

## **Aileen H. Clyde 20th Century Women's Legacy Archive Oral History Project**

The Aileen H. Clyde 20th Century Women's Legacy Archive oral history project (2013-2018) was created to record the personal histories of 20th century women. Its goal was to record memories and emotions related to historical events and social change processes that impacted women's lives. The project also sought to explore women's participation in, and response to, social and cultural changes. The Aileen H. Clyde 20th Century Women's Legacy Archive oral history project contains transcripts of interviews with prominent women in Utah. These interviews delve into the lives of women and provide a unique perspective on the experiences of women in the 20th century.

In 2020, The Clyde Oral History Project included forty-eight interviews, of which eighteen have been digitized. Some of the transcripts have been annotated to clarify key figures or events discussed. The transcripts are located in the University of Utah Marriott Library Special Collections.

### **Genieve Atwood**

**Collection Number:** Box 1 Folder 1

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Louise Degn

### **Janet Rae Bennett**

**Collection Number:** Box 1 Folder 2

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Louise Degn

### **"Pat" Alice Rice Capson Brown**

**Collection Number:** Box 1 Folder 3

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Louise Degn

### **Aileen Hales Clyde**

**Collection Number:** Box 1 Folder 4

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

### **Beth Anne Vaughan Cole**

**Collection Number:** Box 1 Folder 5

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Carolyn Jenkins

### **Ruth Rae Rowan Draper Crockatt**

**Collection Number:** Box 1 Folder 6

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Louise Degn

**Annette Poulsen Benson Cumming**

**Collection Number:** Box 1 Folder 7

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Louise Degn

**Louise Degn**

**Collection Number:** Box 1 Folder 8

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Louise Degn

**Saineha [Shinehah] T. Finau**

**Collection Number:** Box 2 Folder 1

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Suzy Matheson

**Irene Syliva Montgomery Fisher**

**Collection Number:** Box 2 Folder 2

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

**Rinda Thayne Hayes**

**Collection Number:** Box 2 Folder 3

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

**Dixie Ann Snow Huefner**

**Collection Number:** Box 2 Folder 4

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

**Carolyn Tanner Irish**

**Collection Number:** Box 2 Folder 5

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

**Alice Moyle Creer Marsh**

**Collection Number:** Box 2 Folder 6

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Carolyn Jenkins

**Noémi Perelman Mattis**

**Collection Number:** Box 2 Folder 7

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

**Gustina Hales Muncy**

**Collection Number:** Box 2 Folder 8  
**Size:**  
**Description:** Interviewed by Piacitelli

**June Wilkins Nebeker**

**Collection Number:** Box 3 Folder 1  
**Size:**  
**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

**Julene Bowen Oliver**

**Collection Number:** Box 3 Folder 2  
**Size:**  
**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Louise Degn

**Grethe Ballif Peterson**

**Collection Number:** Box 3 Folder 3  
**Size:**  
**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

**Betty Jo Carter Reiser**

**Collection Number:** Box 3 Folder 4  
**Size:**  
**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

**Carolyn Sue Piacitelli Rinna**

**Collection Number:** Box 3 Folder 5  
**Size:**  
**Description:** Interviewed by Jill Piacitelli

**Kathleen Mary Clark Rothfels**

**Collection Number:** Box 3 Folder 6  
**Size:**  
**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Louise Degn

**Barbara Nelson Sharp**

**Collection Number:** Box 3 Folder 7  
**Size:**  
**Description:** Interviewed by Susette Fletcher Green

**Karen Felker Shepherd**

**Collection Number:** Box 3 Folder 8  
**Size:**  
**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

**Cherry Bushman Silver**

**Collection Number:** Box 3 Folder 9

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Louise Degn

### **Emma Lou Warner Thayne**

**Collection Number:** Box 4 Folder 1

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

### **Olene Smith Walker**

**Collection Number:** Box 4 Folder 2

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Kate L. Kirkham

### **Marilyn Lee Curtis White**

**Collection Number:** Box 4 Folder 3

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Kate L. Kirkham

### **Camille Virginia Miner Smith**

**Collection Number:** Box 4 Folder 4

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Louise Degn

### **Marilyn Arnold**

**Collection Number:** ACCN 2857 Box 5 Folder 4

**Size:** 31 p.p.

**Description:** Interviewed by Kate Kirkham

Marilyn Arnold was born in 1935 in Salt Lake City, Utah to a milkman and a school teacher. The oral history follows Arnold's academic career from her studies at Weber College, to a graduate from the University of Wisconsin with a doctorate, to her time as a religion's professor and administrator at BYU (starting in the late 1960's). Arnold discusses her experiences with the Women's Movement, the Vietnam War, and the Civil Rights movement. Arnold describes her work with the Willa Cather letters and promoting women's equality as the assistant to Dallin H. Oaks at BYU. Arnold is an active member of The Church Of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and spends much of this oral history talking about its influence on her divorce.

