

Oral History Video Preservation

Living History Interview Archive

1997 -2007



funded by The Community Enhancement Program

Wilsonville, Oregon

Community Enhancement Program Grant
for the **Wilsonville Historical Society**
(formerly the Wilsonville Boones Ferry Historical Society)

Oral History Video Preservation Project

2022 -2023 extended to June 30, 2024

Project Objectives

- ✿ Convert the 80+ oral history interviews recorded on VHS & Hi-8 video cassette to digital format
- ✿ Create learning opportunities from the video content
- ✿ Merge the previous photo digitization grant project (CEP 2020-2022) with this oral history project
- ✿ Make bound copies of the video transcripts so they are accessible for research
- ✿ Extract stories and highlights from the printed transcripts to create historical vignettes
- ✿ Develop the vignettes into a fun, educational resource that introduces our community's youth to Wilsonville's Significant Citizens & our Community's History
- ✿ Develop a plan to partner with the City of Wilsonville and local schools for educational use of this resource
- ✿ Broadcast oral histories on cable network with *Willamette Falls Media Center* and *City of Wilsonville*
- ✿ Provide stories to the *Boones Ferry Messenger* and *The Spokesman*

Digitizing the Videos

- ❖ Worked with Willamette Falls Media Center
- ❖ Converted over 80 VHS interviews, 46 Hi-8 cassettes and 10 audio cassette tapes to digital format.
- ❖ Created several copies of this digital archive to be stored in different locations, including :
 - Library storage
 - Historical Society Officer's homes
 - Google Drive
 - Private YouTube Channel



The digitized results – video & audio files

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Melody A. - 1 of 82 (Living History I... | Melody A. - 2 of 82 (Emery Aden #2,... | Melody A. - 3 of 82 (Emery Aden, Ph... | Melody A. - 4 of 82 (Emery Aden, Ph... | Melody A. - 5 of 82 (Elmer Boeckma... | Melody A. - 6 of 82 (Vicki Bonagofs... | Melody A. - 7 of 82 (Booziers, Wilsonvill... | Melody A. - 8 of 82 (Historic Lunch, 1... | Melody A. - 9 of 82 (Historical Lunch, 2... | Melody A. - 10 of 82 (Historical Lunch, ... | Melody A. - 11 of 82 (Historical Lunch, 2... | Melody A. - 12 of 82 (Living History, B... | Melody A. - 13 of 82 (Boone-Cu rry Sisters... |
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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- Melody A. - 73 of 82 (Emery, Baren, Session 1).mp3
MP3 File
- Melody A. - 74 of 82 (Emery Aden, Oral History).mp3
MP3 File
- Melody A. - 75 of 82 (Emery Aden on Wilsonville, Oct 6, 19...
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- Melody A. - 76 of 82 (Memories of Emery Aden, April 10, 1996...
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MP3 File
- Melody A. - 82 of 82 (Nancie Fadaley, Jan 5, 1996).mp3
MP3 File

“Merge the photo digitization project with the oral histories to create a visual to accompany the digital oral history.”

Emery Aden



Marian Weidermann



Virginia Rackley



Paul Missal



Living History Taped Transcripts

- ✓1. Emery Aden ✓
- ✓2. Juanita Lyons ✓
- ✓3. Fred Edmunds
- ✓4. Marian Weidermann
- ✓5. Paul Missal
- ✓6. Liz Guyton Moree ✓
7. Elmer Boeckman
8. Elizabeth Koellermeier
9. Ellen Elledge and Vernon Boeckman
10. Weldon Sloan
11. Mary Young
12. Ruth Shull
13. Ruth (Shull) Zerintcheff
14. Charlie Porter
15. Vicki Bonagofski and Becky Milton
16. Peter McDonald
17. Marge Montague
18. LaDean Clark, Barbara Boozier and Bernice Marcroft
19. Elsie Crissell
- ✓20. Don Eilers with Emery Aden
21. Carolyn Boone Grenfell, Arlene (Curry) Buschert and Janet Boone McGarrigle
- ✓22. Carolyn Boone Grenfell, Arlene (Curry) Buschert, Janet Boone McGarrigle, Emery Aden, John P. Smith and John Cimino ✓✓
- ✓23. David Waggoner, Boone Family reunion with Carolyn Boone Grenfell, Janet Boone McGarrigle, Arlene Curry Buschert and Eddie Buschert ✓
24. Bernie Murray Marcroft, Sparkle Anderson, Elizabeth Guyton Fox, Rhonda Shoop, Ellen (Boeckman) Elledge, Becky Wilson, Henry and Joy Jaeger, Juanita Lyons, Emery Aden, Sue Guyton, Jim Harris
25. Juanita Lyons
26. Crystal Rilee and Bob Heater
27. Richard (Dick) Montgomery
- ✓28. Janet McGarrigle and Carolyn Grenfell (school field trip)
- ✓29. Charlotte Lehan ✓
30. Virginia Rackley
31. Elizabeth DeGroot
32. Bob Heater
33. Clarence Langer

Photo round-up interview with Elizabeth Guyton Fox



Approx 1890's –
Her grandmother, Cora Belle Moore, is in the picture

This hop field was along Magnolia in Old Town, Wilsonville.

