklets, which are also available on Manzanar's website or in print. Interviews about children incarcerated are primary sources for a 2012 book, Children of Manzanar, published by the Manzanar History Association, Manzanar's cooperating association. Because of staff's first-hand involvement with oral history, content from oral history narrators finds its way into daily interactions with visitors.

The Manzanar Oral History Project has been supported by the Project Management Information System (PMIS), Challenge Cost Share Program, and the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program. Densho is an important partner; Manzanar contracts with Densho for webhosting, transcription, and digital preservation. More than 100 Manzanar oral history recordings are available for viewing at www.densho.org. A newer partner is the California Audio Visual Preservation Project, which also webhosts and digitally preserves oral history recordings. Its website is www.californialightandsound.org. Manzanar has contracted with California State University, Fullerton; Audio Transcription Center; and Pearl Transcripts for transcription services, and volunteers have also transcribed interview recordings.

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site and The National Archives for Black Women's History (DC): The oral history collections found at the National Archives for Black Women's History, part of the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, include interviews recorded in the mid-1970s with prominent leaders in African American civil rights and activist organizations and a series of 2006 interviews with some of the descendents of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, political activist, and founder of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW).

The all-female NCNW was organized in 1935 to coordinate the efforts of various black women's voluntary associations, domestically and internationally. In the oral history interview series with 20th century

civil rights leaders and activists, notable members of the NCNW community--such as organizer Marjorie Parker, physician Dorothy Ferebee, and college professor Hilda Fortune--share stories about Mary McLeod Bethune, offer personal observations about the 1960s Civil Rights Era, and describe their experiences as black women in society and politics. Their work, such as developing skill training programs and forming committees on the status of African Americans, exemplified the type of women's activism unique to the NCNW. Council members grounded their activism in the belief that coordinated efforts and coalition building would forward the interests of women, families, and communities.

Also in this series are interviews with prominent male figures in the Civil Rights Movement such as radical activist Bayard Rustin, former director of the NAACP Roy Wilkins, and one of the "Little Rock Nine," Ernest Green. They recall the tense atmosphere in the South during desegregation and share personal memories of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy I. Height (late NCNW president), labor leader A. Phillip Randolph, and Malcolm X. This group of oral history interviews provides a multifaceted and candid narrative of civil rights in the 20th century, especially highlighting black women's participation.

In the 2006 series of oral history interviews, Dr. Elizabeth Clark Lewis, distinguished African American women's history scholar at Howard University, speaks with four of Bethune's grandchildren. They discuss their family history, growing up with the legacy of the Bethune name, being raised on the campus of Bethune-Cookman College in Florida, and their general feelings about their grandmother's life and accomplishments. These interviews supplement the interpretive experience of touring the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site in Washington, DC, by reminding guests of Bethune as a powerful example of dedication and inner strength above all adversity.

These two groups of oral histories are part of a larger body of audio-visual material found at the National Archives for Black Women's History which serves to preserve the collective memory of the National Council of Negro Women and their affiliate organizations

and to document the changing status of African American women throughout the 20th century. All recordings have accompanying first round transcriptions that have not yet been proofed for accuracy. Researchers interested in accessing these audio collections at the National Archives for Black Women's History should contact archives staff at 202-673-2402.

Mesa Verde National Park (CO): The park's oral history program started in 1979-1980 and now includes more than 230 interviews. Initial areas of concentration for interviews were park administration, archeology and excavation, park concessions, park life, the Civilian Conservation Corps, long-time residents of local communities, early park visitors, and environmental concerns. Interviews have also helped to document people and places in park photographs. During the 1980s research lab technician Marilyn Coyer conducted over seventy interviews. More recently, the oral history program, under the direction of park curator Liz Bauer and archives technician Patti Bell, concentrated on commemorating the park's centennial in 2006. In 2005 and 2006 park staff conducted some 160 interviews with former park employees and local residents; they obtained twenty-six at the Mesa Verde Alumni Reunion in October 2006. In addition, the oral history program partnered with Community Radio KSJD to produce "Mesa Verde Voices," a radio series of twenty-two audio snapshots that depict the lives of people who lived and worked in the park during its first century. To hear the "Voices" audio histories, go to www.ksjd.org and click on "hear this!" The oral histories were also used in Duane A. Smith, *Mesa Verde National Park: Shadows of the Centuries*, rev. ed. (Bolder: University Press of Colorado, 2002).

Minidoka National Historic Site (ID): Oral histories relating to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II have been conducted by DENSHO: The Japanese American Legacy Project (<http://www.densho.org/>). The oral histories will become part of the site's archives and will be used for interpretive and educational programs.

Minute Man National Historical Park (MA): In the 1990s the park's historian conducted twenty interviews that focused on agriculture; the park's establishment; Margaret Lothrop, the last owner of The

Wayside, the National Historical Landmark in the park; the bicentennial in 1975 of the Battle of April 19, 1775; and issues of importance to the superintendent. For a 2007 administrative history of the park, “Bridging the Past: A History of Minute Man National Historical Park,” Joan Zenzen conducted oral histories with former park superintendents and the current superintendent; former and current park employees; former national and local representatives instrumental in the park’s establishment; a former developer and selectman from Concord; and a sheep farmer who did not want to sell but whose land was purchased by the park.

Minuteman Missile National Historic Site (SD): The oral history collection includes interviews with more than twenty members of the missile crews at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakotans who grew up close to the Minuteman Missile site, and people who organized to protest deployment of nuclear weapons. Transcripts of interviews with missileers, security police, local citizens, federal marshals, and members of maintenance teams, codes division and the peace movement are located [here](#) and [here](#). Oral history material is incorporated into interpretive tours. The site solicits stories and possible oral history interviewees through an on-line questionnaire you can find [here](#).

Mojave National Preserve (CA): In 2005 staff members conducted oral history interviews with eight former and current residents of the Mojave Desert area. The interviews were professionally filmed, then edited and blended with historic photos to create six themed stories now shown on a touch-button kiosk exhibit at Kelso Depot Visitor Center. The popular exhibit highlights the unique circumstances in the lives of people living and working in the remote Mojave Desert. Themes include growing up, home life, Kelso Depot, local tribes, mining and ranching. Original video footage is archived and each interview was transcribed.

Mount Rainier National Park (WA): Since the 1950s the park staff and volunteers have initiated several successful oral history projects resulting in the completion of about seventy interviews. Among interviewees were veterans of the Civilian Conservation Corps, particularly members of the park’s only African American camp unit;

veterans of the World War II mountain ski troop; and park and concession employees from the 1930s through the 1950s.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial (SD): The memorial has a collection of one dozen interviews with its sculptor (Lincoln Borglum, who assumed the duties of his father Gutzon upon his death in 1941), early construction workers and an early concession manager. The oral histories are used in interpretive programs and by researchers.

Natchez Trace Parkway (MS, AL, TN): The parkway has six interviews with people involved with the history of the Meriwether Lewis Monument and of the parkway in Tennessee. All six were conducted by Peggy Scherbaum, park ranger, and are housed at park headquarters in Tupelo, MS. The narrators were R. Hutton Buchanan, operator of the quarry that was the source of the base stones for the 2000 monument restoration; James Moran, the historic restoration specialist who worked on the 2000 monument restoration; Robenia Joyce, the last direct descendent of the Flanigan line, eight of whom are interred in the Pioneer Cemetery (site of the Meriwether Lewis Monument); Richard Tate, the managing director of MacDonald Funeral Home in Hohenwald, TN, and the county coroner for Lewis County, who in 1996 was presiding coroner at the Meriwether Lewis inquest; MaryBeth Shannon, a popular and well-loved school teacher and a life-long resident of the Hohenwald, TN, area whose family was significantly affected by the creation of the Natchez Trace Parkway; and Andy G. Hinson, a member of a prominent Lewis County family who in 1925 helped establish the Meriwether Lewis site as a national monument and who has the largest number of burials in the Pioneer Cemetery. Mr. Hinson was present at the coroner's inquest in 1996. The interviews were used in developing interpretive exhibits, formal talks, and in first-person living history programs.

