MF121 Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA)

Special Collections, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardners Association (MOFGA)

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Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History

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Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA)

Summary Information

| Repository: | Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History |
| Creator - ivr: | MacDougall, Pauleena |
| Creator - ivr: | Dudley, Anu |
| Creator - ivr: | Dean, Pamela |
| Creator - ivr: | Moreira, James |
| Title: | Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) |
| ID: | MF121 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 2000-2004 |
| Physical Description: | 52 items |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Material Specific Details: | Audio files are the primary source material. Transcriptions are the transcriber's best effort to convert audio to text, but should be considered secondary to the audio. |

Preferred Citation

Interviewee last name, interviewee first name. Year. NA[unique series identification number], MF121 NAFOH. Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains interviews with people associated with the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) and the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Themes include the process of beginning to farm organically, the early development of MOFGA and its growth; the Common Ground Fair and its expansion; marketing organic food; farming strategies; raising livestock; and MOFGA's interactions with conventional farmers and the wider community.
Administrative Information

Publication Statement
Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History
5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library
University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469-5729
Business Number: 207.581.1686
URL: http://libguides.library.umaine.edu/c.php?g=718650

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Conditions Governing Use
Rights assessment remains the responsibility of the researcher. No known restrictions on material.

Existence and Location of Originals
Located at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress: AFC 2012/047 https://lccn.loc.gov/2013655211

Controlled Access Headings
- Folklore
- Oral histories
- Farmers -- Maine
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
## Collection Inventory

### MF 121, Collection Summary

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<th>Title/Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>MF 121, text, undated</td>
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<td>MF 121, transcript, undated</td>
<td>Text MF 121</td>
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<td>Digital Object: <a href="#">MF 121, transcript</a></td>
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### Bean-Hole Bean Demonstration, by Maine Folklife Center Staff and Volunteers

**Controlled Access Headings:**
- Oral history
- Food habits -- Social aspects

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<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
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<td>NA 2622, video, September 1999</td>
<td>Audio NA 2622</td>
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### Photographs, Common Ground Fair


**Controlled Access Headings:**
- Oral history
- Bean hole beans
- Food habits -- Maine

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08328, September 1999</td>
<td>Photograph NA 2687</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Digital Object: <a href="#">NA 2687, photograph, p08328</a></td>
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NA 2687, photograph, p08329, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08329

NA 2687, photograph, p08330, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08330
Photo Description: Color photograph of Stuart Mainlman digging the hole for bean-hole beans outside the Maine Folklife Tent at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999. The bean pit is rectangular in shape and roughly four to six inches deep in the photo. Behind Mainlman is a small stack of wood, some chopped into kindling. Pauleena MacDougall appears at the far right margin of the photograph.

NA 2687, photograph, p08331, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08331
Photo Description: Color photograph of Stuart Mainlman (left) assisted by an unidentified man, digging a hole for bean-hole beans outside the Maine Folklife Center tent at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08332, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08332
Photo Description: Color photograph of a pit dug for bean-hole beans at the September 1999 Common Ground Fair. The whole is roughly rectangular, approximately five feet long, three feet wide and two feet deep in this image. The demonstration was part of the Maine Folklife Center display fair exhibition.

NA 2687, photograph, p08333, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08333
Photo Description: Color photograph of a pit dug for bean-hole beans at the September 1999 Common Ground Fair. The whole is roughly rectangular, approximately five feet long, three feet wide and three feet deep in this image. The demonstration was part of the Maine Folklife Center display fair exhibition.

NA 2687, photograph, p08334, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08334
Photo Description: Color photograph of an unidentified man digging a hole for the Maine Folklife Center’s September 1999 bean-hole beans demonstration at the Common Ground Fair. A man wearing a yellow t-shirt and brimmed hat stands waist deep in the hole while two additional men and two women, Pauleena MacDougall
and Bethany Haverlock, stand to the right, observing the work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NA 2687, photograph, p08335, September 1999</th>
<th>Photograph NA 2687</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photo Description:</strong> Color photograph three men working to dig a pit for bean-hole beans at the September 1999 Common Ground Fair. The demonstration was part of the Maine Folklife Center display fair exhibition. One man, wearing a yellow t-shirt and brimmed hat, stands waist deep in the hole.</td>
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<tr>
<th>NA 2687, photograph, p08336, September 1999</th>
<th>Photograph NA 2687</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Photo Description:</strong> Color photograph three men working to dig a pit for bean-hole beans at the September 1999 Common Ground Fair. The demonstration was part of the Maine Folklife Center display fair exhibition. One man, wearing a yellow t-shirt and brimmed hat, stands waist deep in the hole, pausing during the process of lining the pit with rocks.</td>
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<tr>
<th>NA 2687, photograph, p08337, September 1999</th>
<th>Photograph NA 2687</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photo Description:</strong> Color photograph of two unidentified men covering the bean pots in the bean hole as part of the bean-hole bean demonstration staged by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
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<tr>
<th>NA 2687, photograph, p08338, September 1999</th>
<th>Photograph NA 2687</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photo Description:</strong> Color photograph of three unidentified men digging the cooked beans out of the rock-lined bean-hole during the Maine Folklife Center's bean-hole bean demonstration at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
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<th>NA 2687, photograph, p08339, September 1999</th>
<th>Photograph NA 2687</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract:</strong> Color photograph of three unidentified men digging the cooked beans out of the rock-lined bean-hole during the Maine Folklife Center's bean-hole bean demonstration at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
<td></td>
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<th>NA 2687, photograph, p08340, September 1999</th>
<th>Photograph NA 2687</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photo Description:</strong> Color photograph of some inter-generational hole-watching during the bean-hole bean ...</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardners Association (MOFGA)

demonstration staged by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08341, September 1999

Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08341

Photo Description: Color photograph of an unidentified man starting to build a fire in the bean-hole bean pit by arranging kindling in the bottom of the hole. The pit is roughly rectangular, approximately 5 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 3 feet deep with a flat bottom. The man is arranging the kindling in the center of this pit. The work was part of the Maine Folklife Center's September 1999 bean-hole bean demonstration at the Common Ground Fair.

Controlled Access Headings:
• Bean hole beans

NA 2687, photograph, p08342, September 1999

Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08342

Photo Description: Color photograph of an unidentified man wearing a yellow t-shirt and brimmed hat, arranging wood along the sides and bottom of a pit dug for cooking bean-hole beans at the September 1999 Common Ground Fair. The demonstration was part of the Maine Folklife Center's fair participation.

NA 2687, photograph, p08343, September 1999

Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08343

Photo Description: Color photograph of an unidentified man wearing a yellow t-shirt and brimmed hat, starting the fire in the bottom of the pit to cook bean-hole beans at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999. The pit, roughly 5 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 3 feet deep is lined with stones, then pieces of fire wood. Kindling is placed in the center of the pit with flames just beginning to show. The demonstration was part of the Maine Folklife Center's fair participation.

NA 2687, photograph, p08344, September 1999

Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08344

Photo Description: Color photograph of wood burning in a bean-hole bean hole, Common Ground Fair, September 1999, as part of the Maine Folklife Center's demonstration.