Note the dog in the front row.

Photo taken by a photographer out of Portland that had them pose.

This was taken in the Fall, and they always had a new dress around then during the hop harvest season and the sizing on the dress would wash out the sticky hops stains.

Photo round-up interview with Elizabeth Guyton Fox



Approx 1890's –
Hops drying & Bailing Barn

Cora Belle Moore married Charlie Guyton

Great uncle Benjamin & Wife. Niece Amy Weir

Hops would be bailed and hauled by wagon into
Portland to the beer producers

Photo round-up interview with Elizabeth Guyton Fox

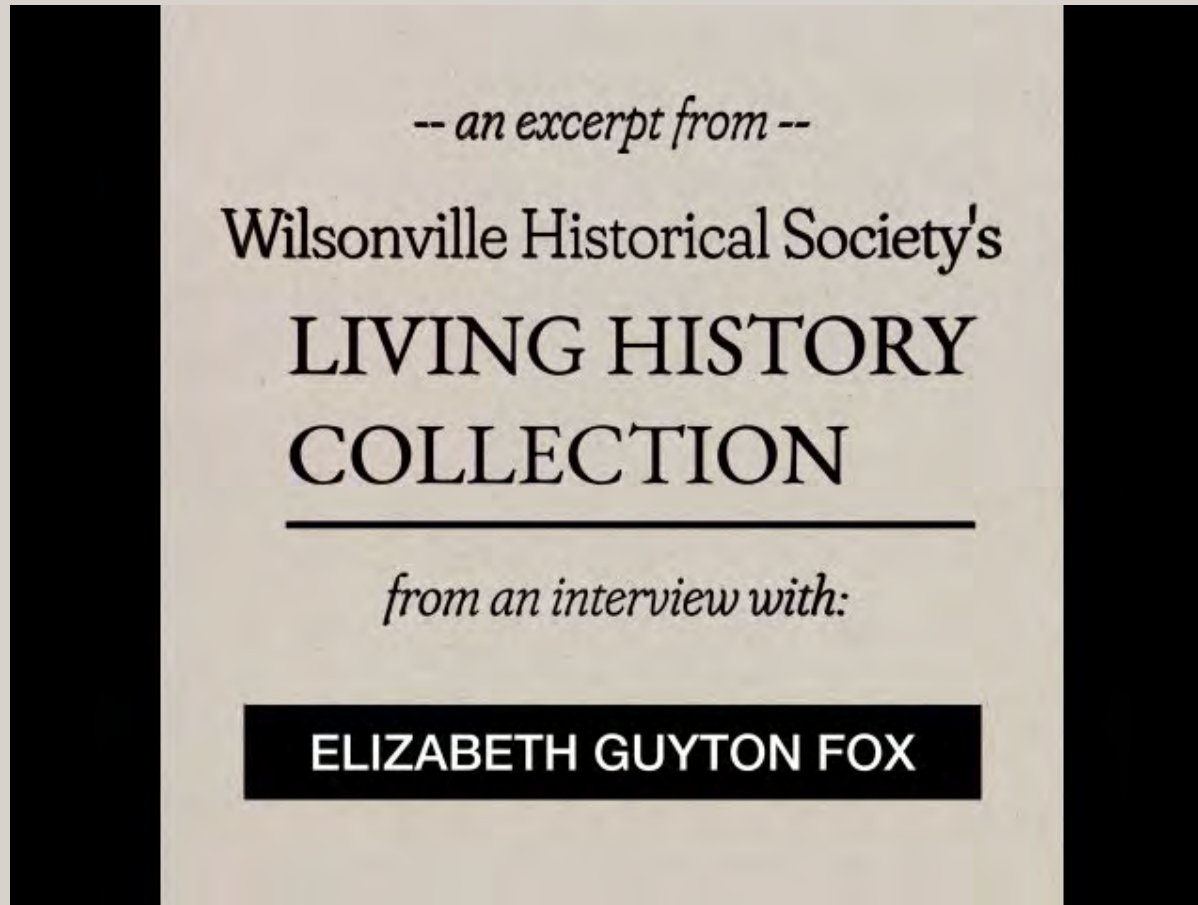


Photo round-up interview with Ellen Boeckman Elledge



Approx. 1910 –

Ernest & Mary Boeckman

Children: Edward, Louisa, Anna, Dora,
Alma, Geo, Henry, Ernest Jt.