New Bedford Whaling National History Park (MA): The park has sponsored two ethnography projects, both completed by Laura Orleans, that documented the stories and places of New England whaling. The “Faces of Whaling Oral History Project,” begun in 1998, documented the experiences, artifacts and family stories of former

whale men and their descendants during the final years of the whaling era in New Bedford, MA (c. 1900-1924). The project placed special emphasis on the experiences of whale men from the Azorean, Cape Verdean, West Indian, African-American and Native American communities. Seventeen narrators were interviewed. See the [NEBE Web site](#) for more information.

The “Places of Whaling” project, begun in 2000, focused on collecting stories about places of significance to New Bedford’s whaling community in the early 20th century. The project emphasized places significant to the Azorean, Cape Verdean and West Indian communities and included social clubs, boardinghouses, manufacturers (boat shops, cordage companies, and oil refineries), and outfitters. The project documented six places and produced twenty hours of recorded interviews. For more information, see Laura Orleans, “Places of Whaling Ethnography Project Final Report” (February 2002).

New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park (LA): Since 1998 the park and the New Orleans Jazz Commission have conducted a series of videotaped oral histories of local New Orleans music legends. This effort continues documentation projects begun in 1958 at the Hogan Jazz Archives at Tulane University. Both projects seek to collect and preserve the memories and oral traditions of New Orleans musicians. More than one hundred musicians have been interviewed and videotaped, and the collection is available at the park as well as Tulane’s jazz archives. The interviews are featured in park exhibits. A list of interviewees is can be found [here](#) or [here](#).

New River Gorge National River (WV): Recording oral histories is a continuing activity of both interpretation and resource management teams. The park’s two primary oral history initiatives were interviews conducted by the American Folklife Center and the New River Neighbors programs (a series of winter programs during which local residents spoke about their home and work lives in the New River Gorge area). Most of the park’s four hundred interviews document the experiences of people who worked for coal mines and railroads in the central Appalachians or had relatives who did so during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A small number deal with Euro-American

agriculture and timbering and state park development. During summer 2009 a Cultural Resources Diversity intern completed ten interviews with African Americans whose stories of work and life in the gorge area began to link the park to its diverse local community.

Nicodemus National Historic Site (KS): The site of the only remaining western town established by African Americans during Reconstruction has completed several oral history projects.

“The Historic American Buildings Survey Oral History Project” (1983) is comprised of thirty-four interviews with older Nicodemus descendants living in the Kansas town or nearby. Narrators discussed the early history of Nicodemus, memories of the town, people, activities, religion, education and daily living. Some questions also addressed the contemporary status of the town, town government, and the emancipation/homecoming celebration.

“The National Council for the Traditional Arts Oral History,” a project completed in 1998-1999, yielded fifty-four interviews. The priority was to interview the oldest area residents as the population of Nicodemus was aging and dwindling. Topics covered included the emancipation/ homecoming celebration (its history, organization, and structure), families, the history of the town, landscape, family life, early community institutions, Nicodemus in the 20th century and changes over time.

“The Cultural Landscape Report and Historic Structures Report Oral History Project,” conducted in 2000-2001, included interviews with more than thirty people. Subjects included a few white residents of the area as well as descendants of Nicodemus. Narrators discussed the town’s history and its location, the townships, buildings, social centers and activities, housing, gardens and landscaping, farming and crops, roads and trails, the natural environment, the emancipation/homecoming celebration, and cemeteries.

According to “Small Oral History Project Completed,” Flowering of Nicodemus: The official newsletter of Nicodemus National Historic Site, Vol. 3, issue 3 (August 2006), p. 2, the park had recently completed interviews with three men and three women who discussed “growing up in or near Nicodemus and about their lives.”

Topics included military service, occupations pursued, gardening, serving as a midwife, history of local churches, and sports activities. As the author noted, “Today, so few people live in rural areas that most have no idea what it was like to grow up in a place like Nicodemus,” and the oral histories were one way to convey those experiences. The article can be found at the [NICO Web site](#)

North Cascades National Park (WA): The park’s various oral history projects, most completed in the 1970s and 1980s, document and preserve valuable information regarding the establishment of the park; early mining, trapping, and logging in the area; Native American culture; government land management; and early exploration and settlement of the region. Information in the interviews supports park management and interpretive programs. Transcripts and recordings are available to researchers and the public. Museum curator Kelly Cahill hopes to use the oral histories to produce Podcasts.

Obed Wild and Scenic River (TN): In 1992 Ken Wahlers conducted oral histories with people who lived most or all of their lives in Morgan County, TN, in the area surrounding the Obed-Emory River and its tributaries. The interviews illustrate the value of the Obed-Emory River as a recreational resource, as well as the economic importance of the surrounding forest and the railroad that ran through the area. Agricultural practices in the area were mainly subsistence, and families were highly self-sufficient. A summary report, “Bad Roads and Blue Cohosh”: An Oral History of the Obed River Region, Tennessee: The 1992 Obed Oral History Project,” audio tapes and transcripts are housed at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Olympic National Park (WA): The park oral history collection consists of over 400 oral histories on cassette tapes with almost 200 transcribed in Word documents. The purpose of the interviews range from overall historic information to those conducted as part of research projects. The park collection contains interviews with tribal members, Civilian Conservation Corp men, park staff, and community members. Research topics on tribal issues contain information on seal hunting, nearshore harvest, and traditional use of prairies. There are

interviews with historical data on the Ozette Archeology Project, homestead families, Herb Crisler filming in the Olympic Mountains, Elwha River Restoration, history of skiing in the park, historic architecture, park management, and a variety of events related to the park. Copies of cassette tapes and/or transcripts are available for use by park staff and outside researchers.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (AZ): Plant ecologist Sue Rutman conducted oral histories with local residents and NPS employees in 2001-2002 to document ranching history, rural life, and the early history of Organ Pipe. Some interviewees shared photographs and maps. Original cassette tapes and transcriptions are housed at the NPS's Western Archeological Center in Tucson, AZ.

Ozarks National Scenic Riverways (MO): The park's seventy-five oral history interviews have been conducted as part of ethnographic historical research. Interviews have focused on the traditional roles of women in the Ozarks and on the traditional ways of living on the resources of the region's land and rivers. The "Women of the Riverways" Project, for example, sought to study the roles of women in the Ozarks, describe some of their traditional knowledge and unique qualities, identify changes that women have experienced during the past several decades, explore consequences of increased tourism in the area, and consider implications for production and management of related cultural resources. Most of the sixty narrators interviewed were women, but some were men. The park also worked with fourth-grade girls in local elementary schools. For other projects, park historians recorded forty-four interviews with people who had a working knowledge of the region and an understanding of the park's history. Among the topics discussed were legislative history, archeology, the Civilian Conservation Corps, specific springs, creeks, mills and farms, blacksmithing, tie rafting and log drives, mules and Ozark farming. The interviews support the park's interpretive programs and exhibit development. Outside researchers also find them useful.

In addition, the park includes in its collections transcripts from the "Missouri Environment Oral History Project," conducted in 1997 by the State Historical Society of Missouri. Interviews with Missouri land

use and natural resources protection professionals document the history of conservation, preservation, environmentalism, and land and natural resource use in Missouri. Topics addressed include forestry, wildlife management, minerals extraction, waterways issues, and environmental politics.