NA 2687, photograph, p08345, September 1999

Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08345

Photo Description: Color photograph of the fire working in the bean-hole bean hole at the Maine Folklife Center's
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardners Association (MOFGA)

September 1999 demonstration at Common Ground Fair. The demonstration was staged outside the Folk Arts tent.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital Object</th>
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<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08346, September 1999</td>
<td>Color photograph of the process of cooking bean-hole beans as demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999. An unidentified man measures the top of the cooking pit with a steel prybar that will be used to lower the cast iron bean pot filled with ingredients into the hole to bake below ground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08347, September 1999</td>
<td>Color photograph of six unidentified men standing around the perimeter of the bean-hole bean hole watching the fire take hold in preparation for cooking baked beans. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08348, September 1999</td>
<td>Color photograph of the bean-hole fire burning wood down in preparation for baking beans. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08349, September 1999</td>
<td>Color photograph of an unidentified man adding molasses to a cast iron bean pot. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08350, September 1999</td>
<td>Color photograph of an unidentified man stirring a cast iron pot filled with beans, salt pork, and other ingredients to make bean-hole baked beans. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08351, September 1999</td>
<td>Color photograph of a group of unidentified folks standing around a mound of dirt covering the bean-hole pit. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08352, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08352

Photo Description: Color photograph of two unidentified men preparing to lift the iron cauldron of beans using a re-purposed prybar. The bar was used to lower the pot into the pit for burial. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08353, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08353

Photo Description: Color photograph of a covered, cast iron bean pot positioned on top of hot coals and surrounded by dirt. An unidentified man uses a spade to place additional hot coals on the cover of the bean pot before the entire hole will be back-filled, allowing the beans to bake underground. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08354, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08354

Photo Description: Color photograph of fair-goers viewing the open bean pit. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08355, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08355

Photo Description: Color photograph of unidentified volunteers using spades to cover the cast iron bean pot with hot coals and arrange hot stones around the pit. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08356, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08356

Photo Description: Color photograph of an unidentified man wearing jeans and a white t-shirt with a ball cap standing inside the bean hole, back filling. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08357, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08357

Photo Description: Color photograph of hot coals and hot stones being arranged around the cast iron bean pot in the
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardners Association (MOFGA)

bottom of a bean hole. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

| NA 2687, photograph, p08358, September 1999 | Photograph |
| Digital Object: [NA 2687, photograph, p08358](#) | NA 2687 |
| Photo Description: Color photograph of unidentified men using rakes and spades to arrange hot stones and hot coals around a cast iron bean pot in the bottom of a bean hole dug to bake beans. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999. |

| NA 2687, photograph, p08359, September 1999 | Photograph |
| Digital Object: [NA 2687, photograph, p08359](#) | NA 2687 |
| Photo Description: Color photograph showing the finished bean hole before being back-filled. The overall hole is roughly rectangular, approximately 5-feet long, 3-feet wide, and 3-feet deep. Approximately half of one end of the pit is lined with stones with a stone and earth wall constructed to bisect the pit. The cooking hole ends up being 2 by 3 feet in dimension. The cast iron pot is centrally situated in this partitioned hole, covered with hot rocks and hot coals. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999. |

| NA 2687, photograph, p08360, September 1999 | Photograph |
| Digital Object: [NA 2687, photograph, p08360](#) | NA 2687 |
| Photo Description: Color photograph of two unidentified men placing a full sheet of plywood over the bean pit. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999. |

| NA 2687, photograph, p08361, September 1999 | Photograph |
| Digital Object: [NA 2687, photograph, p08361](#) | NA 2687 |
| Photo Description: Color photograph of an unidentified man arranging the iron prybar in the bean hole. The cast iron bean pot has been covered with hot rocks and coals. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999. |

| NA 2687, photograph, p08362, September 1999 | Photograph |
| Digital Object: [NA 2687, photograph, p08362](#) | NA 2687 |
| Photo Description: Color photograph of a cast iron bean pot situated in the bottom of a bean-hole bean hole. The nearly 5-foot long, rectangular pit has been bisected with a small burn of soil and hot rocks. The cast iron pot is surrounded by hot coals and rocks. The process of cooking |
bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08363, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08363
Photo Description: Color photograph of the cast iron bean pot being removed from the bean hole. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08364, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08364
Photo Description: Color photograph of the cast iron cauldron of hot baked beans being prepared to be lifted out of the cooking hole. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08365, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08365
Photo Description: Color photograph of an unidentified man opening the cast iron bean pot after it has been lifted out of the bean hole. Fair-goers stand around, watching the process. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08366, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08366
Photo Description: Color photograph of observers watching an unidentified volunteer lifting the cover off the cast iron bean pot to check the goods. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08367, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08367
Photo Description: Color photograph of Maine Folklife Center Director, Pauleena MacDougall taste testing the finished bean-hole beans. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

NA 2687, photograph, p08368, September 1999
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08368
Photo Description: Color photograph of a cast iron cauldron of hot, fresh, bean-hole baked beans situated on a table with cups ready to give out samples to fair goers. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated
by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.

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<th>Digital Object</th>
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<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08369, September 1999</td>
<td>Color photograph of an unidentified, bearded man wearing a vest and ball cap serving himself a sample of fresh, hot, bean-hole beans. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08904, September 2004</td>
<td>Color photograph of fair goers lined up as Pamela Dean and Betsy Hedler serve bean-hole beans. Common Ground Fair 2004. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 2004.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08905, September 2004</td>
<td>Betsy Hedler serving bean-hole beans to an unidentified guest. The process of cooking bean-hole beans was demonstrated by the Maine Folklife Center at the Common Ground Fair, September 2004.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08906, September 2004</td>
<td>Color photograph of the crew of volunteers that dug a hole for the bean-hole beans. Noah Dillard stands at the far left. The other participants are unidentified. Fire burning in hole in foreground. Common Ground Fair 2004.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08907, September 2004</td>
<td>Color photograph of the crew of volunteers that dug a hole for the bean-hole beans. Noah Dillard stands at the far left. The other participants are unidentified. Fire burning in hole in foreground. Common Ground Fair 2004.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08908, September 2004</td>
<td>Color photograph of the crew of volunteers that dug a hole for the bean-hole beans. Noah Dillard stands at the far left. The other participants are unidentified. Fire burning in hole in foreground. Common Ground Fair 2004.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Object</td>
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<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08910, September 2004</td>
<td>Color photograph of four, unidentified volunteers digging a hole for bean-hole beans at the Common Ground Fair 2004. Patron in foreground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08916, September 2004</td>
<td>Color photograph of the Folk Art tent at the September 2004 Common Ground Fair. Volunteers dig a hole for bean-hole beans. A crowd of spectators stand in front of them.</td>
</tr>
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NA 2687, photograph, p08917, September 2004
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08917

Photo Description: Color photograph of Noah Dillard on crutches, standing next to another volunteer in front of hole for bean-hole beans. Several patrons throughout scene. Common Ground Fair 2004.

NA 2687, photograph, p08918, September 2004
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08918

Photo Description: Color photograph of two unidentified volunteers standing in a hole, preparing the hole for the fire for bean-hole beans. Common Ground Fair 2004.

NA 2687, photograph, p08919, September 2004
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08919

Photo Description: Color photograph of Pamela Dean and Betsy Hedler serving bean-hole beans at Common Ground Fair 2004.

NA 2687, photograph, p08920, September 2004
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08920

Photo Description: Color photograph of Pamela Dean serving bean-hole beans to a large crowd of patrons. Common Ground Fair 2004.

NA 2687, photograph, p08921, September 2004
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08921

Photo Description: Color photograph of a line of patrons waiting to be served bean-hole beans. Maine Folklife Center tent on right-hand side. Common Ground Fair 2004.

NA 2687, photograph, p08930, September 2002
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08930

Photo Description: Color photograph of Amos Alley being interviewed inside the Maine Folklife Center tent at Common Ground Fair 2002. Maine Folklife Center quilt in background.

