

# Oral History Project

A shared reflection of our communities  
From Thomasville, GA to Hartford, CT



# Oral History Project

- In this project we will share meaningful stories that foster a deeper understanding of our families and our communities.
- These questions are a starting point and can be modified to fit your specific themes:
  - Discuss a significant moment from your life. What impact did it have on your current values and beliefs?
  - What stories and traditions from your background have influenced who you are today?
  - Can you recall a time you faced a significant obstacle? How did you overcome it?
  - What changes have you experienced over the years in your life and community?
  - What legacy would you like to leave behind in personal life, career and community?

# Henry Hester

- Discuss a significant moment in your life and the impact it had on your current beliefs.
  - I began Thomasville Day because so many people were here from Thomasville, GA and they were not connected.
  - Many white Americans were leaving for the suburbs and they left a large African American community.
  - I wanted to nourish my community and display pride for their heritage and celebrate their contributions to the Hartford community.
- Copy of Henry Hester Oral History to be placed in Connecticut Digital Archive

# Thomasville Day

1960's



Growing Population  
Migrating from  
Thomasville, GA

1999



Friends of Keney  
Park Founded

1999



Keney Park location  
provided venue for  
Thomasville Day

2012



Thomasville Day  
Ended

# AFRICAN AMERICANS FIRSTS/ACHIEVEMENTS IN HARTFORD, CT



## FIRST BLACK FOREMAN

United Technologies  
Born in Thomasville, GA



## Number One City Golf Course

Henry Hester - Keney Park  
Manager  
Born in Thomasville, GA



## First Traffic Motorcycle Officer

Sam Anderson  
Born in Thomasville, GA



# AFRICAN AMERICAN TIMELINE OF PROGRESSION AND ACHIEVEMENT



Walked to School  
Farmers

1950's



Most went to  
military service

1960's



Moved North for  
economic  
opportunities

1960's



First Black  
Motorcycle  
Police Officer

1970's

# Oral History Examples to Help You with Your Project

## CONNECTICUT DIGITAL ARCHIVES

Amy Spirito - Interviewee

<https://collections.ctdigitalarchive.org/islandora/object/660002%3A2318>

How does the interviewer begin the interview process?

What are three significant experiences shared?

How does she end the interview?

What can you take from the interview to implement into your interview process?

## HOW TO ON YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxrkkhLExxw&pp=ygUkZml2ZSBzdGVwcyB0byBjcmVhdGUgYW4gb3JhbCB0aXN0b3J5>