Park History Program (WASO): The Park History Program has conducted and preserved interviews with a variety of National Park Service personnel. They range from former directors (George B. Hartzog, Jr., Robert G. Stanton, and Roger G. Kennedy) to former associate directors (Mickey Fearn, Michael Soukup, Denis P. Galvin, and John Reynolds), and former superintendents (Ernest Quintana and Maureen Finnerty). Other interviewees include David Barna, former chief spokesman of the NPS; Liz Cushman Titus Putnam, founding director of the Student Conservation Corps, an NPS partner; and Helen C. Harzog, widow of George Hartzog whose partnership helped make his time as director so successful.

Point Reyes National Seashore (CA): Between 1985 and 1994, the park historian conducted over forty oral history interviews. Some explore the memories of people involved in generations of dairy and cattle ranching, oyster farming and fishing in the area. Other interviewees speak of Coast Miwok culture, the search for Sir Francis Drake's landing site, service at the Coast Guard Station at Point Reyes, and Morse code radio operations at the historic Marconi/RCA radio stations, the Point Reyes Lighthouse and Lifesaving Station, and the historic railroad depot of Hamlet. The PORI oral history collection is used by academic, scientific and genealogical researchers, writers, and filmmakers as well as by park staff. For information about the PORI oral histories and other interview collections that discuss the history of West Marin County, CA, and vicinity, go [here](#).

In addition, the author of the park's administrative history recorded thirty-one interviews. These included oral histories with Stewart Udall, Harold Gilliam, Bill Duddleson and others who were central to the park's creation. For a list of all narrators, see Paul Sadin, "Managing a Land in Motion: An Administrative History of Point Reyes National Seashore," October 2007; http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/pore/admin.pdf.

Prince William Forest Park (VA): The park has fifty oral histories stored in its library and collections facility. Thirty of those interviews resulted from a project that focused on the surviving members of two African American communities that pre-dated the park. Completed by two Howard University professors in 2008, this project shed light on the life and times of African Americans who lived and worked in the park up until the 1930s. The park's collection of oral histories also includes interviews with Civilian Conservation Corps members, and former cabin campers, park staff, and other park residents. Informal phone or email correspondences have also been conducted with Office of Strategic Services members who trained at the park during World War II. Most of these interviews were conducted with audio cassette tapes, which the park is working to digitize in order to make them accessible for interpretative purposes. The audio of the most recent interviews are available in digital format, and some have been video-recorded as well. The audio and text of these interviews are used by the interpretation staff for creating exhibits and displays in the park visitor center. Park staff members conduct oral histories on an ongoing basis when opportunities arise.

John Whiteclay Chambers II, a professor of history at Rutgers University, conducted scores of interviews related to PRWI for OSS Training in the National Parks and Service Abroad in World War II (Washington: National Park Service, 2008). To read the report, click [here](#).

Pu'ukohola Heiau National Historic Site (HI): In the 1970s the park interviewed local residents about personal and community memories. One of the interviews was with Herb Kane, a world-famous Hawaiian artist, historian, and cultural practitioner who discussed historical events that took place at Pu'ukohola Heiau.

Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area (PA): With support from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program, folklorists with the heritage area have conducted and preserved oral history interviews with men and women who worked in steel mills in southwestern Pennsylvania. The "Steelworker Oral History Project" contains nearly fifty interviews with a variety of workers—machinists, crane repairmen, foremen,

messengers, members of labor gangs, pattern makers, clerks, timekeepers, and other occupations—from several plants in the region. For a description of the project and interviewees, go to the [Rivers of Steel Web site](#). “Stories of Life in Southwestern Pennsylvania” can be found at the [Rivers of Steel Web site](#). To hear steelworkers tell stories about daily life in the mills in the Pittsburgh region, go to the [Rivers of Steel Web site](#).

Rocky Mountain National Park (CO): The park has conducted some 150 oral history interviews. The interviews fall into three primary groups. The first group includes over 88 interviews conducted by Ranger Ferrel Atkins and others. Subjects covered include the Arapaho Expedition, Grand Ditch, Big Thompson Flood, alpine tundra, homesteading, Longs Peak, Abner Sprague, Stead’s Ranch, John Holzwarth, McCraw Ranch, inns and roads, wild land fires, and surrounding area local history. The second group is a cataloged archival collection, Hidden Valley Ski Resort Oral History Interviews (ROMO 22846), containing 26 interviews relating to the old ski resort in ROMO. The third group includes 38 current employees interviewed by our park Librarian using a digital recorder resulting in MP3 files. Most of the first collection is transcribed and transcription of other groups is under way. The first group has also been migrated from reel-to-reel to cassette and again to compact discs. Researchers can contact the park curator to use the interviews. They will also be available on the “People” page of the official ROMO Website.

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site (NY): The site was among oral history pioneers in the United States. Between 1947 and 1951 ROVA’s superintendent George A. Palmer and park historian Frederick D. Rath, Jr. made wire recordings with friends, neighbors, local political advisers, staff and associates of the families of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Frederick W. Vanderbilt. Among those who shared their memories were President Roosevelt’s secretary, chief telephone operator, tenant farmer, and outdoor handyman; the man who had been in charge of the grounds and gardens at the Roosevelt estate, and his wife; a Roosevelt family houseman and butler; and Mr. Vanderbilt’s butler. Most of the site’s 150 interviews were completed between 1947-1952, in the 1970s and

1990s. For more about the earliest collecting efforts, see: Frederick L. Rath, Jr., "Oral History: The Hyde Park Project," CRM, vol. 16, no. 10 (1993): 1,3-6; and W. D. Urbin, "Wards of the Hyde Park Project," CRM, vol. 16, no. 10 (1993): 12. Read about the Hyde Park Project [here](#).

Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park

(CA): In partnership with the University of California at Berkeley Regional Oral History Office (ROHO), since 2003 the park has collected over seventy-five in-depth oral history interviews with women and men about their wartime experiences in the San Francisco Bay Area during the war. Introductions to narrators, interview transcripts and video excerpts from interviews are available through [Berkeley](#). Narrators discussed how and why people from different backgrounds came to the Bay Area, what they did when they arrived, and what they learned from the fluidity and flux of wartime life that affected decisions they made after the war ended. Among the topics explored were what women learned about the relationships between work and family life; changing attitudes towards education; the war's effect on race relations and civil rights struggles; new ideas about sexuality and their meanings; the reconfiguration of entertainment; and the degree to which religious organizations provided people with a new sense of community. The oral histories have been used by public school teachers; the East Bay Center for Performing Arts; documentary filmmakers; and book authors. While the oral history transcripts and video recordings are included in the RORI museum collection and the park has permission to collect and use the interviews for internal research, interpretation, and exhibit, any third parties seeking to use the interviews must get permission directly from ROHO.

In addition to the oral histories, RORI sponsored a "memory-collecting" project that gathered the written stories of men and women from all over the country who lived through World War II. To help writers structure the first-person written memoirs, the park outlined topics and themes. Most authors discussed the topics they remembered most and subjects and events that were most important to them. These accounts were an effort to document the experience of everyday life during the war. By late 2009 approximately two

thousand women and men had contributed to the collection. Some accounts come from people who were children during the war as well as adults who describe work and home life.

Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway (WI): Oral history collection has been linked to administrative history, interpretive programs and the understanding of park resources. In the 1980s, interviews focused on the early history of the park and life in and near the park before its creation. During the summer of 2009 an intern supplemented these efforts by conducting thirty interviews with people who discussed their personal histories and connection to the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers and their views on the riverway. Another oral history collection documents the creation of a portion of the park by a commission that has since been disbanded. The interviews are used primarily for documentation, interpretation, and reference material for some management decisions.