NA 2687, photograph, p08931, September 2002
Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08931

Photo Description: Color photograph of Anu Dudley interviewing Amos Alley in Maine Folklife Center tent at Common Ground Fair 2002. Posters and Maine Folklife Center quilt in background.
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<th>Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08934</th>
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<td>Photo Description: Black and white photograph of Pamela Dean setting up Women Folklorist panels at the Common Ground Fair 2001.</td>
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<td>Photo Description: Black and white photograph of (left to right) Barbara (&quot;Bobby&quot;) Ives, Pamela Dean, and Sandy Ives in front of the 'Role of Women in Early 20th Century Folklore' display panels at the Common Ground Fair, September 2001.</td>
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<th>NA 2687, photograph, p08936, September 2000</th>
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<td>Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08936</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photo Description: Color photograph of Louis Tardiff serving bean-hole beans to a long line of patrons. Common Ground Fair 2000.</td>
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<th>NA 2687, photograph, p08937, September 2000</th>
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<td>Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08937</td>
<td>Photograph NA 2687</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photo Description: Color photograph of Lou Tardiff serving bean-hole beans to Sandy Ives and Barbara (&quot;Bobby&quot;) Ives and a line of patrons. Common Ground Fair, September 2000.</td>
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<th>NA 2687, photograph, p08938, September 2000</th>
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<td>Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08938</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photo Description: Color photograph of Louis Tardiff serving bean-hole beans to fairgoers at the Common Ground Fair, September 2000.</td>
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<th>NA 2687, photograph, p08940, September 1999</th>
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<td>Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08940</td>
<td>Photograph NA 2687</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photo Description: Color photograph of Shape Note Singers singing at Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
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<th>NA 2687, photograph, p08941, September 1999</th>
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<td>Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08941</td>
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<td>Photo Description: Color photograph of Shape Note Singers singing at Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
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<th>NA 2687, photograph, p08942, September 1999</th>
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<td>Digital Object: NA 2687, photograph, p08942</td>
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<td>Photo Description: &quot;We Made Our Own Fun.&quot; Color photograph of the display for &quot;The Most Fun I Ever Had&quot; topic. Poster reads, &quot;We Made Our Own Fun.&quot; Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
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<p>| NA 2687, photograph, p08943, September 1999 | |</p>
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<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08943</td>
<td>Color photograph of models of Argile Boom made by Ernest Kennedy. Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08947, September 1999</td>
<td>Color photograph of James Moreira conducting an interview on the topic &quot;The Most Fun I Ever Had.&quot; Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08948, September 1999</td>
<td>Color photograph of Betsy Hedler speaking with fair visitors at Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08949, September 1999</td>
<td>Color photograph of unidentified fair patrons reading Maine Folklife Center displays at Common Ground Fair, September 1999.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA 2687, photograph, p08950, September 1999</td>
<td>Color photograph of Louis Tardiff serving bean-hole beans to Barbara (&quot;Bobby&quot;) Ives and Sandy Ives. Common Ground Fair, September 2000.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Will Bonsell, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall

Source: Bonsall, Will, 1949-

Creator: MacDougall, Pauleena

Abstract: 2628 Will Bonsell, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, September 23, 2000, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Bonsell discusses getting started as an organic farmer; how his expectations have changed due to his experiences; economic aspects of farm life; food storage and other strategies for self-sufficient living; living a vegan lifestyle as an individual and as a farmer; relationship with local people and other organic farmers; involvement in MOFGA and the Common Ground Fair; changes in the fair over time; Scatterseed Project, to conserve genetic diversity of agricultural plants by saving heirloom varieties; and veganic farming. Text: 35 pp. (incomplete?) transcript. Recording: C 1911 1 hour. mfc_na2628_c1911_01, mfc_na2628_c1911_02.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Folklore
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Agricultural economics
- Organic farming
- Veganism
- Rural life -- Maine -- Social Life and Customs
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Khadighar Farm
- Bonsall, Will, 1949-

Title/Description | Instances
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NA 2628, transcript, September 23, 2000 | Audio NA 2628

Digital Object: NA 2628, transcript

NA 2628, audio, part 1, September 23, 2000 | Audio NA 2628

Digital Object: NA 2628, audio, part 1

NA 2628, audio, part 2, September 23, 2000 | Audio NA 2628

Digital Object: NA 2628, audio, part 1
Donna Kausen, interviewed by Pamela Dean

Source: Kausen, Donna
Creator: Dean, Pamela

Abstract: 2629 Donna Kausen, interviewed by Pamela Dean, September 22, 2000, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Kausen discusses moving to Maine; lobster fishing; raising sheep with Jenny Cirone on islands off the Maine coast; fleece for hand spinners; organic gardening; relationship with community in Addison, Maine; early involvement in MOFGA and the Common Ground Fair, changes in MOFGA and the Common Ground Fair; problems and rewards of her lifestyle. Text: 17 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1912 45 minutes. mfc_na2629_c1912_01

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Sheep
- Addison (Me.) -- Social Life and Customs
- Lobster fishers -- Maine
- Women in agriculture
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Kausen, Donna
- Cirone, Jenny (Purington)

Title/Description | Instances
--- | ---
NA 2629, transcript, September 22, 2000 | Audio NA 2629

NA 2629, audio, September 22, 2000 | Audio NA 2629

Jean Hay Bright, interviewed by James Moreira

Source: Bright, Jean Hay
Creator: Moreira, James

Abstract: 2630 Jean Hay Bright, interviewed by James Moreira, September 24, 2000 at the Common Ground Fair. Hay talks about her farm in Dixmont where they grow organic pick-your-own raspberries; her previous farm in Blue Hill; what inspired her to move to Maine in 1971; farm years in Maine during the 1970s without electricity or plumbing; her emergence into the organic farming market in the 1980s; her friendship with Scott and Helen Nearing; preparing her Dixmont farm to grow organic produce; deciding cycles of crop rotation; mixed reactions of locals to the back-to-the-land crowd; and her history of involvement with MOFGA and the Common Ground Fair. Text: 32 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1913 / CD 2222 60 minutes. mfc_na2630_c1913_01, mfc_na2630_c1913_02

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
Tom Roberts, interviewed by James Moreira

Source: Roberts, Tom
Creator: Moreira, James

Abstract: 2631 Tom Roberts, interviewed by James Moreira, September 24, 2000, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Roberts talks about moving to Maine; reasons they would have preferred Vermont; back-to-the-land movement; move to organic farming; early years of MOFGA; building a stone house inspired by the Nearings; farm life as a hippie commune; marketing and buying natural and organic food in Boston; organizing cooperative marketing with other Maine farmers; marketing strategies; challenges of producing blueberries organically; relationships with local community and other organic farmers; pest control for organic farmers; interaction with consumers at farmer's markets; marketing strategies; economics of chemical vs. organic agriculture; involvement with MOFGA; and benefits of third party certification. Text: 31 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1914, CD 2175 1 hour. mfc_na2631_c1914_01, mfc_na2631_c1914_02

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Agricultural economics
- Rural life -- Maine -- Social Life and Customs
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Roberts, Tom
- Nearing, Helen Knothe, 1904-1995
- Nearing, Scott, 1883-1983

Title/Description | Instances
--- | ---
NA 2631, transcript, September 24, 2000 | Audio NA 2631
Digital Object: NA 2631, transcript

NA 2631, audio, part 1, September 24, 2000 | Audio NA 2631
Digital Object: NA 2631, audio, part 1

NA 2631, audio, part 2, September 24, 2000 | Audio NA 2631
Digital Object: NA 2631, audio, part 2

