

The Newtown Oral History Collection

Processed and arranged in 2019

Montgomery County Archives, Courthouse Annex III, Montgomery, Alabama, 36104, (334)-832-7173

Processed by:

Amanda Strength

Supervised by Dallas Hanbury

Collection Creator: Foster Dickson

Collection: The Newtown Oral History Collection

Collection Dates: February 23, 2019

Collection Size: 6.5 linear inches

Abstract: The Newtown Oral History Collection consists of oral histories created by residents and former residents of Montgomery, Alabama's Newtown neighborhood.

Repository: Montgomery County Archives, Courthouse Annex III, Montgomery, Alabama, 36104, (334)-832-7173

Reference Code: 2019.003

Languages and Scripts: The entire collection is recorded in English.

Administrative/Biographical History: Foster Dickson was born on August 23, 1974. Dickson earned his bachelor's degree in English in 1996 and master's degree with an emphasis in English in 2008 at Auburn University at Montgomery. Since 2003, Dickson has taught Creative Writing at Booker T. Washington Magnet School in Montgomery, Alabama, where his teaching won him the 2009-2010 Secondary Teacher of the Year by the Parent Teacher Association of Alabama. In addition to teaching, Dickson is the author of *Closed Ranks: The Whitehurst Case in Post-Civil Rights Montgomery* and editor of *Children of the Changing South*.
[1]

Scope and Content: The Newtown Oral History Collection is a collection of oral histories and photographs created at the Newtown Community Center on February 23, 2019. The oral histories center on daily life in Newtown throughout the 1950s and into the 1970s. The oral histories in this collection represent how the creators of the collection, those that live or lived in Newtown, view their community and constitute a valuable primary source regarding first-person observations and opinions regarding the Civil Rights Movement. A number of the oral histories in the collection dwell on similar themes, including civil rights, the Civil Rights Movement and how it affected the city. Many of the interviewees also talked about a devastating flood in 1960

that destroyed almost all their possessions. The photographs depict the interviewees, as well as the event itself.

System of Arrangement: This collection is organized into two series:

Series I: Oral Histories

This series contains nine oral histories created by current and former residents of Newtown. Although the oral histories range far in terms of the time frames discussed, many center on 1950-1970. One interview was ultimately removed due to uncertainty over consent.

Series II: Photographs

This series contains thirty photographs taken on the same day that the interviewees created the oral histories in the collection. The photographs depict the interviewees, as well as the event itself.

Location of Originals: Montgomery County Archives; 116, 10B

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: This collection consist of recordings of oral histories on CDs, as well as photographs on paper.

Access Points:

Newtown, Ala.
Alabama
Oral history
African American
Civil Rights
Equal rights amendments
Community
Floods
Photographs
Portraits

Conditions Governing Access: This collection does not contain any access restrictions.

Accruals: Future accruals are expected.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Foster Dickson.

Alternative Forms: None.

Additional Finding Aids: None

Appraisal Process: The Montgomery County Archives' mission statement notes that the MCA collects non-government records, as long as they pertain to the history of Montgomery County. During the appraisal process MCA staff decided to accession all materials in this collection. No deaccessions occurred.

Custodial History: The recordings were in the possession of Foster Dickson. Dickson donated the recordings to the Montgomery County Archives in 2019.

Preferred Citation: (Name of record cited, type of record, date of record,) Newtown Oral History Collection, Montgomery County Archives.

Processing Information: In May 2019 Montgomery County Archives intern Amanda Strength processed the collection.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: It is presumed corporate and individual copyrights have been retained by copyright owners. Copyright restrictions apply. Users of materials should seek necessary permissions from the copyright holders to comply with U.S. copyright laws.

Separated Materials: None

Bibliography:

[1] Byrne, Matthew. " Author Foster Dickson Bridges School Borders in the Name of Sustainability." NewSouth Books RSS. May 20, 2019. Accessed May 28, 2019. <http://www.newsouthbooks.com/pages/2019/05/20/author-foster-dickson-bridges-school-borders-in-the-name-of-sustainability/>.

Note:

Inventory

Series I: Oral Histories

Box # 1

- 10 CDs
 - Interview #1 Narrator: Eugena Terrell, Length of Interview: 18 minutes
 - Interview #2 Narrator: Martha Johnson, Length of Interview: 35 minutes
 - Interview #3 Narrator: Gerold Williams, Length of Interview: 33 minutes
 - Interview #4 Narrator: Bernette Terrell and Martha Johnson, Length of Interview: 4 minutes [No signed release on file. Until release is secured, interview is closed to public.]

- Interview #5 Narrator: Ronald Hemming and Alfonzo Pearson, Length of Interview: 47 minutes
 - Interview #6 Narrator: Bernette Terrell, Length of Interview: 72 minutes
 - Interview #7 Narrator: Clarence Williams, Length of Interview: 51 minutes
(Removed due to uncertainty over consent)
 - Interview #8 Narrator: McNora, Length of Interview: 36 minutes
 - Interview #9 Narrator: Commissioner Isaiah Sankey, Length of Interview: 43 minutes
 - Interview #10 Narrator: William Douglass, Length of Interview: 32 minutes
- Thirty Photographs