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site (NH): The park has six taped interviews, three done in the 1960s when the park first began, and the others in the 1980s. The 1980s interviewees are Burke Wilkinson, author of “Uncommon Clay,” a biography of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens; Michael St. Germaine, grandson of Saint-Gaudens, whose father was Louis Paul St. Gaudens, son of the sculptor and his model Davida Clark, who discussed his family’s life; and Lena Kovalsky, who ran the river ferry from Plainfield, NH, and kept house for painter and illustrator Maxfield Parrish. Among people interviewed in the 1960s were Martha Nelson Smith, a cook for Saint-Gaudens, who discussed her job and described entertaining Secretary of State John Hay; Frances Grimes, the principal assistant to Saint-Gaudens in his later years, who discussed the sculptor’s studio and the Cornish Colony of artists; Fannie Littell, who described the end of the Cornish Colony; and Barry Faulkner, assistant to Saint-Gaudens and friend of Homer Saint-Gaudens, whose interview was conducted as he moved around to different sites (Aspet house, the Little Studio, and the grounds).

Salem Maritime National Historic Site (MA): Between 2007 and 2009 the park used interviews as part of its study of Poles in Salem that focused on the Derby Street neighborhood. The neighborhood, the

heart of the city's Polish community for decades, surrounds Salem Maritime. With support from the NPS Ethnography Program, researchers interviewed twenty community members about their memories of the neighborhood as well as studying materials in archives, museums, and library collections to write an ethnohistory of Polish Salem from the 1870s to the present. Topics, places and events explored included the social and spiritual infrastructure of the early immigrant community (including St. John the Baptist Polish Roman Catholic Church and the building of St. Joseph Hall); economic life in Polish Salem between 1899 and 1939 (including mutual assistance, Derby Street, work in the leather and textile industries, and labor relations); the creation of a Polish American identity; memories of the third generation of Polish Americans about family, education, community institutions, and clubs; and the relationship between Salem's Polish community and Salem Maritime NHS. The final report—Cathy Stanton and Jane Becker, “In the Heart of Polish Salem: An Ethnohistorical Study of St. Joseph Hall and Its Neighborhood” (Boston: Northeast Region Ethnography Program, December 2009)--can be found at the [SAMA Web site](#).

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (CA): The San Francisco Maritime Museum Oral History Collection, started in 1952 by curator Karl Kortum, consists of 591 interviews on tape. The collection documents the lives of West Coast ships' officers, sailors, boat builders, longshoremen, fishermen and many other maritime-related workers. The collection contains interviews with notable West Coast maritime figures such as Captain Fred Klebbingat, Captain Axel Widerstrom, Captain Charles A. Shirley, and waterfront labor activist Bill Bailey. Many of the interviews were conducted by museum curators Harlen Soeten and Karl Kortum and maritime historians such as Captain Harold D. Huycke. The interviews cover a wide range of subjects from the salmon fisheries and the Alaska Packers Association to technical details of cargo handling on square-rigged ships; from shipboard conditions to labor actions on the waterfront. Because few of the interviews from this era have full supporting documentation (legal release forms), access to or use of the materials is often limited. A limited number of interviews have been transcribed and many are available only on tape.

In addition, a collection of 210 transcripts consists of interviews by Jack McNairn, co-author of *Ships of the Redwood Coast* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1945). The interviews, focused on West Coast merchant seamen active in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, were conducted from 1958 to the early 1960s for the San Francisco Maritime Museum. The collection includes interviews with Bay Area maritime industry tradesmen and the spouses and children of seamen. Topics explored include merchant seamanship, shipping trade routes, ship architecture, shipboard living conditions, San Francisco Bay fishing and trade, San Francisco history, maritime culture and steamships.

These collections have been used for park exhibits such as “Days of the Tule Sailor” and “Sparks, Waves & Wizards,” park historic vessel wayside panels, and audio tours. The collection is being used to research the park’s upcoming administrative history. The Karl Kortum Award for Maritime History, sponsored by the Library Friends of the park, requires that part of the research be conducted in the SAFR oral history collection.

“The Men Who Sailed the Liberty Ships” project (SAFR 21661) is comprised of oral history videotaped interviews conducted by Maria Brooks with World War II merchant mariners. Excerpts from three of the interviews were used in the “On the Water” exhibit, now on display at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History. Merchant seaman William Flury narrates his experience during the sinking of the Liberty ship *Jean Nicolet* by a Japanese submarine in the Indian Ocean on July 2, 1944. Alan Harvie and “Sarge” Ransome were aboard *Honumu* when attacked and sunk by a German U-boat on July 5, 1942. See the [Smithsonian's Web site](#).

In recent years the park has begun an administrative oral history program to interview long-term employees retiring from the park. Oral history interviews will be part of the park’s basic research for San Francisco Bay Area Maritime Historic Resource Study.

In 2008 the park began to transfer and accession the San Francisco Maritime Museum's Oral History collection (SAFR 21848) into the park's museum collection. All future oral histories collected will be

accessioned into the collection and will meet NPS standards for oral histories. As part of a digital preservation transfer project, an initial accession of ninety-five interviews recorded on 164 cassette tapes was digitally captured in 2009. As part of this project, the park has written and implemented standards and guidelines based on Indiana University and Harvard University Sound Directions: Best Practices for Audio Preservation including standards established by the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives, the Audio Engineering Society, and the European Broadcasting Union, the Library of Congress, and the Digital Library Federation for the capture and production of digital audio preservation masters.

San Juan National Historic Site (PR): Between 1999 and 2002 the park completed “Voices of Fort Brooke.” The oral history project recorded the experiences of people who worked and lived in the first US military installations in Puerto Rico. Military and civilian personnel who served in the fort describe a period different from that of Spanish colonial rule and recall interactions between Americans and Puerto Ricans.

San Juan Island National Historical Park (WA): The park has interviewed five San Juan Islanders about early homesteading and fishing.

Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site (CO): In 1999 and 2000, the NPS collaborated with Cheyenne and Arapaho descendants of Sand Creek Massacre survivors to conduct oral histories that helped identify the location of the 1864 massacre when Colorado troops killed some 150 Indians, most of whom were women, children, or the elderly. The NPS worked closely with Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal representatives to insure that the intellectual property rights to the sensitive oral histories were safeguarded, that interviews conducted in native languages were transcribed accurately, and that narrators received copies of the interviews. Some twenty people shared family and tribal memories of the massacre. For more information about protocols followed, see Alexa Roberts, “Sand Creek Massacre Site Oral History: Protecting Tribal Intellectual Property Rights,” CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship, no. 9 (2000): 43-46; or [online](#).

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (CA): Over the past thirty years, the park's anthropologist Phil Holmes has directed the recording of five hundred tapes. The recordings are of oral histories, ethnographic studies, park programs, park guest lecture series and park partners' lectures. The park's oral history program focuses on documenting the views, beliefs and experiences of the local Gabrielino/Tongva and Chumash people. Dr. Diana Wilson conducted an ethnographic study that involved interviewing thirty-five Chumash, or Gabrielino/Tongva consultants. The other focus of the oral history program is interviewing past residents and owners of the land to help determine any sites with national, state or local significance. The topics and themes present in the interviews are Native Americans, Latinos, ranching, dry land farming, homesteading, land use by settlers, beekeeping, women environmentalists, grassroots environmentalism, aerospace facilities in the mountains, land acquisition by the park, history of archaeology in the mountains, and movie making at Paramount Ranch and other movie ranches. Dr. Leonard Pitt conducted fourteen interviews of public officials involved in the creation of the park. The collection also includes tapes from the advisory commission, Land Protection Plan public meetings and interviews of employees regarding land acquisitions, resource management and special park events. The interviews are used as background information for the historic resource study and determinations of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, interpretive lectures and park publications.