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Will Brinton, interviewed by Pamela Dean

Source: Brinton, Will
Creator: Dean, Pamela

Abstract: 2632 Will Brinton, interviewed by Pamela Dean, September 23, 2000, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Brinton talks about his family's garden when he was growing up; his father's bread; moving to Maine; social, agricultural, and environmental activism in the 1960s and 1970s; studying agriculture at the University of Maine; his mentors, including the Nearings, Benjamin and Marjory Spock, and Rachel Carson; early involvement with MOFGA; his soil testing laboratory; involvement in the Common Ground Fair; introduction of large-scale composting; school composting programs; biotechnology; and conflicts between technological culture and natural living. Text: 26 pages (incomplete?) transcript. Recording: C 1915, CD 2216 1 hour. mfc_na2632_c1915_01, mfc_na2632_c1915_02

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Compost
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Brinton, Will

Title/Description Instances
NA 2632, text, September 23, 2000 Audio NA 2632
NA 2632, transcript, September 23, 2000 Audio NA 2632
Digital Object: NA 2632, transcript
NA 2632, audio, part 1, September 23, 2000 Audio NA 2632
Digital Object: NA 2632, audio, part 1
NA 2632, audio, part 2, September 23, 2000 Audio NA 2632
Digital Object: NA 2632, audio, part 2

Sue Sergeant, interviewed by James Moreira

Source: Sergeant, Sue
Creator: Moreira, James
Abstract: 2633 Sue Sergeant, interviewed by James Moreira, September 24, 2000, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Sergeant discusses moving to Maine; sources of involvement in organic farming; growth of her organic farm; pest control; involvement with MOFGA and her local chapter; MOFGA organic certification; involvement with the Common Ground Fair; and growing for a farmer's market. Text: 26 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1916 1 hour. mfc_na2633_c1916_01, mfc_na2633_c1916_02

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Agricultural pests
- Women in agriculture
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Sergeant, Sue

Title/Description | Instances
--- | ---
NA 2633, transcript, September 24, 2000 | Audio NA 2633
Digital Object: NA 2633, transcript

NA 2633, audio, part 1, September 24, 2000 | Audio NA 2633
Digital Object: NA 2633, audio, part 1

NA 2633, audio, part 2, September 24, 2000 | Audio NA 2633
Digital Object: NA 2633, audio, part 2

Mort Mather, interviewed by Pamela Dean

Source: Mather, Mort
Creator: Dean, Pamela

Abstract: 2634 Mort Mather, interviewed by Pamela Dean, September 22, 2000, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Mather talks about his career as a stage manager in New York and Ogunquit, Maine; moving to Maine and becoming a subsistence farmer; relationship with local community; harvesting wheat with a combine vs. a scythe; involvement in MOFGA; spreading manure from a pickup truck and the manure pitch at the Common Ground Fair; market gardening; and his feelings about the Common Ground Fair. Text: 22 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1917 1 hour. mfc_na2634_c1917_01, mfc_na2634_c1917_02.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Rural life -- Maine -- Social Life and Customs
- Agricultural economics
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Mather, Mort

Title/Description | Instances
--- | ---
NA 2634, transcript, September 22, 2000 | Audio NA 2634
Digital Object: NA 2634, transcript

NA 2634, audio, part 1, September 22, 2000
# Cynthia Thayer, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall

**Source:** Thayer, Cynthia  
**Creator:** MacDougall, Pauleena  
**Abstract:** 2635 Cynthia Thayer, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, September 22, 2000, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Thayer discusses moving to Maine to become a farmer; her organic farm; composting; relationship with local community; involvement with MOFGA; farm apprentices; certification; involvement with the Wednesday Spinners at the Common Ground Fair; and changes in her farming lifestyle over time. Text: 21 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1918 1 hour. mfc_na2635_c1918_01.

## Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Agricultural economics
- Compost
- Women in agriculture
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Thayer, Cynthia

## Title/Description

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# Deb Soule, interviewed by Anu Dudley

**Abstract:** 2636 Deb Soule, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 23, 2000 at the Common Ground Fair in Thorndike, Maine. Topics covered include how she started gardening in her youth; how she educated herself in the use of herbs; meeting Helen and Scott Nearing; how Adele Dawson influenced her life; her meeting with Juliette de Bairacli Levy; working with Doug Elliot in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina; working with Ed Smith and Sarah Katz of Herb Pharm in Oregon; beginning to make tinctures, salves and oils and selling at the Common Ground Fair; starting up Avena Botanicals; some of the organic herbs she grew; wild-crafting or collecting wild herbs and lichens; biodynamic farming; how she manages her business; teaching and writing; her relationship with MOFGA; Tilth; and what she sees for her future. Text: 24 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1919 / CD 2173 1 hour. mfc_na2636_c1919_01, mfc_na2636_c1919_02

## Controlled Access Headings:

- Return to Table of Contents
Robert Bailee, interviewed by Elizabeth Hedler

Source: Bailee, Roberta

Creator: Hedler, Elizabeth, 1972-

Abstract: 2637 Roberta Bailee, interviewed by Elizabeth Hedler, September 23, 2000, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Topics discussed include Bailee's move to Maine; how she began gardening and preserving garden produce; becoming involved with the Maine Organic Farmer's and Gardener's Association; activities of her chapter in the 1970s and 1980s; grafting and growing fruit trees; seed saving; running a food concession at the Common Ground Fair (Better Hummus and Gardens); relationship with local people; writing on cooking and gardening for MOFGA publications; experience of the fair; plant breeding for Fedco seed company; propagating fruit trees; genetically modified organisms and organic agriculture; growing seeds for Fedco. Text: 15 pp. partial transcript. Recording: C 1920 1 hour. mfc_na2637_c1920_01, mfc_na2637_c1920_02

Controlled Access Headings:

• Oral history
• Agriculture -- Maine
• Agricultural economics
• Food habits -- Maine
• Rural life -- Maine -- Social Life and Customs
• Women in agriculture
• Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
• Bailee, Roberta

Title/Description                      Instances

NA 2637, transcript, September 23, 2000  Audio NA
Digital Object: NA 2637, transcript

NA 2637, audio, part 1, September 23, 2000 Audio NA
Digital Object: NA 2637, audio, part 1

NA 2637, audio, part 2, September 23, 2000 Audio NA
Digital Object: NA 2637, audio, part 2

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Martha Gottleib, interviewed by James Moreira

Source: Gottleib, Martha
Creator: Moreira, James

Abstract: 2674 Martha Gottleib, interviewed by James Moreira, September 22, 2001, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Gottleib talks about moving to Maine for a better education for her children; joining MOFGA out of a shared identity with its members; the Summerhill system style school her children attended when they came to Maine; meeting the Nearings; tensions between native Mainers and back-to-the-land people; early work with MOFGA; growing and selling garlic; her involvement in a worldwide seed exchange program; the changes at the Common Ground Fair in recent years and some people's dissatisfaction with them; her views on the Common Ground Fair's sociopolitical importance; and the direction MOFGA should take in the future. Text: 55 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1967, CD 2174 90 minutes. mfc_na2674_c1967_01, mfc_na2674_c1967_02

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Rural life -- Maine -- Social Life and Customs
- Women in agriculture
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Gottleib, Martha

Title/Description | Instances
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NA 2674, transcript, September 22, 2001 | Audio NA 2674
NA 2674, audio, part 1, September 22, 2001 | Audio NA 2674
NA 2674, audio, part 2, September 22, 2001 | Audio NA 2674