### **Mary Lou Michelsen Arveset**

**Collection Number:** Box 5 Folder 2

**Size:** 39 p.p.

**Description:** Interviewed by Susette Green

Arvest was born in 1941 in Salt Lake City, Utah to a very poor family. She suffered great financial and emotional struggles at the hands of her mentally and physically sick mother. Arveset attended the University of Utah where she majored in speech and drama and minored in English. She is a member of The Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints. After one of her sons died from suicide, Arveset worked tirelessly as a volunteer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Furthermore, Arvest describes in great detail of her oldest son coming out as gay and her acceptance of him and his partner. She is an active volunteer in the LGBTQ community as that group is high risk for suicide. The majority of the interview is about Arvest's struggles throughout her life finding a fulfilling job and the sorrow of losing people she loves.

### **Helen Cecillie Bergtedt Bradshaw**

**Collection Number:** Box 5 Folder 3

**Size:** 35 p.p.

**Description:** Interviewed by Suzy Matheson

Helen Cecillie Bergtedt Bradshaw was born in 1933 in Brooklyn, New York to parents who had recently immigrated from Norway. Bradshaw describes her childhood after moving to Salt Lake City and the constant fear that World War II caused in her daily life. Bradshaw then talks about her role as a young mother while her husband served in the Korean War and as he pursued a college education afterwards. She recounts stories of riots while living in Los Angeles. Bradshaw is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She and her husband served as Mormon mission presidents in San Diego from 1974 to 1977 and then as missionaries in Africa from 1992 to 1994. There they helped establish the church's literacy program. Because of her husband's job at the LDS Institute of Religion, she was able to travel the world with him once her six children were older. The interview summarizes the numerous jobs that Bradshaw had (such as a babysitter, home economist, and music lesson seller amongst others), her experiences with the Women's Movement in relation to her sister-in-law being the Church's General Relief Society president, and her outlook on present women's opportunities. Bradshaw recounts the tension between her sister and the progressive feminists during the Women's Movement. Bradshaw discusses some of her and the church's opinions on the pros and cons of the Equality Act. While they acknowledged the pros, they generally did not want it to pass.

### **Patricia Comarell**

**Collection Number:** Box 5 Folder 4

**Size:** 32 p.p.

**Description:** Interviewed by Ellen Reddick

Patricia Comarell was born on January 1st, 1948 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her mother was a second generation Greek immigrant and her father had immigrated to America from Greece when he was only 14. Comarell's family greatly valued education and, as a result, she majored in psychology from the University of Utah then went on to graduate with a masters in political science. She speaks in great detail about what life was like living on campus during her time at the U as a Resident Advisor in the dorms. Comarell spends the rest of the interview tracking her career in city planning. She talks about several different opportunities such as her first job in Davis county, creating the master plan for Sandy in 1978, working on several Utah cities' budget for the Olympics, becoming the Assistant Community Development Director in Ogden, and being nominated a Fellow for the College of Fellows for the American Institute of Certified Planners. Coupled with these stories, Comarell recounts many stories of times when she was discriminated against for her race, her gender, or her religion (Greek Orthodox).

### **Frances Johnson Darger**

**Collection Number:** Box 5 Folder 5

**Size:** 33 p.p.

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Elisha Buhler Condie

Frances Johnson Darger was born on November 30th, 1924 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Darger spends the majority of the interview talking about her time as a violinist for the Symphony. Darger joined the Symphony when she was only 17 due to the shortage of players at the hands of the World War II draft. She recounts that there were always many women involved in the Symphony and she never felt discriminated against because of her gender. She also briefly wrote for the *Salt Lake Telegram* after graduating from the University of Utah with a major in English. Darger played for the Symphony for 69 years which is the second longest time anyone has played for a symphony in America. Darger tells many different stories about her time as a violinist as well as her brief excursion to California with her four sisters to try to become big musicians. While the group was only there for a year from 1944 to 1945, Darger still spends much of the interview recounting details from that time. Darger also discusses her experiences working while raising three children and the support that she always received from her husband to pursue her passion.

