



Deerfield Oral History Project

It's Time to Tell Your Story

The Town of Deerfield will celebrate its 350th anniversary throughout 2023. Did you know that between 1850 and 1924, more than half the children born in Deerfield had parents born in foreign countries. That is but one of the wonderful stories to be told.

At the very heart of Deerfield's history is the story of its people -- all its people. The Spoken History Project seeks folks in Deerfield and surrounding communities who are willing to share memories of their own experiences and those of their families. Your story, no matter how trivial you may think it to be, when combined with others, will lead to a collective appreciation of the town's rich heritage. We hope you will take the opportunity to participate in this community-wide, story-telling experience.

How do I register?

- Please fill out the form on the reverse side. Scan and Email to Deerfieldstories2023@gmail.com or mail to Peter A. Thomas, 90 North Main Street, South Deerfield, MA 01373. This will register your intent, provide limited information about yourself, and when you might be available for an interview. The team will try to provide you with at least two weeks' notice of the time and place of your interview.

How do I share my story?

- Before beginning the interview, you will be asked to sign a "release form" agreeing that your recorded interview can be shared with the public during our celebration and archived for future use by your family or other researchers. Other family items, such as old photographs, can be loaned and scanned for similar purposes. No items will be used for commercial purposes.

What is needed?

- A quiet space where your interview can be conducted. This will ensure sound quality and unnecessary interruption;
- Conducting the interview at one's home tends to be optimal; otherwise, an alternative space will be arranged.
- Approximately two hours for set-up and recording should be sufficient

How will the interview be conducted?

- A team of two or three will join you for the interview. One person will conduct the interview; one or two will provide technical support and keep a log of the interview.
- A discussion period may follow to make sure that your information was captured correctly or expand on topics you mentioned.

What happens next?

- Once the interview is over, the recording will be uploaded, converted into a different file format and stored on multiple hard drives.

What will the interviewee receive?

- The first copy of the interview will be sent directly to the person interviewed for their personal use or for sharing with family and friends. If photographs were lent for scanning, these will be returned.

Where do we go from there?

- A more complete package of information, including the recorded interview, interview log, interview summary, notes, photographs or other materials given to the interview team will be compiled and centralized. It may be used for 350th anniversary research or live audio presentations.
- The materials from each interview will be permanently banked at the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association in Deerfield and made available through Memorial Library or through one or more web-based sites, such as PVMA’s website (<https://deerfield-ma.org/>) or FCAT (<http://www.fcat.tv/>).

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First Name _____ Last Name _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Current Residence (town) _____ Age _____

Connection to Deerfield (check):

Born in Deerfield ____ Family in Deerfield ____ Moved to Deerfield (year) _____

Preferred Place for Interview (check):

My Residence (provide address) _____

Alternative Site to Be Provided _____ Transportation Needed _____

Preferred Time for Interview:

Week Day ____ Weekend ____ Flexible _____

Morning ____ Afternoon ____ Early Evening _____

Suggestions of other people to interview (Please provide contact information, if possible):
