



Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed by a South Shore Agricultural History Project representative. Perhaps you are curious what the interview process will be like.

Interview Preparation. After agreeing to an interview, we will mail you a “pre-interview packet”. This packet will include: * a letter introducing you to the project * a waiver confirming your agreement to be interviewed, the degree to which we may use your interview recording in our museum collection and exhibit, and if we are permitted to take your picture and pictures of your farm. *a biography form for you to fill out before the interview.

Location. It is up to you where the interview takes place. In general, we believe that oral history interviews are best conducted in your home, where you are comfortable. Being in your home also provides easy access to any photos or other materials that you might want to share with us during your interview. However, if you do not want to do the interview at your residence, we are able to conduct the interview at the Port o’ Plymouth Museum.

Interview Experience. Your interview will be carried out by a member of our project committee, who will arrive with a script of questions and an audio recorder. If you have agreed to allow us to take photos of you and/or your farm, a photographer may also accompany the interviewer. After reviewing your pre-interview packet, the interview can begin. You can expect the interview itself to be informal and to last 45 minutes to an hour and a half, depending on the line of questioning and how many memories you share. You are free to skip any questions you do not want to answer.

Just for your reference, here is a list of some questions that may be asked during your interview.

Why did you choose to pursue a career in agriculture? / What crops did your family grow in the past versus now? / Did your family own or rent land? / Did you or your elders make their own: clothes, soap, butter, quilts, canned preserves, etc.? / What does a “work-ethic” mean to you? / Describe a typical workday. / What methods have you used to fertilize, control pests, weeds, etc.? / What lessons has your work life taught you? / Did your farm provide a large portion of the food for your own family? / Please tell us about some of the major changes in the size of your land holdings and the structures on your farm (silos, outbuildings, etc.) / Was religion important to your family and life on the farm? / Were you ever involved with youth programs like 4-H, the Grange, and/or FFA? /

Post-Interview. After we complete our interviews, we will transfer the audio recordings to a computer for review and editing. All interviews will then be transcribed (typed) to the best of our ability. This is a time-consuming process that will likely take several months. If you would like a copy of the transcription of your interview, you may request one upon its completion.

After their completion, the transcriptions, along with audio recordings and photographs taken, will be placed in our permanent museum collection and available for research. If you agreed to it in your waiver, some transcription segments and audio clips may also be used online on our project web page or in the traveling museum exhibit that will debut this fall.

Please call the Port o' Plymouth Museum at (252) 793-1377 for additional information.

We look forward to speaking with you!