### **Susette Barber Fletcher Green**

**Collection Number:** Box 5 Folder 6

**Size:** 25 p.p.

**Description:** Interviewed by Beth Cole

Susette Barber Fletcher Green was born on July 26th, 1948 in Logan, Utah. Green spent her youth moving from Utah to Delaware to Arizona when she was only 8. Green is an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and recounts many stories of her unique experiences as a member in different states. She speaks about the difficulties of being a religious minority and her struggles of grappling the patriarchal structure of her religion later in life. Green graduated from the University of Utah with a major in English, a minor in French, and a teaching degree. With this education, she decided to teach Junior High School in Salt Lake City with a 15 year break to raise her children. Green also worked as an editor for *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*. Green recounts the financial struggles her family endured during Utah's recession in the 1970's as well as her strong support of the Civil Rights Movement and her hatred of the Vietnam War. She then ends her interview by talking about some hardships her children have endured such as bullying, mistreatment, divorce, alcoholism, and the death of loved ones.

### **Christa Deussler Johnson**

**Collection Number:** Box 5 Folder 8

**Size:** 23 p.p.

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

Christa Deussler Johnson was born on June 28th, 1927, in Kyritz Germany. Her family owned a small flour mill business that was allowed to stay running during World War II. Johnson was forced to join the Hitler Youth Group though she often rebelled against their activities. As a result, Johnson recounts many stories of her interactions with the Gestapo. Johnson spends the majority of the interview detailing her escape from Germany and the many confusing twists along the way. She initially escaped with her mother, siblings, and cousins to Lübeck but then later traveled back to Kyritz to

make sure her father was alive. Afterwards, she attended a business school in Berlin then moved to Frankfurt to secure a future marriage with a close friend. Johnson, however, ended up marrying a different man and had a son with him. At this time, her sister married a Mormon man and moved to Salt Lake City, Utah. Johnson's sister convinced her family to move in with her and converted them to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. While Johnson herself never converted, she and her son ended up moving to America while her husband stayed in Frankfurt. Johnson then explains her process of getting a Green Card in America. She ended up never seeing her first husband again as they both remarried once separated.

### **Marian Rockwood Johnson**

**Collection Number:** Box 5 Folder 9

**Size:** 19 p.p.

**Description:** Interviewed by Moyne Osborne

Marian Rockwood Johnson was born on March 28th, 1921 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her father was an entrepreneur and her mother was a seamstress. Johnson recounts the financial struggles she and her 11 siblings endured in their upbringing during the Great Depression. Johnson is an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and tells many stories about her different relationships with Mormons in her life, including her husband and father. Johnson attended the University of Utah for a teaching degree and went to the Business college as well. She married her husband just as he was drafted to Fort Douglas in World War II. From there he was sent to Camp Stoneman in California and Johnson lived as an Army wife for two years. Johnson worked many jobs including being a bank teller and a secretary for "Reconstruction Finance". Johnson and her husband served an LDS mission in Norway from 1969 to 1972. Johnson also served on the Relief Society General Board and wrote many books about housekeeping.

### **Brenda Migliaccio Kalatez**

**Collection Number:** Box 5A Folders 1-4

**Size:** 28 p.p.

**Description:** Interviewed by Jill Piacitelli

Brenda Migliaccio Kalatez was born on July 30th, 1940 in Price, Utah. She grew up in a Methodist family with a mentally challenged older sister. Kalatez spends the majority of the interview talking about her dance career as both a performer and a teacher. Kalatez won Miss Utah National Guard and was attendant to Miss Utah. She attended the College of Eastern Utah and set up her own dance studio and clothing boutique in Price. Kalatez was married and divorced after 8 months. She then remarried the same man after her fiance and 9 other people were killed in a car accident. Kalatez was one of two survivors. She had two children with her husband and then they got divorced again. She then moved to Laguna Beach where she taught dance for many years. She inherited three different uranium mines from her father and went into business with those. She moved back to Utah and opened Vanadium King Mines. Kalatez is best known for breaking the Guinness World Record for the largest tap performance. Kalatez ends the interview by telling the story of when she was held hostage at the Utah State Prison.