Susan Belding, interviewed by James Moreira

Source: Belding, Susan
Creator: Moreira, James
Abstract: 2675 Susan Belding, interviewed by James Moreira, September 23, 2001, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Belding talks about her farm; her father as a gardener and a physician; how she got into organic farming in Maine; growing flowers for market; seed saving; genetically modified seeds for flowers and ornamental plants; economic development of the farm, including the shift to a farm stand; involvement with MOFGA; pest and weed control and crop rotation in organically grown ornamentals; issues surrounding non-native plants taking over, and poisonous plants and seeds; flower arrangements for weddings; selling seeds by mail order; children and the farm; being a vendor at the Common Ground Fair farmer's market; genetically modified organisms as an issue for organic agriculture; relationships between organic farmer and "regular" farmers; and specific problems of genetically modified organisms in the ornamental market. Text: 36 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1968 1 hour. mfc_na2675_c1968_01

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Agricultural pests
- Women in agriculture
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Belding, Susan

Title/Description | Instances
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NA 2675, transcript, September 23, 2001 | Audio NA 2675
Digital Object: NA 2675, transcript

NA 2675, audio, September 23, 2001 | Audio NA 2675
Digital Object: NA 2675, audio

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John Belding, interviewed by Pamela Dean

Source: Belding, John

Creator: Dean, Pamela

Abstract: 2676 John Belding, interviewed by Pamela Dean, September 23, 2001, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Belding talks about his interest in Forestry which led him to study it in college and move to Maine; how he went from surveyor to also being a farmer; raising farm animals such as goats, cattle, pigs and chickens; selling organic produce at his farm stand starting at 1990; preparing his land in Lovell from overgrown to farm-ready; involvement in MOFGA and the Common Ground fair; growth of the organic farming movement; his work as farmer's market coordinator; the MOFGA apprenticeship program; division of labor amongst his family; and government subsidies and other problems farmers face. Text: 33 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1969 50 minutes. mfc_na2676_c1969_01, mfc_na2676_c1969_02

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Agricultural economics
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Belding, John

Title/Description | Instances
--- | ---
NA 2676, transcript, September 23, 2001
Bonnie Rukin Miller, interviewed by Anu Dudley

Source: Miller, Bonnie Rukin
Creator: Dudley, Anu

Abstract: 2677 Bonnie Rukin Miller, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 22, 2001, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Miller discusses moving to Maine; her organic farm; running a farm school; creating a farm community; development of her farm; Sandhill Farms Day Camp; farm apprentices and farm managers; crops grown; pick-your-own organic strawberries; selling vegetables, flour made from their organically grown grain, and other products at farmer's markets and the Common Ground Fair; her husband's background and work in forestry; raising sheep for wool and meat; involvement in MOFGA and the Common Ground Fair; MOFGA as a community; financial aspects of farm life; and the future of MOFGA.


Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Women in agriculture
- Agricultural economics
- Sheep
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Miller, Bonnie Rukin

Title/Description | Instances
--- | ---
NA 2677, transcript, September 22, 2001 | Audio NA 2677

C. R. Lawn, interviewed by Anu Dudley

Source: Lawn, C. R.
Creator: Dudley, Anu

Abstract: 2682 C. R. Lawn, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 22, 2001, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Lawn discusses the history of Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association; moving to Maine in the early 1970s as part of the back-to-the-land movement; selling produce in the late 1970s; participating in co-ops; beginning FEDCO seed co-op; growth of FEDCO; bringing FEDCO to the Common Ground Fair; agricultural vendors' dispute with MOFGA in the early 90s; becoming MOFGA treasurer; changes he instituted; challenges facing MOFGA in 2001; need for an alternative food system; concerns about MOFGA's financial self-reliance; difficulties with organic certification; and seed trials for FEDCO. Text: 47 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1976. mfc_na2682_c1976_01, mfc_na2682_c1976_02.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Agricultural economics
- Seeds
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Fedco Seeds (Clinton (Me.))
- Lawn, C. R.

Title/Description | Instances
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NA 2682, transcript, September 22, 2001 | Audio NA 2682
Digital Object: [NA 2682, transcript](#)

NA 2682, audio, part 1, September 22, 2001 | Audio NA 2682
Digital Object: [NA 2682, audio, part 1](#)

NA 2682, audio, part 2, September 22, 2001 | Audio NA 2682
Digital Object: [NA 2682, audio, part 2](#)

Russell Libby, interviewed by Anu Dudley

Source: Libby, Russell

Creator: Dudley, Anu


Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Rural women -- Maine -- Social Life and Customs
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Libby, Russell

Title/Description | Instances
--- | ---

Rosey Guest, interviewed by Pamela Dean

Source: Guest, Rosey

Creator: Dean, Pamela


Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Agricultural economics
- Organic farming
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Guest, Rosey

Title/Description | Instances
--- | ---
NA 2684, transcript, September 21, 2001 | Audio NA 2684

NA 2684, audio, part 1, September 21, 2001 | Audio NA 2684

NA 2684, audio, part 2, September 21, 2001 | Audio NA 2684
Chaitanya York, interviewed by Anu Dudley

Source: York, Chaitanya

Creator: Dudley, Anu

Abstract: 2685 Chaitanya York, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 21, 2001, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. York talks about growing up in the Androscoggin River Valley on her grandparent's farm; her grandfather teaching her sustainable and organic farming practices back in the early 1950s; his college years in New York City and Portland; organizing chapters in Knox and Lincoln counties in the early days of MOFGA, circa 1970, later moving up to other positions that decade; his role in the creation of the Common Ground Fair; fundraising the $10,000 for the first fair; organizing and finding a location for that first fair; some stories about how that first fair went; and how he's been involved since stepping down as fair director. Text: 54 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1979 / CD 2223 (2 CD set) 90 minutes. mfc_na2685_c1979_01, mfc_na2685_c1979_02.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Agricultural economics
- Biodynamic agriculture
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- York, Chaitanya

Title/Description | Instances
--- | ---
NA 2685, transcript, September 21, 2001 | Audio NA 2685
Digital Object: NA 2685, transcript

NA 2685, audio, part 1, September 21, 2001 | Audio NA 2685
Digital Object: NA 2685, audio, part 1

NA 2685, audio, part 2, September 21, 2001 | Audio NA 2685
Digital Object: NA 2685, audio, part 2

Bill Whitman, interviewed by Elizabeth Hedler

Source: Whitman, Bill

Creator: Hedler, Elizabeth, 1972-

Abstract: 2686 Bill Whitman, interviewed by Elizabeth Hedler, September 21, 2001, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Whitman talks about his family history and their Maine farm; involvement in MOFGA; organic farming as outgrowth of traditional farm life; the beginnings of the Maine Festival and the Common Ground Fair; volunteering for the Common Ground Fair; first fair in 1977; security for the early years of the fair; Windsor fairgrounds; advantages of owning the fairground; coordinating the Common Kitchen that feeds fair volunteers; getting the food for the Common Kitchen; Litchfield fair grounds; changes in the fair; changes in kitchen equipment for the Common Kitchen; influence of Common Ground on other...
Rob Johnston, interviewed by Anu Dudley

Source: Johnston, Rob
Creator: Dudley, Anu

Abstract: 2688 Rob Johnston, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 22, 2001, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine, about Johnny's Selected Seeds, the company he founded in 1973. Topics discussed include his move to Maine in 1974; buying his farm in Albion, Me. in 1975; looking for heirloom, short season seeds and other rare and imported seeds; the growth of the business; the development of various seed lines such as Baby Bear pumpkins and Lipstick red peppers; adding tools to the list of products they sell; the importance of customer feedback; comparison of Johnny's with Burpees; social and cultural changes in the 1980s that undercut the organic, back-to-the-land ethos; hiring a manager; involvement with MOFGA and views on its future. Text: 48 pp. transcript. Recording: C 1981 1 hour. mfc_na2688_c1981_01, mfc_na2688_c1981_02.
Cathy Reynolds, interviewed by Anu Dudley