Early Boeckman Road in the foreground

House is still standing on South side of
Boeckman Road (it has been renovated)

Photo round-up interview with Ellen Boeckman Elledge

-- an excerpt from --

Wilsonville Historical Society's

LIVING HISTORY COLLECTION

from an interview with:

ELLEN BOECKMAN ELLEDGE



































Bound living interview transcripts

Copies available by request from the:

- ⚙ Wilsonville Library Reference Desk
- ⚙ Wilsonville Historical Society

Also accessible on google drive for research through the library or the historical society

Excerpts of these interviews were used to create historical vignettes

-  Living Histry Tapes combined with Index.doc
-  Tape #1 Emery Aden.doc
-  Tape #2 Juanita Lyons.doc
-  Tape #3 Fred Edmonds.doc
-  Tape #4 Marian Wiedemann.doc
-  Tape #5 Paul Missal.doc
-  Tape #6 Liz Guyton Moree.doc
-  Tape #7 Elmer Boeckman.doc
-  Tape #8 Elizabeth Koellermeier.doc
-  Tape #9 Ellen Ellidge & Vernon Boeckman.doc
-  Tape #10 Weldon Sloan.doc
-  Tape #11 Mary Young.doc
-  Tape #12 Ruth Shull with Charlotte Lehan.doc
-  Tape #13 Ruth Shull.doc
-  Tape #14 Charlie Porter.doc
-  Tape #15 Vicki Bonagofski & Becky Milton.doc
-  Tape #16 Peter McDonald january 2004.doc
-  Tape #17 Marge Montague 2 28 01.doc
-  Tape #18 LaDean Clark.doc; Bernice Moncroft.doc; Barbara Boozier.doc
-  Tape #19 Elsie Crisell.doc
-  Tape #20 Don Eilers 12-12-01.doc
-  Tape #21 Boone, Curry.doc
-  Tape #22 History Speak Boone sisters Fall 1999.doc
-  tape #23 Dr David Waggoner.doc
-  Tape #24 Photo Roundup #1.doc
-  Tape #25 Juanita Lyons Stein history 1-27-07.doc
-  Tape #26 Crystal Riley.doc
-  Tape #27 Richard Montgomery.doc
-  Tape #28 Boone Sisters school field trip.doc
-  Tape #29 Charlotte Lehan 6-30-07.doc
-  Tape #30 Virginia Rackley 5-10-01.doc
-  Tape #31 Elizabeth DeGroot 2-16-01.doc
-  Tape #32 Bob Heater 6-27-2001.doc
-  Tape #33 Clarence Langer 6-27-2002.doc

Transcript Index and searchability

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Index for transcribed interviews by topic or people mentioned, provide by transcriber.

Issues:

Only works if you have the fully bound collection of interviews.

Page number reference don't tell what interview is being referenced

Solution:

Created a dynamic searchable spreadsheet index that cross-references the interview with the page number

| Topic | Last Name | First Name | Maiden Name | Page # (1) |
|-------------|------------------|------------|-------------|---|
| 4-H | | | | Ellen Elledge & Vernon Boeckman - p180, p203, p204 |
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Develop the Vignettes into educational resources

Excerpts from interviews with:

Emery Aden

Juanita Lyons

Fred Edmunds,

Maria Weidermann

Paul Missal

Liz Guyton Moree

Don Eilers with Emery

Aden

Carolyn Boone Grenell,

Arlene (Curry) Buschert

Eddie Buschert

Janet Boone McGarrigle

John Smith,

John Cimino

David Waggoner

Charlotte Lehan

Oliver's Background: Descendant of pioneers, lives on a farm near Boeckman Road where they have chickens, cows, and other farm animals. His father grows some sort of crops but probably not orchard crops. He is one of the youngest of eight children. He is related to other families in the area and has lots of cousins around here. He joins the Portland Fire Bureau after high school but visits often at the family farm in Wilsonville.