### **Carol Cornwall Madsen**

**Collection Number:** Box 6 Folder 1

**Size:** 31 p.p.

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

Carol Cornwall Madsen was born on December 13th, 1930 in Salt Lake City, Utah to a very musical family. Madsen's father eventually became the Mormon Tabernacle Choir director and she spends much of the interview talking about the opportunities that came from his job. Madsen attended the University of Utah where she acquired many jobs in order to pay for her schooling. For these jobs she worked for the Wheelwrights Lithography Company, the University's music department, and the University's registrar's office. Madsen majored in English, received a Masters of History, and eventually earned a doctoral degree to better her work in the Church History Department at Brigham Young University. Before her work there, Madsen worked for 10 years teaching Remedial English at the University of Utah. Madsen is an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and spends much of the interview recounting her efforts to further the Women's Movement and opposition she faced from the church. She discusses her support of the Equal Rights Amendment and how that led her to write the feminist repose, *Sisters in Spirit*. Madsen ends her interview by talking about her equal partnership with her husband and describing church history tours she led throughout her life.

### **Norma Louise Warenski Matheson**

**Collection Number:** Box 6 Folder 2

**Size:** 29 p.p.

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

Norma Louise Warenski Matheson was born on September 13th, 1929 in Nephi, Utah. Matheson moved to Philadelphia when she was 12 and then San Francisco a year later for her father's education. She discusses the hardships of fitting in at new schools and getting used to moving. Matheson attended high school in Salt Lake City, Utah where she would meet her future husband and Utah's future governor, Scott Matheson. Matheson earned a Bachelor's Degree in zoology from the University of Utah then shortly moved to Palo Alto while her husband attended Stanford. Matheson then spends the rest of the interview describing what life was like being the wife of Utah's governor. She describes her husband's secret support for the Equal Rights Amendment, her restoration of the Kearns Mansion, and her husband's complicated task of balancing his political agenda and his relationship with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Matheson also tells stories from her many committees such as the League of Women's Council, Governor's Commission on Aging, and the Nature Conservancy.

### **Linda K. Newell**

**Collection Number:** Box 6 Folder 3

**Size:** 26 p.p.

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

Linda K. Newell was born on January 16th, 1941 in Richfield, Utah. Newell begins the interview by recounting the hardships of growing up with two alcoholic parents. She explains that her father was a functional alcoholic but that her mother was much worse and was often mentally and physically abusive. Despite her parent's inactivity in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Newell stayed an active member her whole life. Newell decided to attend the University of Southern Utah despite her father's protests. She majored in art education and public speaking. She then tells the story of



her husband's conversion to Mormonism prior to their meeting. Newell recounts many stories of the various colleges her husband taught at, namely Deep Springs. She explains the college's unique history and the role that she and her husband played in restoring it. Throughout her life Newell grew into a historian with the publishing of three books about different counties in Utah and a 9 year research project centered around Emma Smith. Newell talks about her partnership with her husband and the equality of their marriage. She ends the interview by discussing her work creating a writing retreat in Springdale and her effort to stop gun violence in Utah.

### **Frances Lynne Carlson Olson**

**Collection Number:** Box 6 Folder 4

**Size:**

**Description:** Interviewed by Ellen Reddick

### **Elda Elizabeth Shafer Peck**

**Collection Number:** Box 6 Folder 5

**Size:** 19 pp.

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

Elda Elizabeth Shafer Peck was born in 1925 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her father was a mechanic and her mother cleaned houses for a living. Her mother already had two children from a previous marriage when Peck was born. Peck's father died when she was only 11 years-old and her mother had to raise three children as a widow. Peck was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ever since she was little. She met her husband when he was deployed in Kearns, Utah for the Korean War. Her husband was not Mormon but later converted to the Church and served as bishop twice. During those times, Peck and her family lived in Virginia. She would host parties and dinners for their ward and she also served in the temple for nearly 30 years as an ordinance worker. Peck talks about her sheltered life growing up and how she never knew someone of a different race or religion while living in Utah. Peck also discusses her beliefs that men and women have very different roles and how she never worked or helped her husband with his career.

### **Helen Elizabeth Butschek Piacitelli**

**Collection Number:** Box 6 Folder 6

**Size:** 34 pp.

**Description:** Interviewed by Jill Piacitelli

Helen Elizabeth Butschek Piacitelli was born in 1941 in Southgate, California. In 1929 her parents converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Germany and moved to New York City. Piacitelli spends much of the interview recounting memories from her Mormon childhood such as ward road shows, popular TV shows, dances, parties, and varying church activities. Piacitelli had initially planned on majoring in history at Long Beach State College but ultimately decided to transfer to Brigham Young University for her sophomore year. There, she double majored in human relations and elementary education. Piacitelli taught second grade then took a pause in her career to raise her children. After a 14 year break and her husband getting fired from Southern Utah University, she returned to work. Piacitelli then discusses her involvement in including black people at lunchtime while attending Long Beach State

College and her excitement for the Civil Rights Movement. She also explains that she does not identify as a feminist but does believe that all genders are equally capable. Piacitelli ends the interview by detailing the stigma of divorce that she faced as a single mother later in life and her gratitude for her church for making women feel important with special duties.