Scotts Bluff National Monument (NE): Between 1962 and 1999, monument staff members recorded interviews with twelve NPS employees and area residents who could offer first-hand accounts of the development of the monument and local history. Among the interviewees were Horace Albright, the second director of the NPS, and his daughter, Marion Schenck, and a man whose family settled in the area in the late 19th century.

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail (AL): "It was almost like the spirit of history had tracked us down and we allowed ourselves to be used," says US Representative John R. Lewis about the participants in the Selma to Montgomery March on behalf of voting

rights in 1965. The park's Web site features stories of nearly forty women and men who participated in the historic—and often violent--marches and other civil rights activities in Alabama. Also interviewed were local residents and observers of Alabama history, culture, society and politics. To hear memories of the Civil Rights Movement, Bloody Sunday, the Selma to Montgomery March, and the reactions to and legacies of the struggle for voting rights, click [here](#).

The video, audio and interview transcript excerpts are part of Harpers Ferry Center's use of multiple media for trail interpretation. Interviews were also incorporated into interactive exhibit kiosks and into the trail's documentary, "Never Lose Sight of Freedom," which explores the meanings of the voting rights struggle in Alabama through the contemporary eyes--and video cameras--of students. For more on the documentary and oral histories, see "Pathways Across America: Selma to Montgomery," Partnership for the National Trails System (Winter 2006), [National Trails Partnership Web site](#). Interviews, transcripts and other production source materials are archived at the Harpers Ferry Center, WV.

September 11, 2001 Oral History Documentation Project: NPS ethnographers and historians documented how the terrorist attacks affected parks and their staffs and how people throughout the country often came to terms with the attacks by seeking solace in a national park. In the Northeast Region, where many employees had seen the attacks on the World Trade Center or were involved in the response effort to safeguard NPS resources, historians and ethnographers completed an extensive oral history project with support from Eastern National, and the National Park Foundation. As part of this effort an ethnographer from the NPS Washington headquarters conducted interviews in the National Capital Region and in New York City. The team of interviewers included Louis Hutchins, Chuck Smythe, Mark Schoepfle, and George Tselos. Excerpts from many of these interviews and supporting materials can be found [here](#).

Meanwhile, Janet A. McDonnell, NPS bureau historian in 2001, used oral history interviews as one source to document the official response of the NPS to the September 11th attacks. She interviewed

NPS leaders, regional and park managers, park staff, US Park Police officers, and park rangers. The interviews were a key source in McDonnell's book, The National Park Service Responds to the September 11 Terrorist Attacks (Washington: National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 2004). Interviews are housed in the Park History Program offices in Washington.

For a description of the oral history projects, see Janet A. McDonnell, "The National Park Service Responds to the September 11th Terrorist Attacks," CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship, vol. 1, no. 1 (Fall 2003); and Mindi Rambo, "Employees 9/11 Experiences Captured in Oral Histories," Inside NPS, September 11, 2009. McDonnell's article is at the [CRM Journal Web site](#); Rambo's article is at the [Inside NPS Web site](#).

Shenandoah National Park (VA): The park's oral history collection is comprised of some two hundred tapes and transcripts that cover the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps and early park development, including Skyland Resort and President Hoover's Rapidan Camp. An index exists of all interviews listed alphabetically by interviewee and by type of recording media (reel-to-reel and cassette) and whether or not transcribed. Interviews with CCC veterans, both in SHEN and nationally, are a particular focus. Many of these interviews were conducted in September 1999 during the 66th Reunion of the Shenandoah Chapter of the CCC at the Skyland Conference Center or during other annual reunions. To read transcripts of some thirty-five CCC interviews, see [here](#).

In addition, the Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection, 1964-2000, is housed at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. The collection contains some 130 interviews with people who were living in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia when they were forcibly removed in the 1930s for creation of Shenandoah National Park. Interviews were conducted by Dorothy Noble Smith in 1970s and 1980s in preparation for her book, Recollections: The People of the Blue Ridge Remember (Verona, VA: McClure, 1983). For a collection description, see [here](#).

Sitka National Historical Park (AK): According to the Sitka National Historical Park [Project Jukebox Web site](#) sponsored by the University

of Alaska Fairbanks oral history program, the project “is comprised of fourteen oral history interviews, photographs, and a walking tour of the Russian Bishop’s House.” The narratives and other resources are “designed to provide an overview” of the park and “its history, its facilities, and its importance to the Sitka community. This project was created to let Sitkans explain in their own words what the park means to them,” especially the “‘meaning of place’ to a community.”

“People interviewed for this project have a variety of ties to the Park. Tlingit elders remember hunting, fishing, and collecting plants from within its boundaries. The park is significant to the local Kiks.adi clan since it is where their ancestors fought against and then fled from a Russian invasion in 1804”—a key event that the park was established to commemorate. “Native and Non-Native Sitkans remember playing in the Park as children, especially those who lived at neighboring Sheldon Jackson School and its mission-sponsored Cottage Community. Former Park employees discuss their experiences working at the Park and key events in the Park’s development, such as building the Visitor Center, establishing the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center, and restoring the Russian Bishop’s House. Artists and administrators tell the Cultural Center’s story,” discussing “its role in the community, its relationship with the Park, and its influence on their art and their lives.”

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (MI): Most interviews at SLBE have focused on the needs of interpretation, historic structure preservation, National Register nominations, and other aspects of cultural resource management. SLBE’s oral history collections include interviews with local residents who once lived on lands now within the SLBE’s boundaries. Many of these provide specific details about the appearance and use of historic structures. In addition, there are interviews with individuals with a special knowledge of interpretative themes, *e.g.* upper Great Lakes maritime history, service at former U.S. Coast Guard stations within SLBE, and regional lumbering. There are also several recordings of lakeshore-related public meetings at the time of the SLBE’s organization. There are approximately ninety five oral history recordings in the SLBE oral history collections.

The Manitou Voices Oral History Project is a SLBE volunteer project that focuses specifically on gathering interviews with past residents of South and North Manitou Islands and their families. This includes individuals who served in the U.S. Coast Guard on the Manitou islands. During the summers of 2008 and 2009, twenty interviews were conducted. Lead interviewer for Manitou Voices has been Volunteer in the Park Nancy Hayes. At this point, the files for each Manitou Voices interview include an index, biographical and technical data, an interview index and, in some instances, digital files of photographs and documents copied from the interviewees personal collection. The goal is to transcribe each interview.

In addition, retired SLBE ranger Tom VanZoeren has, on his own, conducted interviews. His interviewees include local residents whose families once lived within park boundaries. Each of the interviews in the VanZoeren Collection includes copies of the edited interviews, and associated documents and photographs. In addition, Tom creates a notebook with written summaries and illustrations for the SLBE library. Mr. VanZoeren's use and release agreements with the interviewees allows the use of materials by SLBE and the SLBE's partner, Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear.

In 2009, SLBE received a grant from the Volunteer in the Park Projects Fund to develop an oral history kit for use in NPS parks. The kit materials were developed by Volunteer Nancy Hayes who is on the faculty at Coe College in Iowa and SLBE Museum Technician and historian Laura Quackenbush who has developed oral history programs at other regional institutions. The Oral History kit can be accessed via the SLBE website:

<http://www.nps.gov/slbe/historyculture/upload/oralhistorykit.pdf>.