Oliver's Timeline

| YEAR | AGE | GRADE/STATUS | WHAT'S HAPPENING |
|------|-----|-------------------------|---|
| 1904 | 0 | Infant | Theodore Roosevelt is President. |
| 1907 | 3 | Preschool | Trestle Built, rail service begins |
| 1910 | 6 | First Grade | In one-room school |
| 1912 | 8 | Third Grade | New two-room school |
| 1914 | 10 | Fifth Grade | Scarlet fever, Baseball Champs |
| 1917 | 13 | Eighth Grade | WW I |
| 1918 | 14 | High School | High School on Train |
| 1920 | 16 | High School | Move to Portland |
| 1922 | 18 | Firefighter w/ Portland | Lives in Portland, visits Wilsonville often |
| 1939 | 35 | Firefighter | Trestle Fire |
| 1952 | 48 | Firefighter | Plane Crash |
| 1954 | 50 | Retired? | Boones Ferry ends, Highway opens |
| 1961 | 57 | Retired? | Dammasch opens, Lots of growth |

WILSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



GROWING UP IN WILSONVILLE

THE BOY WHO DREAMED OF BEING
A STEAMBOAT CAPTAIN

BY OLIVER

Printed Book available December 2024

**DEDICATED TO THE CHILDREN OF WILSONVILLE,
AND THEIR STORIES.**

*This story was written by members of the Wilsonville Historical Society.
It was compiled from the Living History Collection —
a series of video interviews with members of the community
recorded between 1997 to 2007.*

*Many of the stories are from those who grew up in
the Wilsonville area in the early 1900's.
Most of the photos and details found in this book
come from the permanent collection of the
Wilsonville Historical Society.*

Inside the Growing up in Wilsonville Book

Although based on real memories and events, this story and its characters are fictional.

AROUND TOWN



MAIN STREET

It was always a special treat to visit the main street of Wilsonville. People would be outside visiting on the wooden sidewalks in front of the stores or in front of the tavern. We seemed to always bump into a neighbor when we went to collect the mail.

The population of Wilsonville stayed between 300-500 people for most of my childhood, this included the farmers at the edges of town. It was one of the smallest populations compared to all the other towns in Clackamas County.

SCHOOL LIFE



ONE ROOM SCHOOL

There weren't any school buses and not many families had cars, so everyone walked to school. We walked about a mile to the Wilsonville School shown in this picture. When I started first grade in 1910 it had just one room and one teacher for all eight grades. I was always in class with my brothers and sisters even though we were all different ages.

ON THE RIVER



STEAMBOAT LANDING

A little way downstream from the ferry was the steamboat landing. After school I would go down to the river to watch the boats dock. There were usually people lined up to get on the steamboats or to send farm goods to market or to pick up things they had ordered. These boats would stop at towns up and down the Willamette and even on the Columbia, all the way to Astoria and The Dalles!

This project will continue on to create future resources, such as:

- ❖ A new website, with local history & research resources and public access to our digitized archive, launching Spring 2025:

www.wilsonvillehistory.org

- ❖ Continued partnerships with the Wilsonville Library, the Arts, Culture and Heritage Commission, Willamette Falls Media, City of Wilsonville, the DEI Committee, and local schools/ teachers
- ❖ Releasing video clips on social media & YouTube channel with edited and compiled videos by topic and subject groupings of Wilsonville's history
- ❖ Continuing to add to the Living History Interviews collection with ongoing community member interviews
- ❖ Annual photo round-up events and interviews to capture Wilsonville's ongoing timeline of history.
- ❖ Continue to research, capture, and archive the stories of the individuals in our oral history archive.



Thank you for your support!

- City of Wilsonville
- Wilsonville Public Library
- Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission (ACHC)
- City of Wilsonville's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
- Willamette Falls Media
- Metro
- Our city program liaisons: Zoe Mombert, Erika Valentine, Burton Haun
- Wilsonville Park & Recreation Department
- Wilsonville Chamber of Commerce
- Wilsonville Historical Society members & volunteers

Wilsonville Historical Society

2025 schedule & new activities

- Monthly History Speaker Series | 3rd Tuesday, 6pm-7pm
Co-hosted with the Wilsonville Library
- Community Research Days | 2nd Sunday, 1pm-4pm
Learn historical research techniques while exploring our archives
- Monthly History Excursion Meet-ups | 2nd Monday, 10am-12:30pm (or special arrangement)
Co-hosted with the Oregon History Club (www.oregonhistoryclub.com)
- Regular Membership Meeting | 1st Wednesday, 1-3pm
Meet at the Wilsonville Library Rose Room, group research, history sharing, & projects

www.wilsonvillehistory.org



Wilsonville Historical Society

*The mission of the Wilsonville Historical Society is to
preserve, promote, and celebrate our community history.*

wilsonvillehistory@gmail.com

www.wilsonvillehistory.org