Source: Reynolds, Cathy
Creator: Dudley, Anu

Abstract: 3062 Cathy Reynolds, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 21, 2002, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Reynolds talks about growing up in the Gorham and Orono, Maine areas, and New Jersey after being born in Morocco, Africa (her father was stationed there in Navy); moving to Bowdoinham once she got married; getting involved in farming and raising animals, esp. sheep; people's misconceptions about animals, esp. farm animals; how she became involved in MOFGA by attending one of the fairs; her responsibilities as the Livestock Coordinator; how the Steering Committee and coordinators prepare for the yearly fair; insurance problems both the fair and those wishing to participate face; problems faced with coordinating and running the fair; livestock shows and people who demonstrate them at the fair; rare breeds she hopes to bring to the fair in the future and other long-term goals. Text: 18 pp. transcript. Recording: C 2106 50 minutes. mfc_na3062_c2106_01, mfc_na3062_c2106_02.

Jean English, interviewed by Anu Dudley

Source: English, Jean
Creator: Dudley, Anu

Abstract: 3063 Jean English, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 21, 2002, Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. English talks about moving to Lincolnville, Maine in 1985; looking for and buying tillable land; farm budgets based on the Nearings model; having children; growing nursery crops for FEDCO; the specifics of growing bayberries; moving from farming to writing as a primary source of income; volunteering with MOFGA; becoming editor of the MOFGA newspaper; how the MOFGA newspaper has changed over the years; hopes for the newspaper's future; the effects of genetic engineering on food and the environment;
Richard Dickey, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall

Source: Dickey, Richard

Creator: MacDougall, Pauleena

Abstract: 3064 Richard Dickey, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, September 20, 2002, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Dickey discusses the Common Ground Fair; getting involved ca. 1980; changes when the fair moved from Litchfield to Windsor; attitude of the citizens of Windsor; the importance of the fair for consumers; the fair as an institution; and his favorite memories of the fair. Text: 14 pp. transcript. Recording: C 2108. mfc_na3064_c2108_01.
William "Bill" Thayer and Amanda Caron

Source: Thayer, William "Bill"

Source: Caron, Amanda

Creator: Moreira, James

Abstract: 3065 William "Bill" Thayer and Amanda Caron, interviewed by James Moreira, September 20, 2003, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Thayer talks about early life in Massachusetts; being in the insurance business in Boston; moving to Gouldsboro, Maine in 1977 and into a 10-room farmhouse on 33 acres; getting into farming; his farming practices with livestock, which included sheep, pigs, cows, turkeys and chickens; vegetable gardening; selling and buying straw from Canada; MOFGA farm apprenticeship program and his role as coordinator with Cynthia Thayer in the 1980s; spinning and weaving wool; sheep quality; Wednesdays Spinners group; Cynthia Thayer's novel 10 Great Writers; working pony demonstrations; organic farmers and farming; marketing organic products; soil testing; obstacles of organic farming; mail-order business and catalog; the farm store they opened ca. 1995; Caron describes being an apprentice for Darthia Farm; attending the Putney School in Vermont, which is on a working farm and how she got interested in the apprenticeship program through the Darthia Farm web page; what impact it had on her and its benefits; a brief description of her seasonal duties including logging and harvesting and wood, splitting firewood, carding and spinning wool; gaining a broad foundation of skills, self-sufficiency and alternative living; Bennington College in Vermont. Text: 33 pp. transcript. Recording: C2109. mfc_na3065_c2109_01, mfc_na3065_c2109_02

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Darthia Farm (Gouldsboro (Me.))
- Thayer, William "Bill"
- Caron, Amanda
- Thayer, Cynthia

Title/Description | Instances
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NA 3065, transcript, September 20, 2003 | Audio NA 3065

Jill Breen, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall

Source: Breen, Jill

Creator: MacDougall, Pauleena

Abstract: 3066 Jill Breen, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, September 22, 2002, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Breen talks about the choice to move to Troy, Maine, instead of Vermont in 1972; the attraction of organic farming as a way of life; apprenticing on a vegetable farm; moving to St. Albans, Maine; becoming a midwife; financial hardship; apprenticing as a means of learning a trade; the
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA)

"Birth Tent" at the Common Ground Fair; isolation from the local community in Central Maine; raising children; meeting people in a rural community; operating a booth at the Common Ground Fair; and growing and selling organic melons with husband Peter DeBethune. Text: 15 pp. transcript. Recording: C 2110, CD 2174 30 minutes. mfc_na3066_c2110_01 3067 Theresa Hoffman, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 20, 2002, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Hoffman talks about being a Maine native and member of the Penobscot Tribe; becoming staff geologist for the Penobscot Nation at Indian Island; formation of the corporation of the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance (MIBA) in 1993; an invitation from the folk arts area at the Common Ground Fair to do demonstrations of basketmaking and Native Arts; the Native American Festival at College of the Atlantic; she talks briefly about baskets and traditional arts; MIBA association with the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine; the tools used to make the baskets; some history of basketmaking and signature style of baskets; Hoffman talks about her perspective of MOFGA and its mission; the economic development of basketmaking; the education of the general public about the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Micmac and Maliseet tribes; the association with Folk Arts; the Wabanaki Arts Center Gallery in Old Town, Maine; development of an online website; her favorite memory of the fair being the young drummers. Text: 11 pp. transcript. Recording: C 2111. mfc_na3067_c2111_01

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Midwives
- Agricultural economics
- Rural life -- Maine -- Social Life and Customs
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Breen, Jill
- DeBethune, Peter

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Theresa Hoffman, interviewed by Anu Dudley

Source: Hoffman, Theresa
Creator: Dudley, Anu

Abstract: 3067 Theresa Hoffman, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 20, 2002, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Hoffman talks about being a Maine native and member of the Penobscot Tribe; becoming staff geologist for the Penobscot Nation at Indian Island; formation of the corporation of the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance (MIBA) in 1993; an invitation from the folk arts area at the Common Ground Fair to do demonstrations of basketmaking and Native Arts; the Native American Festival at College of the Atlantic; she talks briefly about baskets and traditional arts; MIBA association with the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine; the tools used to make the baskets; some history of basketmaking and signature style of baskets; Hoffman talks about her perspective of MOFGA and its mission; the economic development of basketmaking; the education of the general public about the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Micmac and Maliseet tribes; the association with Folk Arts; the Wabanaki Arts Center Gallery in Old Town, Maine; development of an online website; her favorite memory of the fair being the young drummers. Text: 11 pp. transcript. Recording: C 2111. mfc_na3067_c2111_01

Controlled Access Headings:
Marie Hickey, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall

Source: Hickey, Marie
Creator: MacDougall, Pauleena

Abstract: 3068 Marie Hickey, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, September 20, 2002, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Hickey begins by outlining her current role at MOFGA; why she came to Maine and how she got connected to MOFGA; her involvement with the children's area of the fair and being coordinator for 20 years; her perspective of the purpose of the Common Ground Fair; educational aspects of the fair; activities for children at the fair; future plans in the children's area; recruiting volunteers; sustainable lifestyles definition; making stilts for children; impact of the fair on the state; and the importance of childhood education. Text: 10 pp. transcript. Recording: C 2112. mfc_na3068_c2112_01