Springfield Armory National Historic Site (MA): The site's collections include 118 interviews. Most are with employees who worked at the armory between 1934 and 1968 with a few who worked earlier. Some interviews are with employees of the Springfield Armory Museum, Inc., and with military personnel or their family members who were stationed at the armory or lived in armory quarters. Among topics discussed are World War II on the home front, women ordnance workers, African American workers, military personnel, military

service, family life, armory operations, the closing of the Springfield Armory and social activities. Most interviews cover the period between World War II and the late 1960s. The “Springfield Armory NHS Oral History Guide” features a catalogue of interviews, which concisely describes major topics of each interview, and an index to the collection.

The park has made twenty-three oral histories available on its educational Web site. To listen to interviews and read brief summaries, go to <http://www.forgeofinnovation.org/> and click on these series of links: “Springfield 1892 to 1945”/“Home”/“People of the Armory”/“Oral Histories.”

Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island (NY): Since it began in 1973, the Ellis Island Oral History Project has recorded some two thousand interviews with immigrants who came to the United States during the years Ellis Island was in operation, 1892-1954, with people who worked at Ellis Island, and members of the US Coast Guard who were stationed there. Interviews with immigrants often include descriptions of everyday life in the country of origin, family history, reasons for coming to America, the journey to the port, experiences on board ship, arrival and processing at the Ellis Island facility, and a consideration of how they adjusted to living in the United States. Everyone from school children to scholarly researchers can listen to the interviews in a public listening room and search transcripts. These interviews have been used extensively in the United States and other countries for television and film documentaries, radio broadcasts, creative artworks, and theatrical productions. The exhibits in the Ellis Island Immigration Museum rely heavily on quoted oral history material. For more information, click [here](#).

Steamtown National Historic Site (PA): The site has documented the human dimensions of steam railroading by interviewing the men and women who worked the historic railroads of the Northeast during the heyday of steam and American industry. Interviews emphasize the social, cultural and economic aspects of individuals, families and communities associated with steam era railroading. Specific focus has been placed on the personnel and families associated with the

regional railroads that served the Scranton/ Lackawanna County area, including but not limited to the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western; Lehigh Valley; New York, Ontario & Western; Erie; Delaware & Hudson; and the Central Railroad of New Jersey. Steamtown also conducted interviews with people involved in the railroad preservation movement. Sixty of the site's sixty-two audiotapes have been transcribed.

Stones River National Battlefield (TN): The park has completed or is in the process of conducting several projects that explore the history of the park and local communities. For example, ten interviews have been conducted with present or past residents of Murfreesboro, TN, for "Stones River National Battlefield Community Oral History Project." The "Cemetery Community Cultural Landscape Project" documented a predominately African American community that existed near the Stones River National Cemetery from 1865 until the land was incorporated into the park in 1927. Three oral history interviews with former residents of Cemetery and Murfreesboro compliment a variety of land records and other research materials. Finally, in 2009 a public history student from Middle Tennessee State University interviewed Patrick King, a long-time resident of the area and former employee of the battlefield.

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site (NY): The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation maintains an oral history collection of approximately forty audiotapes that focuses on the history of the former home of Ansley Wilcox in Buffalo, NY. The Wilcox residence is where Theodore Roosevelt took the oath of office as the 26th president of the United States on September 14, 1901, following the assassination of William McKinley. Most interviews were conducted during the late 1960s and 1970s with people whose memories might assist in the restoration of the former Wilcox residence. In 2004, several interviews were conducted to learn more about the period in the 1940s and 1950s when the building was a popular local restaurant; these interviews complement a collection of photographs that was assembled at the same time. More recently, when members of the committee that helped to restore the TR Site beginning in the 1960s reunited in 2007 they shared their memories of the work they accomplished.

The early oral histories of the former Wilcox house helped to guide the restoration and interpretation of the site. Along with more recently gathered oral histories, they continue to inform some of the site's activities and support its administrative history.

Thomas Edison National Historical Park (NJ): The park's sound archive includes a number of spoken word recordings created after its historic time period (post-1931).

In 1936 and 1937 Edison Laboratory Curator Norman R. Spieden recorded conversations via telephone as he spoke with several former Edison employees. These conversations were recorded on forty-one Ediphone brown wax dictation cylinders. (Catalog numbers: EDIS 93873 through EDIS 93923)

From 1959 to 1971, the park made forty-six recordings of former Edison employees, Edison family members, and NPS park rangers giving tours of the Edison Laboratory and Edison's home, Glenmont. The recordings were made on ¼-inch width, 5-inch diameter reel tapes.

From 1967 to circa 1977, former Edison employees were recorded. The result was four ¼-inch width, 7-inch diameter reel tape recordings. (Catalog numbers: EDIS 87973 through 87976)

The park has six ¼-inch width, 7-inch diameter reel tape recordings of reunion programs held from 1974 to 1977 highlighting the work of Edison phonograph recording artists. The recordings include the voices of several former Edison phonograph recording artists. (Catalog numbers: EDIS 61115 to 61119, & EDIS 61121)

Recorded from 1966 to 1993, eighteen audio cassette tapes contain oral histories of former Edison employees, phonograph recording artists, and NPS staff.

Timpanogos Cave National Monument (UT): The monument's oral history program started informally in the mid 1960s when Wayne McDaniel, a seasonal guide, interviewed three people associated with American Fork Canyon: a miner, a woodcutter, and a cattleman. In 1987 monument volunteers interviewed the first superintendent of Timpanogos Cave, Thomas A. Walker, just before he died. The same

year Paul Strong, a local American Fork caver, interviewed Wayne Hansen, the person who discovered Middle Cave. In the mid 1990s monument staff developed an oral history plan and began a partnership with the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies. Among the narrators in the collection are monument superintendents, interpreters and maintenance workers and cave discoverers and explorers.

Timucuan Ecological & Historical Preserve (FL): Oral history and ethnographic research have focused on interviews with descendants of planter Zephaniah Kingsley and Anna Kingsley, a West African woman whom he purchased, fathered children by, and shared households and business interests with in Florida and Haiti. At the Kingsley Plantation Heritage Celebration in 1998 graduate students from the University of Florida videotaped interviews with some fifteen descendants, many of whom lived in Jacksonville, Miami, and American Beach (a historically black beach near Amelia Island). In 2001 researchers added some ten interviews with Kingsley descendants from both African and British lineages. Narrators discussed perceptions of their multi-racial families and memories associated with the plantation and nearby north Florida communities. For a discussion of the projects and analysis using oral histories, see Antoinette T. Jackson, "The Kingsley Plantation Community in Jacksonville, Florida: Memory and Place in a Southern American City," *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*, vol. 6, no. 1 (Winter 2009): 23-33. The article is available online [here](#).

Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site (AL): During the site's development between 2001 and 2005, the Tuskegee Airmen Oral History Project team of five historians interviewed men who were the first African American military aviators and who trained to fly airplanes at segregated facilities at Moton Field during World War II. While the project centered on the fighter pilots, the oral historians also interviewed military and civilian support personnel who kept the pilots flying. These included flight instructors, mechanics, airplane armorers, nurses, secretaries and administrators, members of the quartermaster corps, parachute packers, radio operators, weather forecasters, and others. The wives of airmen who lived at Tuskegee while their husbands were in training also shared their stories.

Interviews were conducted all over the United States. All told, the oral history collection includes some 850 interviews. Themes explored include life during the era of racial segregation, the African American fight against racism and discrimination in the United States as well as against fascism overseas and the role the airmen played in the modern American civil rights movement. The oral histories have informed rehabilitation of historic structures and exhibit development at the site. Visitors will be able to hear the Tuskegee Airmen's stories in their own words.

