



Smithsonian  
*Archives of American Art*

Oral history interview with Amy Bess Miller

Funding for the digital preservation of this interview was provided by a grant from the Save America's Treasures Program of the National Park Service.

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Oral history interview with Amy Bess Miller
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.miller85
<b>Date:</b>	1985 July 10
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Items (sound files (1 hr., 11 min.); digital, wav file) 22 Pages (Transcript)
<b>Creator:</b>	Miller, Amy Bess Williams, 1912-2003 Brown, Robert F.
<b>Language:</b>	English .

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

This interview is part of the Archives of American Art Oral History Program, started in 1958 to document the history of the visual arts in the United States, primarily through interviews with artists, historians, dealers, critics and others.

### Available Formats

Transcript is available on the Archives of American Art's website.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Amy Bess Miller was the administrator at the Hancock Shaker Village in Hancock, Mass.

---

## Scope and Contents

An interview of Amy Bess Miller conducted 1985 July 10, by Robert F. Brown, for the Archives of American Art.

---

## Scope and Contents

Miller speaks of her awareness of the Shakers in her childhood, through visits to their communities; her further acquaintance with them, and her interest in collecting Shaker objects upon moving to Pittsfield, Mass. in the 1930s; her involvement in a group which purchased the Shakers' property in Hancock, Mass.

in the late 1950s; restoration and educational programs developed at Hancock since then; current plans to establish a library and research center at Hancock.

---

## System Details

Originally recorded on 1 cassette.

---

## General

Originally recorded on 1 sound cassette. Reformatted in 2010 as 2 digital wav files. Duration is 1 hr., 11 min.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Arts administrators -- Massachusetts -- Interviews  
Historic sites -- Conservation and restoration

Types of Materials:

Interviews  
Sound recordings

Names:

Hancock Shaker Village  
Shakers