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Childhood
- Education
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Hickey, Marie

Glenn Dewitt, interviewed by James Moreira

Source: Dewitt, Glenn
Creator: Moreira, James

Abstract: 3069 Glenn Dewitt, interviewed by James Moreira, September 22, 2002, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Dewitt speaks about his involvement with MOFGA; moving from West Pennsylvania to Dresden, Maine; his career in the Navy; his uncle's pig farm in Pennsylvania; working at the Bath shipyard; raising rare breed and meat chickens naturally; naturally versus unnaturally raised livestock; free-ranging...
versus caging practices; his involvement with the Common Ground Fair; working as an associate livestock
director for Kathy Reynolds; his interest in antique tractors; operating the antique tractor shuttle at the
Common Ground Fair; antique tractors he owns, including John Deeres, McCormicks, and Olivers; using
biodiesel versus regular diesel; differences in machine operation when using biodiesel; new technologies;
old lead lubricant fuel; NOS; repair parts; recovering old tractors; restoration of antique tractors; the Old
Windsor Fair; mule and donkey teams versus horse teams; mule farmers Bob Crichton of Berwick and Neils
Sabatine of Whitefield; the value of the MOFGA fair; future changes Dewitt would like to see to the fair;
his participation in the Farmington summer festival featuring antique tractors and machines; the dangers
involved with antique machinery operation; and old versus new technologies. Text: 16 pp. transcript.
Recording: C 2113. mfc_na3069_c2113_01.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Livestock -- Maine
- Farm tractors
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Dewitt, Glenn

Title/Description | Instances
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NA 3069, transcript, September 22, 2002 | Audio NA 3069
Digital Object: NA 3069, transcript

NA 3069, audio, September 22, 2002 | Audio NA 3069
Digital Object: NA 3069, audio

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Susan Pierce, interviewed by Anu Dudley

Source: Pierce, Susan
Creator: Dudley, Anu

Abstract: 3070 Susan Pierce, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 22, 2002, at the Commom Ground Fair,
Unity, Maine. Pierce recounts her experiences as fair director; reasons for moving to Maine; her education at
the University of Maine at Farmington in Early Childhood Education; working in agriculture in California in
the 1970s; reasons for accepting the MOFGA fair director position; her early years as director; establishing
a steering committee and planning team; early issues with the Common Ground Fair; negotiations with
the Windsor Fairgrounds; stable cash flow concerns; the evolution of the Common Ground Fair; committee
member Ham Robbins; site surveyor Jan Salibee; choosing and maintaining the site; budgeting; planning;
acclimating herself to MOFGA goals; promoting MOFGA; fair expansion; fair guidelines and criteria; the
move to serving organic food at the fair; the connection between local growers and vendors; parking;
management; Dave Kenard's sheepdog demonstration; livestock director Kathy Reynolds; problem solving;
cooperation; social connections; Obi Bule, handler of the recycling area; and fair goers Julia and Tristan
Plum. Text: no transcript. Recording: C 2114 / CD 2224. mfc_na3070_c2114_01, mfc_na3070_c2114_02

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Biodynamic agriculture
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardners Association (MOFGA)

- Peggy Heigold Strong, interviewed by Anu Dudley

**Source:** Strong, Peggy Heigold

**Creator:** Dudley, Anu

**Abstract:** 3071 Peggy Heigold Strong, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 19, 2003, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Strong speaks about moving from Connecticut to Maine; attending Bates College; MOFGA and the Common Ground Fair; working for future husband Matthew Strong at his egg roll stand; food vendors Steve Aucoin and Tom St. John; food guidelines; her experiences as craft area coordinator; past coordinator Wendy Dumont; craft area concerns, including security, parking, electricity, and stock; craft jurors and their appointment process; craft judging; new criteria she would like implemented; vendors Susan Sherman and Tom Opper; changes over time; her experiences as a member of and chairman of the steering committee; the Maine Business Area offshoot of the craft area at the Common Ground Fair; problems in the crafts area with vendors; anti-institutionalism; personal craft projects; sign painting with Sara Brandon and Joan Sheldon; sign painting workshops; making banners for the different areas; the feasibility of acquiring new buildings either through construction or donation of preexisting ones; worker Nancy Rache; permanent sites for film, folk arts, and the blacksmith shop; volunteerism. Text: no transcript. Recording: C 2115 1 hour. mfc_na3071_c2115_01.

**Controlled Access Headings:**
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Food service
- Agricultural economics
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Strong, Peggy Heigold

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- Peggy Heigold Strong, interviewed by Anu Dudley

**Source:** Strong, Peggy Heigold

**Creator:** Dudley, Anu

**Abstract:** 3071 Peggy Heigold Strong, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 19, 2003, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Strong speaks about moving from Connecticut to Maine; attending Bates College; MOFGA and the Common Ground Fair; working for future husband Matthew Strong at his egg roll stand; food vendors Steve Aucoin and Tom St. John; food guidelines; her experiences as craft area coordinator; past coordinator Wendy Dumont; craft area concerns, including security, parking, electricity, and stock; craft jurors and their appointment process; craft judging; new criteria she would like implemented; vendors Susan Sherman and Tom Opper; changes over time; her experiences as a member of and chairman of the steering committee; the Maine Business Area offshoot of the craft area at the Common Ground Fair; problems in the crafts area with vendors; anti-institutionalism; personal craft projects; sign painting with Sara Brandon and Joan Sheldon; sign painting workshops; making banners for the different areas; the feasibility of acquiring new buildings either through construction or donation of preexisting ones; worker Nancy Rache; permanent sites for film, folk arts, and the blacksmith shop; volunteerism. Text: no transcript. Recording: C 2115 1 hour. mfc_na3071_c2115_01.

**Controlled Access Headings:**
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Food service
- Agricultural economics
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Strong, Peggy Heigold
Matthew Strong, interviewed by Anu Dudley

Source: Strong, Matthew

Creator: Dudley, Anu

Abstract: 3072 Matthew Strong, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 19, 2003, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Strong speaks about his experiences as an egg roll vendor at the Common Ground and Blue Hill Fairs; his history of making leather clothing and furniture; food preparation guidelines; joining the steering committee as food co-coordinator; MOFGA's goals; fair expansion; common vendor complaints; selling his business; food vendor applications; his MOFGA involvement; MOFGA and politics; changes in MOFGA; attendance numbers for the Common Ground Fair; continuous homestead, orchard, gardens, and compost exhibits; and his favorite memories of the Common Ground Fair and his involvement with MOFGA. Text: no transcript. Recording: C 2116 1 hour. mfc_na3072_c2116_01.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Food service
- Agricultural economics
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Strong, Matthew

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Tim Nason, interviewed by Anu Dudley

Source: Nason, Tim

Creator: Dudley, Anu

Abstract: 3073 Tim Nason, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 20, 2003, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Nason speaks about moving to Maine from Massachusetts; returning to a more traditional way of life; growing their own food and raising their own livestock; learning organic farming from his neighbors and books; opening and operating a natural foods store in Kennebunkport, Maine; MOFGA and the Maine Extension Service; becoming editor of the MOFGA newsletter; rural skills; MOFGA as an activist organization; MOFGA's future; the Food Co-op Movement; becoming involved in democratic politics; Chellie Pingree and Common Cause; genetic engineering; the Conservation Commission; expanding MOFGA to new audiences; and the need for aggressive marketing. Text: 12 pp. transcript. Recording: C 2117 1 hour. mfc_na3073_c2117_01.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Livestock -- Maine
- Agricultural economics
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Richard Silliboy, interviewed by Anu Dudley