For a discussion of the project, see J. Todd Moye, "The Tuskegee Airmen Oral History Project, and Oral History in the National Park Service," *The Journal of American History* 89/2 (September 2002): 580-587.

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (MO): The site has completed oral history interviews with several descendants of the families of President Grant and his wife, Julia Dent. These interviews were conducted during a Grant-Dent Family Reunion held at the site in June 1998. An interview was done with a possible descendant of one of the slaves on the White Haven plantation and informal oral histories have been conducted with several members of the Save Grant's White Haven organization that worked to preserve the site and promote its inclusion in the NPS.

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (PA, NY): The park has conducted interviews related to its administrative history, community history, and topics of special interest to the park, such as the Erie Railroad, Zane Grey, Delaware River fishery, and miscellaneous local history. In all, the park has gathered 259 audiotapes and produced eighty-five transcripts. In addition, the park has three hours of professionally recorded video documenting the construction of an eel weir and traditional smoking of eels which includes oral history commentary.

War in the Pacific National Historical Park (GU): The park has recorded about one hundred interviews on the Pacific War (specifically the battles of Guam, Saipan, and Iwo Jima) with American servicemen, Chamorros (indigenous people of Guam and Saipan), and Japanese veterans. In 2001 a park volunteer, Wakako

Higuchi, conducted interviews with World War II veterans in Japan in order to gain their perspectives on the war years of Guam. The interviews were the first obtained by the park that represented Japanese experiences of the war; Higuchi recorded the interviews in the Japanese language. The park has incorporated these personal stories (selected stories/quotes and/or excerpts) from the oral history interviews in the park's main film, "Liberating Guam: The U.S. Comes Back." In addition, the park plans to include oral history documentation in the development of permanent exhibits in the near future.

Weir Farm National Historic Site (CT): The site added fourteen interviews to its oral history collection in 2008 and 2009. Overall, there are now some fifty separate pieces of oral history in its collection, but some of the earlier interviews are little more than notes on conversations and several were not done to professional standards. Many descendants of the families of painter J. Alden Weir and sculptor Mahonri M. Young have been interviewed, as have numerous members of the Bass family who lived on the Connecticut property as caretakers during the Young period. Doris and Sperry Andrews (the third generation of artists who lived at Weir Farm) were also interviewed several times. In addition, park staff has interviewed past and present neighbors of Weir Farm, park volunteers and other locals who have special knowledge and experiences regarding the history of Weir Farm. The park also has a copy of a 1958 interview with Mahonri M. Young from Columbia University and copies of two interviews with Spero Anargyros (Young's assistant). Among the topics and themes explored in the interviews are Weir and Young family history and genealogy (including personal memories, impressions and anecdotes); property and building history (including the Weir Farm stone walls and landscape, Weir House, Young Studio, Weir Studio and Burlingham House); customs, traditions, and life at Weir Farm; and art history, especially concerning the artwork of J. Alden Weir and Mahonri Young.

Weir Farm NHS Site uses its oral history resources for interpretative programming and exhibits. The oral history collection has also informed ongoing restoration and furnishing projects concerning the Weir building complex. The site continues to organize and transcribe

interviews in its collection and plans to conduct more interviews in the future.

Wildland Fire Program: Oral history interviews with thirteen National Park Service fire managers and staff contributed historical perspective and institutional knowledge to a study of how NPS fire management policy has evolved since the late 19th century. Initiated in 2001, the study was completed in 2005 through a cooperative agreement between NPS and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Research resulted in *A Test of Adversity and Strength: Wildland Fire in the National Park System*, by Hal K. Rothman and other investigators. The book is available online [here](#). Research materials were deposited at the NPS Historical Collection at Harpers Ferry Center archive.

Wind Cave National Park (SD): The park's oral history collection is comprised primarily of interviews that Tom Farrell, chief of interpretation, conducted in the 1980s and 1990s with cavers who described their exploration efforts. Although the interviews have not been transcribed, they have been outlined. In addition, the park has conducted interviews with early settlers in the area and early park employees.

Women in the National Park Service: For *National Parks and the Woman's Voice: A History* (Albuquerque, 1996), Polly Welts Kaufman taped interviews throughout the country with 340 Park Service women employees and park founders and forty-three NPS wives. Kaufman's book "had its genesis in the work of Dorothy Boyle Huyck, who was the first person to examine both the opportunities and problems women faced in their new roles." Huyck "conceived and designed a project to document the history of professional women in the National Park Service, gathering significant archival and manuscript resources, photographs and 140 taped oral history interviews before her untimely death in August 1979." (vii) Huyck's papers and interviews are housed at the NPS Historical Collection at the Harpers Ferry Center archive.

Women's Rights National Historical Park (NY): Interviews have documented the creation and early history of the park, supported management of structures, and informed interpretation. The park's

collections include seventeen interviews with descendants of the signers of the Declaration of Sentiments (including Elizabeth Cady Stanton) who in 1998 discussed their ancestor's involvement in the first women's rights convention 150 years earlier and items related to their ancestor held by the family; an interview with Judy Hart, the park's first superintendent; and video and audio recordings of meetings of the park's advisory commission in the 1980s when the first general management plan and early interpretive focus were determined. Research projects with oral history components include historic structures reports which include interviews with users of buildings owned by the park; an administrative history, to be completed in 2010, which is informed by interviews with superintendents and others involved in park management and development between 1978 and 2009; and an ethnographic overview and assessment which included interviews with some descendants of signers and representatives of local and regional groups with an interest in the park's resources.

World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument (HI): The primary purpose of the site's oral history interviews is to document and preserve the experiences and memories of those who witnessed the Pearl Harbor attack. The collection includes interviews with civilians and military personnel from both the United States and Japan. These oral histories support interpretive programs and museum exhibits. The collection consists of audiotapes and professionally recorded videotapes. From 1980 to 1986 audiotapes were predominately done. From 1986 to the present professional videotaping has been conducted.

Stories of Pearl Harbor attack survivors are summarized on the [park's Web site](#). Among the people who have shared their stories are Joe Morgan, a gunner who had joined the Navy as a teenager and who was on Ford Island when the bombs started falling on December 7, 1941; Richard Fiske, a Marine bugler serving on the battleship USS *West Virginia* when it suffered a crippling hit; Warren Verhoff, a crewman on the USS *Keosauqua*; Richard C. Husted, a seaman first class who served on the USS *Oklahoma*; Bill Speer who served on the USS *Honolulu*; Everett Hyland, who suffered multiple wounds and severe burns when the USS *Pennsylvania* took a direct hit with a

500-pound bomb; and Robert Kinzler, the current president of the Hawaii Pearl Harbor Survivors Association chapter and who was stationed at Schofield Barracks.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve (AK): Among the projects completed is the Kennecott Kids Oral History Project. The interviews were conducted in 1990, 1994, and 1998 during a series of reunions at Kennecott Glacier Lodge that brought together a number of people who were school-age children when the Kennecott mines and mill operated in the 1920s and 1930s. Family photographs, the physical landscape and the remaining townscape served as prompts to personal memories. According to Ann Kain, NPS historian, “The interviews provide the historical community with a collection of primary source material on the social history of Kennecott and McCarthy. Opportunities such as this do not occur often. The mining and industrial history of Kennecott is well-known but through the interviews we were able to know Kennecott as a living community rather than a mining ghost town.” Many interviews were recorded; others were the result of answering a mailed questionnaire. For more information see, Ann Kain, ed., Kennecott Kids Oral History Project (Anchorage, AK: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, June 1991); and Kennecott Kids: Interviews with the Children of Kennecott, Vol. 2 (Anchorage, AK: U.S. Department of the Interior, Alaska Support Office, 2001). The volumes can be found [here](#).