### **Sally Ann Norton Smith**

**Collection Number:** Box 6 Folder 7

**Size:** 25 pp.

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall and Louise Degn

Sally Ann Norton Smith was born in 1946 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Smith's parents were not active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints though Smith went to all the ward activities in order to socialize with other children. She recounts stories of the neighborhood calling her mother cruel names because she had her own career separate from her husband's. Smith then talks about her mother's nervous breakdown and other mental and physical ailments that her mother suffered. She explains, however, that she loved her father very much and that her maternal grandmother encouraged her to get an education. Because of this, Smith majored in English at the University of Utah. She then taught for 22 years with a brief break to raise her children and open a bookstore. Smith worked at Judge Memorial [Catholic] High School until 1987. She quit because she disliked the way the school had treated her Women's Studies course. She decided instead to open a bookstore centered around female literature. She then recounts many stories of famous authors visiting her shop and the discrimination from misogynistic men they would face. Smith ends her interview by discussing the power that women authors have in influencing female readers and her experience as a grandmother.

### **Edna Taylor-Anderson**

**Collection Number:** Box 6 Folder 8

**Size:** 43 pp.

**Description:** Interviewed by Marie Cornwall

Edna Taylor-Anderson was born in 1938 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her mother converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints while living in Sweden. Anderson talks in detail about the scholarship that she created to help non-traditional students return back to college in their later years to earn a degree. She was the first woman to ever be a General Motors Scholar and she attended George Washington University with that scholarship. She later transferred to the University of Utah where she earned a Bachelor of Science and a teaching degree. After teaching music for a couple of years, she started working for KUED and was the first person to ever appear on it. Anderson details her career moving from KUED to KSL and her time playing Miss Julie on *Romper Room*. She also discusses her work on the Assistance League and their many projects (Operation School Bell, thrift shops, Baby Bundles, etc.). Anderson's late husband died when she was 35 and she describes the difficulties of raising two children alone. She then talks about the struggles of remarriage and trying to form a blended family.

### **Helen Sue Crossgrove Wagner**

**Collection Number:** Box 6 Folder 9

**Size:** 33 pp.

**Description:** Interviewed by Beth Cole

Helen Sue Crossdrove Wagner was born in 1931 in Murray, Utah. Growing up, Wagner was heavily involved in 4-H, sewing, and helping her father raise chickens for a living. She graduated from Utah State with a major in Interior Design. Wagner discusses the importance of education in her life and her belief that everyone should strive to learn as much as possible. Wagner moved with her husband extensively while he was serving in the military during the Cold War. After several years of service, her husband earned a doctorate and studied the effects of radiation on public health in Utah. During this time, Wagner worked as an elementary school teacher's aide and as a librarian. At the end of the interview, Wagner talks about her experiences with the Civil Rights Movement in Louisiana and her belief that all genders are equal (though she never wanted a leadership position).

### **Connie Mourtisen Wilcox**

**Collection Number:** Box 6 Folder 10

**Size:** 31 pp.

**Description:** Interviewed by Carolyn Jenkins

Connie Mourtisen Wilcox was born in 1931 in Bennington, Idaho. Her family struggled with financial difficulties brought about by the Great Depression and World War II. When Wilcox was only 10, her father was involved in a serious accident that left him unable to work for over a year. After high school, Wilcox moved to Salt Lake City, Utah where she lived in the Beehive House while attending Comptometer School. She married soon after graduation and would later have six children. When one of her daughters was 16 she mysteriously disappeared. 20 years later, Wilcox finally found out that her daughter had been abducted and killed by Ted Bundy. Wilcox's son died a few months after her daughter's disappearance from kidney failure. After these horrible tragedies, Wilcox decided to attend Westminster college where she graduated in only two and a half years with majors in English literature, psychology, and art. Wilcox held many jobs including painting houses, teaching pottery at the University of Utah, and writing stories for various publications. Wilcox ends the interview by discussing her choice to be happy in the face of loss, her gratitude for being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the tragic death of her son when he was only 51 years old.