Source: Silliboy, Richard
Creator: Dudley, Anu

Abstract: 3074 Richard Silliboy, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 21, 2003, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Silliboy speaks about moving from Gouldsboro, Maine, to Aroostook County; his mother Mary; tribal affiliation with the Presque Isle Micmacs; working at the Basket Bank Store in Presque Isle, Maine; making and selling Native American baskets; serving as the Economic Development Coordinator for the Basket Bank; problems finding wood and supplies for basketry; basketmakers Marlene, Robina, Donald and Mary Senapass, and Abe and Sarah Lunn; costs of baskets; difficulties with exposure and marketing; shows at the malls in New Hampshire and Maine, the Common Ground Fair, and festivals; joining the Basket Alliance; opening a store in Houlton, Maine, after applying for a loan from Finance Authority; purchasing baskets from Nova Scotia and Quebec; basketmakers Steven Aize, Peter Baldwin, Ruby Skillinger, Jeremy Fray, Peter Neptune, and Molly Neptune Parker; selling baskets at the Common Ground Fair; the development of the Native Arts tent; colleagues Betsy Hart and Martha Motley; serving as co-coordinator of the steering committee; his mother, Mary Silliboy, selling baskets to Fog's Hardware Store; exposure for artists; earning money doing traditional Native American crafts; bringing workshops to Maine's Native communities; the dying off of basketmaking elders; increases in the number of young basketmakers; starting language workshops on Native reservations in Maine; moving baskets; baskets as conversation pieces in the home; participation in the Common Ground Fair; and cultural continuance of Native Americans. Text: no transcript. Recording: C 2118 45 minutes. mfc_na3074_c2118_01.

Controlled Access Headings:
• Oral history
• Micmac Indians
• Indian baskets -- Maine
• Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
• Silliboy, Richard

Benjamin Wilcox, interviewed by Anu Dudley
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA)

Source: Wilcox, Benjamin
Creator: Dudley, Anu

Abstract: 3075 Benjamin Wilcox, interviewed by Anu Dudley, September 21, 2003, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Wilcox talks about his ownership with Tom Roberts of Part and Parcel Farm; being a baby boomer; changes in economics over the last thirty years; higher education via the G.I. Bill; getting his degree in architecture; moving to Maine from California; the Deering's "Living the Good Life" and Elliott Porter's "Summer Islands;" building boats in Wiscasset; settling in Dixmont as a homesteader and opening Piecemeal Farm; subsistence as an organic farmer; wage rates in Maine versus those in California; living in relative poverty; Rob Johnson of Johnny's Selected Seeds; problems with cash flow; Farmer's Markets in Newport, Skowhegan, Brewer, Belfast, and Camden, Maine; transporting Maine goods to Chelsea Market in Boston, Massachusetts; support for growers; coordinating the Atlantic Co-op Supply; Tom Roberts of Moose Produce and Fed Co; phosphate as a fertilizer; experiences with the Common Ground Fair; difficulties as an organic farmer; opening the Farmer's Market at the Common Ground Fair in 1988; fair expansion; wholesaling; serving as the middle man; supply and demand in organic farming; retailing; marketing strategies for organic farmers; being self-sufficient as an organic farmer; economization; farm development; training employees; MOFA and MOFGA conferences; colleague Ellie Coleman; obstacles to organic farming; MOFGA's expansion; the future of organic farming; reasons for growing his own food; and the evolution of MOFGA. Text: no transcript. Recording: C 2119 1 hour. mfc_na3075_c2119_01, mfc_na3075_c2119_02

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
- Organic farming
- Agricultural economics
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Wilcox, Benjamin

Title/Description | Instances
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NA 3075, transcript, September 21, 2003 | Audio NA 3075
Digital Object: [NA 3075, transcript](#)

NA 3075, audio, part 1, September 21, 2003 | Audio NA 3075
Digital Object: [NA 3075, audio, part 1](#)

NA 3075, audio, part 2, September 21, 2003 | Audio NA 3075
Digital Object: [NA 3075, audio, part 2](#)

Wes Daniel, interviewed by Jamie Moreira

Source: Daniel, Wes
Creator: Moreira, James


Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Agriculture -- Maine
Anu Dudley, interviewed by Jamie Moreira

Source: Dudley, Anu
Creator: Moreira, James

Abstract: 3077 Anu Dudley, interviewed by Jamie Moreira, September 19, 2003, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. The interview focuses on her 25 years as coordinator for the traditional arts section of the Fair. Text: 24 pp. transcript. Recording: C 2121 45 minutes. mfc_na3077_c2121_01

Controlled Access Headings:
• Oral history
• Folk art
• Folk artists
• Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
• Dudley, Anu

Frank Heller, interviewed by Jamie Moreira

Source: Heller, Frank
Creator: Moreira, James

Abstract: 3078 Frank Heller, interviewed by Jamie Moreira, September 20, 2003, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Heller speaks about his birth on June 20, 1939, in Queens, New York City; serving as a director of public policy, alcohol and drug education, and Headstart; moving to Maine; consulting; opening an organic bakery; employees Patty Dyera, Bruce, and Peter Lynn; bread recipes; medieval black bread; Milwaukee rye; Parkview nutritionist Helga Bloomquist; Jacques Gallila of Hushahar Bakery; wheat mills; growing up in an organic family; watering fruit trees with blood; organic lecturer Roy Dale; Christina's Bakery; experiences with the Common Ground Fair; cooking as an art form; the Sprout Wizard; the French technique of 'serfing' bread; handmade cookie cutters; marketing via word of mouth; colleagues Albey Barden, Mike Castell, and Dave Berry; problems with gardening; Nick Burnett of the Old Port Bakehouse; contamination and organic produce; criteria for organic production; entrepreneurship; 'washing' baked
goods; entrepreneur and billionaire Pritham Singh; serving on the development and food committees at the Common Ground Fair; running a business; Maine organic produce; creating a market; and vendors at the Common Ground Fair. Text: no transcript. Recording: C 2122 1 hour. mfc_na3078_c2122_01, mfc_na3078_c2122_02

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Food processing
- Baked products industry
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Heller, Frank

Title/Description | Instances
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NA 3078, transcript, September 20, 2003 | Audio NA 3078
Digital Object: NA 3078, transcript

NA 3078, audio, part 1, September 20, 2003 | Audio NA 3078
Digital Object: NA 3078, audio, part 1

NA 3078, audio, part 2, September 20, 2003 | Audio NA 3078
Digital Object: NA 3078, audio, part 2

Ken Horn, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall

Source: Horn, Ken
Creator: MacDougall, Pauleena

Abstract: 3079 Ken Horn, interviewed by Pauleena MacDougall, September 20, 2003, at the Common Ground Fair in Unity, Maine. Horn speaks about how he came to live in Maine; serving as a combat crew member of B-52s in Limestone; organic farming; how he was affected by Rachel Carson's Silent Spring; the lack of information available from the Extension Service; becoming an information provider for organic farming; contacts Bob Johnson of Johnny's Seeds and Ben Wilcox; Charlie Gould of the Knox County Extension Office; forming the Maine Organic Farmer's and Gardners Association (MOFGA). Text: 21 pp. transcript. Recording: C 2123. mfc_na3079_c2123_01.

Controlled Access Headings:
- Oral history
- Organic farming
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Horn, Ken

Title/Description | Instances
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NA 3079, transcript, September 20, 2003 | Audio NA 3079
Digital Object: NA 3079, transcript

NA 3079, audio, September 20, 2003 | Audio NA 3079