The park collaborated with the University of Alaska Fairbanks oral history program to produce the Wrangell-Saint Elias Project Jukebox. The digital archive, according to its Web site, “contains oral history interviews and photographs from Native and non-Native people who live near or have been associated with” the park in south-central Alaska. The project conducted interviews with “residents of Chitina, Copper Center, Gakona, Glennallen, Kennecott, Kenny Lake, Nabesna, Valdez, Yakutat, and with NPS employees about their lives and experiences related to the Park, its establishment, and subsistence living in the area.” More interviews were conducted between 1998 and 2002 in Chisana, Chistochine, Chitina, Copper Center, Gulkana, Tazlina, and Yakutat. Interviews and photographs

of some forty-five narrators and their communities can be found at the [Jukebox Web site](#).

Yellowstone National Park (ID, MT, WY): Oral history is used to document the history of the park, particularly natural resources management programs. Narrators include former park rangers (including Frances Pound Wright who served as the North Entrance Ranger from 1925 to 1929 and other early female rangers); superintendents (including Mike Finley, who led YELL from 1994 to 2001); and members of the Civilian Conservation Corps who served at the park. The collection also features interviews with former concession employees (lodge maids, tour bus guides and drivers, and musicians); park personnel such as maintenance workers and supervisors; biologists, geologists, and other scientists; ranchers and other local residents and neighbors of the park. Among the topics that YELL oral historian Charissa Reid has explored through oral histories are the Elk Management Reduction Program, bear management, and wolf reintroduction. To learn more about the YELL oral history program see: Charissa Reid and Sally Plumb, "Tracing the Origins of an Idea," *CRM*, no. 3 (2000): 22; "The Rewards of Adventurism: The YS Interview with John D. Varley," *Yellowstone Science*, vol. 14, no. 3 (Summer 2006): 5-18; "Ungulate Management in Yellowstone, Part II: Oral History Interviews with Former Staff," *Yellowstone Science*, vol. 8, no. 2 (Spring 2000): 2-18; and "Never Running From a Fight: Mike Finley Looks Back on His Park Service Career," *Yellowstone Science*, vol. 9, no. 3 (Summer 2001): 9-19. Access to the oral history collection is available by appointment at the Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center.

Yosemite National Park (CA): The park is pursuing five different oral history projects. "I Remember Yosemite," spearheaded by archivist Paul Rogers and assistant archivist Brenna Lissoway, is capturing the stories of people who have helped shape, and whose lives have been shaped by, one of the nation's most iconic national parks. Initial interviews are focusing on former and current NPS employees but will expand, if funding materializes, to include concession workers, spouses and children of employees, long-time park residents, and members of neighboring communities. Themes the project is exploring are work, technological change, evolution of park

management, environmental change, and the development of community life in the park. Other oral history projects under way are: “American Indian Land Use in the Tuolumne River Watershed, Yosemite National Park”; “Traditional Use Study, Southern Yosemite National Park”; “Henness Ridge Traditional Land Use Study”; and “Indian Cultural Center.” For more information on these projects see [here](#) and [here](#). Interviews collected between 1955 and 1975 (often of poor recording quality) documented some aspects of park history and special events otherwise unavailable in other sources.

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve & Gates of the Arctic

National Park and Preserve (AK): Like other Alaska parks and preserves, YUCH and GAAR have collaborated with the University of Alaska Fairbanks to record oral histories and to post them on the digital archive, Project Jukebox. The YUCH project, begun in 1991, includes interviews with a wide range of people who are related to the preserve. According to the Web site, “The narrators include men, women, trappers, miners, educators, historians, archeologists, biologists and government bureaucrats. Some had been associated with the upper Yukon for entire lifetimes while others were relative newcomers to the region.” Subjects discussed include “Alaska Natives, trapping, mining, subsistence living, historical personalities who lived on the river, lifestyles, gender division of work in the Alaskan bush, transportation, dog teams, airplanes, and of course the Yukon River as a force that shaped society along its banks.” For more on this project, go to the [Project Jukebox Web site](#).

Zion National Park (UT): The park’s oral history collections document the early settlement in Zion Canyon, the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the history of the park itself. In 1982 interviews were conducted with a number of local residents, many of whom were direct descendants of early Mormon pioneers and previous park employees. In 1989 oral interviews were conducted during the reunion of CCC enrollees who worked at Zion; they document work and life in the camps and the projects completed.

Oral History Publications

An Interview with Robert M. Utley on the History of Historic Preservation in the National Park Service—1947-1980, by Richard W. Sellars and Melody Webb. (Sante Fe: Southwest Cultural Resources Center, Professional Papers No. 16, 1988). Conducted September 24, 1985 – December 27, 1985, the series of interviews can be found [here](#).

The art and politics of park planning and preservation, 1920-1979: George L. Collins. Conducted by Ann Lage in 1978 and 1979 (Berkeley: University of California, 1980); available at [University of California Internet Archive](#).

Development of the naturalist program in the National Park Service: Harold C. Bryant and Newton B. Drury, conducted by Amelia R. Fry (Berkeley: University of California, General Library, Regional Cultural History Project, 1964); available at [University of California Internet Archive](#).

Oral History Interview with George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director, National Park Service, 1964-1972. Conducted by Janet A. McDonnell; William C. Everhart, Consultant; Foreword by Robert M. Utley. (Washington: National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 2007). This edited narrative is based on interviews conducted on September 21, 2005; October 5, 2005; and November 3, 2005. Tapes and transcripts are housed in the Park History Program offices in Washington. Published interviews are also available [here](#).

Oral History Interview with Robert G. Stanton, Director, National Park Service, 1997-2001. Conducted by Janet A. McDonnell. (Washington: National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 2007). This edited narrative is based on interviews conducted on April 2, 2004; June 4, 2004; and July 20, 2004. Tapes and transcripts are housed in the Park History Program offices in Washington. Published interviews are also available [here](#).

Oral History Interview with Roger G. Kennedy, Director, National Park Service, 1993-1997. Conducted by Janet A. McDonnell (Washington: National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 2005). This edited narrative is based on interviews conducted on April 8, 2002; August 13, 2002; and a telephone interview on June 4, 2003. Tapes and

transcripts are housed in the Park History Program offices in Washington.

NPS Oral History on the Web

LISTEN to the stories of American history:

[Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail](#)

[Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site](#)

[Yosemite National Park](#)

READ oral history interviews:

[9.11.01 Remembrance](#)

Alaska parks and preserves—Denali, Katmai, Lake Clark, Sitka, Wrangle-St. Elias, and Yukon-Charley Rivers--have collaborated with the digital branch of the oral history program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to produce [Project Jukebox](#), where you can find interviews, photographs and other resources.

[An Interview with Robert M. Utley on the History of Historic Preservation in the National Park Service, 1947-1980.](#)

[Canyonlands National Park](#)

[Gateway National Recreation Area](#)

[Golden Spike National Historic Site](#)

[Harry S Truman National Historic Site](#)

[Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park](#)

[Lowell National Historic Park](#)

[Minuteman Missile National Historic Site](#)

[Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park](#)

[Shenandoah National Park](#)

LEARN more about oral history collections:

[Big Bend National Park & Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River](#)

[Jefferson National Expansion Memorial](#)

[New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park](#)

[New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park](#)

[Point Reyes National Seashore](#)

[Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island](#)

[Yellowstone National Park](#)