

Celebrating Black History Month: Interviews from Our Collection

Posted on [February 13, 2013](#) by [admin](#)

Alberta E. Bausal, "Service in Greenwich" First a schoolteacher in Dyersburg Tennessee, then a domestic worker in Greenwich, Alberta Bausal was a member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church, and volunteer with Church Women United. This is a story of community and church.

Andrew and Louise Blackson, "Black Experience in Greenwich" The Blacksons tell of their experiences from service during WWI to Greenwich in 1924, when the only employment was as domestic workers. The couple note improvement over the years and hope for greater opportunity in the future.

Louise Van Dyke Brown, * "Church and Community" Born in Greenwich in 1893, the daughter of one of the town's first black families, Louise Van Dyke Brown married in 1919, worked as a housekeeper, and was an honoree of Bethel A.M.E.

Ethel Jones, "North Greenwich, 1902" Among memories of rural Greenwich are recollections of a grandmother who, after surviving the Civil War, died in Greenwich years later, strong and able-bodied to the end. A future generation would include a graduate of Yale and Stanford.

Eugene J. Moye, Sr. * "Soldier, Policeman, Teacher: Overcoming Discrimination" Born in New York City in 1922, Eugene Moye grew up in Greenwich. A veteran of World War II, he was the first African American to become a Greenwich police officer. Also a schoolteacher and continuing as a substitute after retirement, Mr. Moye reflects on his accomplishments, his happy marriage and family, and the experiences he and his family shared overcoming prejudice.

Alver W. Napper, Sr. * (Three interviews) "The Lee Haven Beach Club," "History of the Crispus Attucks Center," and "Reflections on Being Black in Greenwich" Alver Napper, born in 1910, in Georgia, came to Greenwich in the late 1930s to become a toll collector when the Merritt Parkway first opened. Long a leader in the black community, he was director of the Crispus Attucks Center and an early and staunch supporter and active member of the NAACP in Greenwich.

Robert Perry, (Two Interviews) "Black Community in Central Greenwich," "Boyhood in Greenwich," This is the story of a Greenwich first family who resided on what was then known as Perry Lots and is today Perryridge Road. Robert Perry went on to become a leader in Greenwich, receiving recognition for distinguished service awarded

by the Masons and from the Chamber of Commerce of Greenwich for his contributions to the town.

Wesley Robinson, "Growing Up in Greenwich" Growing up in Cassidy Park in what was called the Fourth Ward, Wesley Robinson narrates this interview about his youth. Graduating from Greenwich schools, he decided to pursue his creative interests at J.M. Wright Technical School. He learned printing and graphics there before finding employment at the Greenwich Library. This interview was conducted at the library in 2003 for Oral History Day.

Winston Robinson "NAACP in Greenwich" Born and raised in Greenwich, Winston Robinson attended university in Virginia before returning to town to become president of the NAACP as well as contributing to many other local organizations. But it is with the NAACP that Mr. Robinson has devoted most of his energy, being primarily interested in ensuring peoples' civil rights.

Edna Harris Smith "The Black Community in Greenwich, 1930-1988" Edna Harris Smith came to Greenwich from Charleston, South Carolina as a teenager to be reunited with her mother. Much of the interview is devoted to memories of Henrietta Miller who founded a home for young black women who needed housing while working and saving for college. Edna Smith also reminisces about her youth in Greenwich and her years with years with Bethel A.M.E. Church.

Gertrude Johnson Steadwell, * "A Civil Rights Activist" Born in 1909 and a lifelong resident of Greenwich, Gertrude Johnson Steadwell graduated from the New York School of Interior Design and became an interior decorator. She was a founder of the local chapter of the NAACP and instrumental in promoting fair employment practices by forming the FEPC, the Fair Employment Practices Committee.

**Available as books for purchase through the Oral History Project office, lower level of the library, across from Elton's Café.*