

Remembering Adamsville Oral History Collection

Conversation Starters

Volunteers - At beginning of each session, once the recorder is going, please say something like the following.

This is Jim Smith talking with Carol Jones about her experiences with Sakonnet Point. Today's date is June 6, 2010.

Mrs. Jones, thank you so much for talking with me today. Would you please start by telling me your full name, your birthday and your connection to Adamsville?

And then begin the interview using any questions that make sense. A few suggestions follow but please pick and choose what works for you and feel free to create your own questions.

Open ended questions are best. Please keep your comments to a minimum. Long uninterrupted stories make the best oral histories. You can encourage your subject to continue an interesting story with eye contact, smiles, head nods and quiet exclamations.

Suggested Questions – Pick and choose what works best for your subject.

- Tell us a little something about your connection to Adamsville.
- What is your earliest memory of Adamsville?
- What is your favorite Adamsville story?
- Did your parents take you to Adamsville when you were a child? What did you do there?
- What did you do in Adamsville when you were a child (a teenager) (a young adult)?
- Tell me about your experiences with
 - Manchester's Store,
 - the Grist Mill,
 - Gray's Store,
 - Simmon's Store,
 - the ball field,
 - the Odd Fellow's Hall,
 - the hill,
 - Old Stone Church
 - Hurricanes in Adamsville
 - etc. (Any topic appropriate to the person will work.)

- Do you have any memories of/do you know any stories about
 - The plane crash (during WWII)
 - Rum running
 - Bootlegging
 - Manny Avila
 - Herb Cavaca
 - The lantern shop
 - John Hart
 - The transition of Manchesters from a store to a restaurant
 - Manchester's Restaurant
 - The fire that destroyed Manchesters
 - Gracie and Jim
 - Dr. von Trapp
 - Dr. King
 - Dr. White
 - The Spite Town/Water Tower
 - The Chicken Monument
 - Miss Debbie Manchester
 - Abe Manchester
 - Other Adamsville "Characters"
 - Halloween in Adamsville
 - Portuguese families
 - St. Vincent DePaul Camp
 - Farming
 - The Valley of Sin – its origins – its meaning - (Do you know the song – can you sing it?)
- What changes in Adamsville have you noticed over time?
- If you could bring one lost landmark back to Adamsville what would it be and why?
- If you could go back in time and make one major change to Adamsville – what would it be?
- What is the most surprising thing you know about Adamsville?
- What makes Adamsville different from the rest of Little Compton?
- What do you think non-Adamsville residents think about Adamsville?
- How would Little Compton be different if we did not have Adamsville?
- How would your life have been different if you didn't have your connection to Adamsville?
- What have I forgotten to ask you that I really should have asked?
- What is the most important thing about Adamsville that you would like to share with other Little Compton folks?